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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

UKRAINE

DRAFT LAW

ON LOCAL REFERENDUM

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This Law defines the legal basis for the expression of popular will in a local referendum, its organisation and procedure for holding it.

SECTION I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The concept of a local referendum

1. A local referendum is a form of independent decision of local issues by direct voting of a territorial community.

Article 2. Laws on the local referendum

1. Organisation and procedure for holding local referendums are regulated by the Constitution of Ukraine, this Law, the Laws of Ukraine “On local self-government in Ukraine”, “On the Central Election Commission”, “On the State Electoral Register” and other legislative acts of Ukraine.

Article 3. Subject of the local referendum

1. The subject of a local referendum may be:

- 1) approval of the Charter of the Territorial Community or amendments thereto;
- 2) approval of the Programme for the Territorial Community Development or changes to it;
- 3) early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city council;
- 4) early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city head;
- 5) voidness of a regulatory act of a local self-government body or some of its provisions;
- 6) other issues of local importance assigned by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine to the jurisdiction of the territorial community, its bodies and officials.

2. The local referendum may not be held on the issues which:

- 1) are the subject of an all-Ukrainian referendum;
- 2) are contrary to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine;
- 3) may lead to an end of Ukraine’s independence, violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, pose a threat to the national security of Ukraine, incite interethnic, racial, religious hatred;
- 4) are assigned to other (than those provided for in paragraph 5, part 1 of this Article) officials and public authorities under the Constitution of Ukraine and laws of Ukraine;
- 5) concern the exercise of certain powers of executive authorities granted to local self-government bodies by law (delegated powers);
- 6) concern decisions on approval or modification of local budgets, tariffs for housing and communal services, invalidity of such decisions;
- 7) concern making changes, canceling particular acts of local self-government bodies;

3. The adoption of new regulatory acts may not be the subject of a local referendum.

Note. Other officials and public authorities mentioned in this Article shall be understood as state bodies, state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional, district councils, other bodies, as well as officials who develop and/or implement public policy, implement, protect public interests, ensure and/or protect human rights and other public values, are financed from the state budget of Ukraine, the budget of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional, district budgets.

Article 4. Binding nature of the referendum results

1. A decision taken at a local referendum shall be binding in the territories of the relevant territorial community.

2. A decision approved at the local referendum on the voters' initiative may be changed only at the local referendum held not earlier than three years from the day of its adoption.

3. A decision taken at a local referendum on the initiative of a village, settlement, city council or a village, settlement, city head may be changed only at a local referendum not earlier than one year from the day of taking such a decision.

Article 5. Guidelines for holding the local referendum

1. A local referendum shall be held following the guidelines set forth:

- 1) general voting right;
- 2) equal voting right;
- 3) direct expression of will;
- 4) free participation in the local referendum;
- 5) voluntary participation in a local referendum;
- 6) secret ballot;
- 7) in-person voting;
- 8) single voting;
- 9) public nature and openness of the local referendum process

Article 6. General voting right

1. The right to vote in a local referendum shall be granted to a citizen of Ukraine who has reached the age of eighteen on the day of its holding and having his/her electoral address within the territory of the relevant territorial community where the local referendum is being held (a voter).

A conscript serviceman, a citizen of Ukraine residing abroad, or a citizen of Ukraine imprisoned by a court verdict shall be considered not to belong to any territorial community.

A citizen of Ukraine recognised as legally incompetent by a court shall not have the right to vote in a local referendum.

2. The basis for a citizen of Ukraine to exercise the right to vote in a local referendum shall be his/her inclusion in the voter lists for holding a local referendum at the polling station for a local referendum.

A voter shall exercise his/her right to vote by casting a ballot, and in the cases provided for in parts three and four of Article 26 hereof – two ballots, for voting under the procedure established by this Law.

The voter's identity documents and documents confirming Ukrainian citizenship in the local referendum shall include:

- 1) passport of a citizen of Ukraine (in the form of a passport book or card);
- 2) temporary certificate of a citizen of Ukraine (for persons who have recently been granted Ukrainian citizenship);
- 3) a card (certificate) from the pre-trial detention center, which must include: first name, last name, patronymic, date, month, year of birth, citizenship, photo of the person, signature of the head and seal of the institution (for persons who are in the pre-trial detention center).
4. The documents specified in paragraphs 1 and 2, part three of this Article shall be the grounds for receiving a ballot paper and can be used at regular and special polling stations for local referendums in inpatient health care facilities.

The document specified in paragraph 3, part three of this Article shall constitute the grounds for receiving a ballot paper and can be used at a special local referendum polling station established in the relevant pre-trial detention center, during voting in a local referendum.

5. Citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote may be engaged in the operation of Local Referendum Commissions as their members, in referendum campaigning, in monitoring how the local referendum proceeds, and in other activities associated with the preparations for and holding of the local referendum, in the manner prescribed by this and other laws of Ukraine.

6. Any direct or indirect privileges or restrictions on the rights of citizens of Ukraine to participate in the local referendum based on their race, colour of skin, political, religious or other beliefs, gender, ethnic or social origin, assets, place of residence, language or other grounds shall be prohibited. No restrictions on the engagement of Ukrainian citizens in the local referendum process, other than those stipulated by the Constitution of Ukraine and this Law, shall be allowed.

Article 7. Equal voting right

1. Citizens of Ukraine shall participate in the local referendum on an equal basis.
2. Each voter in the local referendum shall have a right to one vote. A voter may cast his vote only at one local referendum precinct where he is included in the local referendum voter list.
3. Equality of rights and opportunities for the local referendum process entities shall be ensured by:
 - 1) prohibition of interference of state and local self-government bodies, their officials and elected persons in the process of local referendum, except of the exercise of powers provided for by this Law;
 - 2) impartial attitude of state authorities, local self-government bodies, their officials and officers to the initiative group for the local referendum, other local referendum process entities;
 - 3) ban on using proceeds, other than those determined by this Law, to finance a local referendum campaign;
 - 4) equal and unbiased attitude of the media to all the local referendum process entities, objective and balanced coverage of opinions both in support and against the matter put to the local referendum.

Article 8. Direct expression of will

1. Citizens of Ukraine shall participate directly in the local referendum and in resolving the matter put to the local referendum.

Article 9. Free participation in the local referendum

1. Participation in the local referendum shall be voluntary for citizens of Ukraine. Citizens of Ukraine shall be provided with conditions for forming their will freely and for expressing it freely when voting at the local referendum.

2. Use of violence, threats, fraud, bribery, or any other actions that interfere with free formation and expression of a voter's will shall be prohibited.

Article 10. Voluntary participation in the local referendum

1. Participation in the local referendum shall be voluntary for citizens of Ukraine. No one shall be forced to vote or not to vote in the local referendum, or be engaged in campaigning or in implementing other measures or procedures provided for herein.

Article 11. Secret ballot

Voting in the local referendum shall be secret. Expression of will by the voters in the local referendum shall not be monitored.

2. Members of the Local Referendum Commissions and other persons may not take any actions or disclose any information that would allow for any particular voter's expression of will to be disclosed.

Article 12. In-person voting

1. Each voter shall vote in person at the local referendum. Voting on behalf of other persons or assigning the right to vote to any other person by a voter shall be prohibited.

2. Assistance to a voter who, because of disability and/or for health reasons, is unable to fill out a ballot paper or put it in a ballot box unassisted, in performing these actions in accordance with his expression of will in the instances referred to in this Law shall not be regarded as violation of the requirement of voting in person.

3. For the purpose of creating conditions for voting in person, voters with visual impairments shall be provided with stencils for ballots made in the Braille point system, magnifying devices, and other means.

Article 13. Single vote

1. Each voter in any particular local referendum may exercise the right to vote only once and only at one local referendum precinct by casting a ballot in the manner prescribed by this Law.

Article 14. Public nature and openness of the local referendum process

1. The local referendum shall be prepared and held publicly and openly.

2. To ensure public nature and openness of the local referendum process, the Central Election Commission, the Local Referendum Commissions, according to their powers, shall:

- 1) publish information about their composition, location and working hours, on the setting up of districts for holding a local referendum and precincts for a local referendum;
- 2) provide citizens with an opportunity to review voter lists;
- 3) make the results of the local referendum available to the public;
- 4) provide other information in the cases provided for by this Law.

3. Decisions by government authorities and local self-government authorities concerning the local referendum shall be communicated to the citizens of Ukraine through the media and official websites of these authorities within the terms established by this Law. Decisions of the Central Election Commission and Local Referendum Territorial Commissions shall be immediately published on the official website of the Central Election Commission with the possibility of viewing, copying and printing information, as well as in the form of a data set in a form that allows its automated processing by electronic means (machine reading) for the purpose of reuse.

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions shall submit all their decisions to the Central Election Commission in electronic form no later than the day following the day of their adoption in the form of a data set in a form that allows its automated processing by electronic means (machine reading) for reuse.

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions shall immediately make public their decisions on their official websites (if any), the websites of the relevant local councils (if any), and ensure that they can be viewed and printed out in any other way defined by this Law.

4. Citizens of Ukraine, local branches of political parties and civil society organisations, the referendum initiative group shall be guaranteed the right to discuss freely the feasibility of holding a local referendum, to campaign on issues put to the local referendum at assemblies, rallies, demonstrations, in printed and audiovisual (electronic) media.

5. Government authorities and local self-government authorities, their officers and officials may not prohibit the holding of assemblies and rallies to discuss the matter put to the local referendum, impede prompt notification of citizens of Ukraine of their time and venue, or prevent the relevant events.

6. Media and news agencies shall inform about the course of the local referendum and the events associated with the local referendum on the principles of authenticity, completeness and accuracy of information and its unbiased presentation.

On the voting day, media representatives and official observers shall be granted, on the terms established by this Law, unimpeded access to all public events associated with the local referendum, to the assemblies of Local Referendum Commissions and to the premises for voting at local referendum precincts. Local Referendum Commissions, government authorities, local self-government authorities, their officers and officials shall be required to provide, within their powers, the information concerning the preparations for and holding of the local referendum.

Article 15. Entity calling for a local referendum

1. A local referendum on any matter of local importance shall be called by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

Article 16. Local referendum initiated by voters

1. A local referendum initiated by voters shall be called by the Local Referendum Territorial Commissions at the request of at least ten per cent of the total number of voters with electoral address within the territory of the relevant territorial community.

Article 17. Requirements for the wording of referendum questions

1. A local referendum question is a text that contains the proposal of a local referendum, in the form of a question that presupposes clear “yes” or “no” answers, regarding the support (approval, acceptance, expression):

- 1) of the Charter of the Territorial Community or amendments thereto;
- 2) of the Programme for the Territorial Community Development or amendments thereto;
- 3) of draft decisions on recognition of a regulatory act of a local self-government body and its particular provisions as invalid;
- 4) of a provision of a normative or particular nature without presenting it in the form of a draft decision;
- 5) of early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city head;
- 6) of early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city council;

2. The wording of the question of a local referendum shall be clear and understandable, without allowing for different interpretations, and shall meet the requirements provided for in paragraphs 2, 3, part two of Article 3 hereof.

It shall not be allowed to use the wording of the local referendum question that:

- 1) misleads the voter;
 - 2) provides the voter with an answer, contains an indication, hint, incitement or other incentive to support or reject the referendum proposal.
3. The Charter of a Territorial Community (amendments to it), the Programme for the Territorial Community Development (amendments to it); a draft decision on recognising a regulatory act of a local self-government body and its particular provisions as invalid shall constitute an integral part of the question of a local referendum.

4. One question may be subject to a local referendum, and in the cases provided for in parts three and four, Article 26 hereof – two separate questions: on the early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, city council and on the early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city head.

Article 18. Restrictions on initiating, calling, and holding a local referendum

1. A local referendum may be initiated by a village, settlement, city council, village, settlement, or city head only once on the same issue within the term of office of the relevant current council.

2. Initiating, calling and holding of a local referendum in case of introduction of martial law or a state of emergency in the entire territory of Ukraine or in the territory where it is supposed to be held, as well as within thirty days after the lifting of martial law or a state of emergency, shall be prohibited.

3. The process of local referendum shall be terminated on the day of the decree of the President of Ukraine on the introduction of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or some of its localities, where a local referendum was initiated or called. No later than the next day after the entry into force of the relevant decree of the President of Ukraine, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall determine the procedure for completing the procedures of the local referendum that were initiated within the relevant referendum process.

4. The process of a local referendum suspended due to the introduction of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or its individual localities where a local referendum was initiated shall be restarted in the first thirty days after the termination or lifting of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or its individual localities. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall inform about the beginning of the local referendum process on its official website, as well as on the official website of the Central Election Commission.

5. In the event of introduction of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or in some of its localities, the collection of signatures to hold a local referendum initiated by voters and campaigning shall be stopped from the date of entry into force of the relevant decree of the President of Ukraine. Thirty days after the termination or lifting of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or its individual localities where a local referendum was initiated, the period specified in Article 31 of this Law shall be extended, taking into account the days used to collect signatures until the date of entry into force of the relevant decree of the President of Ukraine.

Article 19. Day of the local referendum

1. In the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission to call a local referendum the date of its holding shall be established, which shall be the last Sunday of the sixty-day period from the day of publication of such a decision, and it shall also indicate the question put to the local referendum.

2. A local referendum shall not be held simultaneously with any regular, early, first (except for repeated, midterm, additional) local elections. If the day of holding a local referendum coincides with the day of holding regular, early, first (except for repeated, midterm, additional) local elections, then such a referendum shall be held not earlier than two months before or not earlier than two months after the day of holding such elections.

Article 20. Monitoring compliance of a question of local referendum with the law

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall refer to the Central Election Commission no later than the day following the date of receipt of a copy of the decision of the village, settlement, city council or village, settlement, city head to initiate a local referendum in order to obtain an opinion on the compliance of the question of a local referendum with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 of this Law.

If it is established that there are no grounds for refusing to register an initiative group as per the content of paragraphs 1, 2, 5, 6, part five of Article 30 hereof, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, within 3 days from the date of receipt of the documents provided for in part two of Article 30 hereof, shall apply to the Central Election Commission to obtain an opinion on the compliance of the local referendum question with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 hereof.

2. To process the request of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the Central Election Commission may refer for opinions to the authorised bodies that ensure the development and

implementation of policies in the area which is the local referendum subject matter, as well as to scientific institutions and public organisations.

The response to the request of the Central Election Commission shall be provided by the entity ensuring consideration of the request no later than on the third day from the day of receipt of such a request.

A response to the request of the Territorial Commission to provide an opinion on the compliance of the local referendum matter with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 hereof shall be provided by the Central Election Commission within seven calendar days from the day of receipt of such a request.

3. To process the request of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the approval of the Charter of the Territorial Community (amendments to it), which is put to the local referendum, the Central Election Commission shall refer for an opinion to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Within 20 days from the date of receipt of such a request, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine is obliged to provide an opinion on the compliance of the Charter of the Territorial Community (amendments to it) with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine and immediately send the opinion to the Central Election Commission.

If the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine receives an opinion on non-compliance of the Charter of the Territorial Community (amendments to it) with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, the Central Election Commission shall draw up an opinion on the non-compliance of the local referendum question with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 hereof.

The Central Election Commission shall give a response to the request of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission concerning the compliance of the question on approval of the Charter of a Territorial Community (amendments to it) with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 hereof within 30 calendar days from the day of receipt of such a request.

4. If the Central Election Commission receives an opinion on the compliance of the local referendum question with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 hereof, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall decide on the appointment of a local referendum on the matter within three days from the day of receipt of such opinion.

If the Central Election Commission receives an opinion on the non-compliance of the local referendum question with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and 18 hereof, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall make a reasoned decision on refusal to call a local referendum within the same period.

The decision on registration of an initiative group for a local referendum shall be made by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission within the time limits established by parts three and four of Article 30 hereof.

5. Solutions, actions or lack of actions by the Central Election Commission may be appealed under the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

Article 21. The local referendum process

1. The local referendum process shall begin on the day following the day of publication of the relevant decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

2. The local referendum process shall end fifteen days after the day when the Local Referendum Territorial Commission officially announces the results of the local referendum.

3. The process of a local referendum shall be terminated if the court cancels the decision to call

a local referendum.

Article 22. Participants in the procedure for initiating local referendum, the local referendum process entities

1. Participants in the procedure for initiating a local referendum shall be:

- 1) voter;
- 2) Central Election Commission;
- 3) the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which determines the results of a local referendum;
- 4) the village, settlement, city council, village, settlement, city head having made a decision to initiate a local referendum;
- 5) the local referendum initiative group, set up under this Law;
- 6) a local branch of a political party, a public organisation that campaigns on the initiative;
- 7) an official observer from the initiative group for local referendums, public organisations if their statutory activities include matters related to the election process and the all-Ukrainian and/or local referendum or ensuring the electoral rights of citizens of Ukraine, registered following the requirements of this Law.

2. The local referendum process entities shall be:

- 1) voter;
- 2) Central Election Commission;
- 3) the Local Referendum Territorial Commission;
- 4) the Local Referendum Precinct Commission;
- 5) the local referendum initiative group, set up under this Law;
- 6) a local branch of a political party registered with the Local Referendum Territorial Commission as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum matter;
- 7) a public organisation registered with the Local Referendum Territorial Commission as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum matter;
- 8) an official observer from the initiative group for local referendums, local branch of a political party, public organisation, registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum matter, as well as from a public organisation if its statutory activities include matters related to the election process and the all-Ukrainian and/or local referendum or ensuring the electoral rights of citizens of Ukraine, registered following the requirements of this Law.

Article 23. Districts for holding a local referendum

1. A local referendum shall be held within a single district.
2. The boundaries of a single district for conducting a local referendum (single district) shall coincide with the boundaries of the territory of the community where the local referendum is held.
3. There shall be territorial districts for holding local referendums (territorial districts) with the borders coinciding with the rayons of the city in a single local referendum district of a city with a rayons division . Decisions on the establishment of territorial districts shall not be made.

The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which determines the results of the referendum, shall assign ordinal numbers to territorial districts.

Article 24. Local referendum precincts

1. To prepare the organisation and conduct of the local referendum, regular polling stations and special polling stations shall be established on a permanent basis in inpatient health care institutions and pre-trial detention centers by the Central Election Commission under the Electoral Code of Ukraine.

Article 25. The timeline calculation procedure

1. The time periods referred to in this Law shall be calculated in calendar days or, in certain cases, in hours.

2. The first day of a period that is to commence due to a certain event under this Law shall be the day following the day of the aforementioned event.

3. The last day of a period that is to end due to a certain event under this Law shall be the day preceding the day of the aforementioned event.

SECTION II INITIATING AND APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL REFERENDUM

Article 26. Entities initiating and calling a local referendum

1. The entities initiating a local referendum may be:

1) at least 10 per cent of voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant territorial community as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the collection of signatures in support of the initiative begins;

2) village, settlement, city council;

3) village, settlement, or city head.

2. A local referendum on the initiative of voters shall be appointed by the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the matter in the wording provided for in paragraph 3, 4, 5 or 6, part one of Article 17 hereof, at the request of at least 10 per cent of voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant territorial community, as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the collection of signatures in support of the initiative began.

3. A local referendum on early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city head shall be appointed by the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission pursuant to the relevant decision of the village, settlement, or city council.

If a local referendum is called on the early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city head, the second question on the early termination of the powers of the relevant village, settlement, or city council shall be put to the local referendum as well.

4. A local referendum on early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city council shall be appointed by the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission pursuant to a decision of the village, settlement, or city head.

If a local referendum is called on the early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, or city council, the second question on the early termination of the powers of the relevant village, settlement, or city head shall be put to the local referendum as well.

5. A local referendum on approval of the Charter of a Territorial Community or amendments thereto, as well as approval of the Programme for the Territorial Community Development or amendments thereto, shall be appointed by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission

pursuant to a decision of the relevant village, settlement, city council or the relevant village, settlement, city head.

Article 27. Calling a local referendum on the territorial community's support of the regulation without setting it out in the form of a draft decision on the initiative of the village, settlement, city council or village, settlement, city head

1. A referendum on the support by a territorial community of a regulation without setting it out in the form of a draft decision shall be called by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission pursuant to the relevant decision of the village, settlement, city council or the village, settlement, city head.

A copy of the relevant decision of the village, settlement, city council or village, settlement, city head indicating the question that is suggested to be put to a local referendum shall be immediately sent to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

2. The decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on calling a local referendum on the support by the territorial community of the regulation without setting it out in the form of a draft decision indicating the question of the referendum, as well as the day of its holding, shall be published in local print media and on the official websites of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and local self-government bodies, distributed on the Internet no later than on the third day from the day of its adoption or, if impossible, brought to the attention in another way within the same period.

Article 28. Initiating and calling of a referendum on the initiative of voters

1. A local referendum on the initiative of voters shall be called by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission at the request of at least ten per cent of the total number of voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the territorial community where the local referendum is held.

2. The basis for calling a local referendum on the initiative of voters shall be the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the sufficient number of signatures of voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the territorial community under this Law, collected by the initiative group for a local referendum.

Article 29. Setting up of an initiative group for a local referendum on the initiative of voters

1. An initiative group for a local referendum shall be set up at the Assembly of voters on a local referendum (voters with electoral addresses within the relevant territory of a territorial community), with the participation of at least:

- 1) 20 people – in a territorial community with no more than 10,000 voters;
- 2) 50 people – in a territorial community with more than 10,000, but no more than 100,000 voters;
- 3) 100 people – in a territorial community with more than 100,000, but no more than 500,000 voters;
- 4) 150 people – in a territorial community with more than 500,000, but no more than 1,000,000 voters;
- 5) 200 people – in a territorial community with more than 1,000,000 voters.

2. No later than five calendar days before the date of holding the Assembly of voters in relation to a local referendum, initiators of holding such a meeting shall notify local mass media and the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in writing of the date, time, place and purpose of the Assembly, as well as ensure that the territorial community is informed in any convenient way, including by posting informational messages on the Internet.

To ensure the participation of all the interested voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant territorial division, the initiators of the Assembly of voters on a local referendum shall carry out pre-registration of participants in the Assembly, which shall also be communicated to the territorial community by posting information messages in the mass media, as well as in any convenient way, including by posting informational messages on the Internet.

The procedure for accreditation of representatives of mass media, as well as registration of participants in the Assembly of voters on a local referendum, shall be determined by the organiser of the Assembly of voters.

The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall send a representative(s) – members of the Commission – to the Assembly of voters on a local referendum to certify the fact of holding an Assembly of participants.

3. Before the start of the Assembly of voters on initiating a local referendum, the final registration of participants of the Assembly shall be carried out, with regard to the previous registration, the shall be compiled indicating the last name, first name, patronymic, date of birth, place of residence and residential address, passport number and series and date and place of delivery of the passport of a citizen of Ukraine (for an ID card – number and date of its delivery), the contact phone number of each participant of the Assembly. Each participant of the Assembly shall put his/her signature next to his/her last name in the list of participants, which shall certify his/her participation in the Assembly.

An Assembly of participants to initiate a local referendum shall be considered authorised if it is attended by the sufficient number of participants in the Assembly established in part one of this Article, which is communicated to those present by the initiators of the local referendum before the Assembly of participants begins.

Procedural decisions during the Assembly of voters on the local referendum, the decision to support the local referendum, support the wording of the question of the local referendum, support the candidates for members of the initiative group shall be made by a majority vote of the total number of participants in the Assembly, with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant territorial community participating in the relevant Assembly.

At the Assembly of participants in the procedures for initiating a local referendum, the Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly, the Counting Commission shall be elected, and the agenda of the Assembly shall be approved. If no more than 50 participants are present at the Assembly, the Counting Commission may not be elected. In this case, the counting of votes of participants in the Assembly during the voting on issues discussed at the Assembly shall be carried out by the Secretary of the Assembly.

The agenda of the Assembly on initiating a local referendum shall include questions about the expediency of holding a local referendum and the wording of the question.

4. If the Assembly decides to initiate a local referendum and approves the wording of the referendum question, the Assembly of voters shall elect an initiative group for the local referendum entrusted with organising the collection of signatures of voters in support of the local referendum. The initiative group shall consist of the voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant territorial community, as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the collection of signatures in support of the initiative began:

- 1) not less than 10 people – in a territorial community in which, according to the State Electoral Register, there are no more than 10,000 voters;
 - 2) at least 20 people – in a territorial community with more than 10,000, but no more than 500,000 voters;
 - 3) at least 30 people – in a territorial community with more than 500,000 voters.
5. The Assembly shall elect an authorised representative of the initiative group from among the members of the initiative group for a local referendum, who shall be authorised to represent the interests of the initiative group in its relations with other local referendum process entities and officials of the territorial community.
6. The Assembly of participants may initiate a local referendum on only one issue. The Assembly shall set up only one initiative group for a local referendum.
7. Based on the results of the Assembly of participants in the procedures for initiating a local referendum, the following documents shall be drawn up:
- 1) minutes of the Assembly of participants;
 - 2) a list of members of the local referendum initiative group;
 - 3) a decision to elect an authorised representative of the initiative group;
 - 4) a clear wording of the question suggested to be put to a local referendum.
8. The minutes of such Assembly shall indicate the date, place, number of participants, information on the election of the Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly, the course of discussion of the agenda items, the clear wording of the question suggested on the community initiative, the results of voting on the agenda items, the composition of the initiative group (if elected) and the list of members of the initiative group, information about the person elected as an authorised representative of the initiative group. The minutes shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Assembly. The list of registration of participants in the Assembly shall be attached to the minutes of the Assembly.
9. The list of members of the initiative group set up by the Assembly of voters shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Assembly. The list of members of the initiative group shall contain the following information as to each member of the team:
- 1) last name, first name, patronymic;
 - 2) date of birth;
 - 3) indication of citizenship;
 - 4) electoral address;
 - 5) the number and series of the passport of a citizen of Ukraine and information about the time and authority that delivered the passport (for an ID card – number and date of its delivery).
10. The decision to elect an authorised representative of the initiative group shall indicate the information specified in paragraphs 1-5, part nine of this Article, as well as the contact phone number.
11. The documents specified in parts three and four of this Article shall be accompanied, respectively, by written statements of each person included in the initiative group, on their consent to join the team, a statement of a person appointed as an authorised representative on his/her consent to be an authorised representative of the initiative group. Each of these statements must indicate the last name, first name, patronymic of such person, date of birth and electoral address, passport number and series and information about the time and authority of

delivery of the passport of Ukraine (for an ID card – the number and date of its delivery), consent to the participation, the date of writing the statement and a personal signature.

12. The question that is suggested to be put to a referendum must be put into words in compliance with the requirements of Article 17 of this Law. The text of the question shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly.

13. For the purposes of parts one and four of this Article, the number of voters in a territorial community shall be determined as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the Assembly of voters on a local referendum is held.

Article 30. Registration of a local referendum initiative group

1. The initiative group for a local referendum shall be registered by the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

2. To register an initiative group for a local referendum within seven days from the date of the Assembly, the authorised person of the initiative group shall submit an application for registration of the initiative group, in the form approved by the Central Election Commission, as well as documents provided for in part seven, Article 29 of this Law in hard copy, certified by the Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly, and in electronic form.

After receiving these documents, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall refer to the relevant body keeping the State Electoral Register with a request to verify the accuracy of information about the participants in the Assembly at which the initiative to hold a local referendum was approved, the persons whose candidacies were proposed at this Assembly to be members of the initiative group for a local referendum, as well as information about the number of persons entitled to vote in a local referendum in the relevant territorial community.

A response to the request of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall be provided by the State Electoral Register management body within five calendar days from the day of submission of such a request.

3. If the Local Referendum Territorial Commission receives information about facts indicating the possibility of falsification of signatures of voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant community, in the list of registration of participants in the Assembly of voters on holding a local referendum, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission may refer to law enforcement agencies, which are obliged to verify the authenticity of signatures of voters in the registration list and provide a response within ten working days.

If the Local Referendum Territorial Commission initiates verification of the authenticity of signatures of voters in the registration list of the initiative group, the deadline for registration of the initiative group shall be extended by the number of days during which the authenticity of signatures of voters in the registration list is being checked by law enforcement agencies, but not more than ten days.

4. Registration of an initiative group for a local referendum must be carried out within twelve calendar days from the day of receipt of the application for registration of an initiative group for a local referendum and the documents provided for in part seven of Article 29 hereof, by issuing to the initiative group a decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on registration of an initiative group for a local referendum. The decision shall specify the question that is proposed to be put to a local referendum, the list of members of the initiative group, the end date of the term for collecting signatures of voters, the exact number of signatures of voters necessary for holding a local referendum. Members of the initiative group shall be issued appropriate certificates. The form of the decision on registration of the initiative group for a local referendum and the form of certification of a member of the initiative group for a local referendum shall be approved by the Central Election Commission.

5. A decision to refuse registration of an initiative group for a local referendum may be made only within the time limits established by parts three and four of this Article, in case of:

1) failure to submit at least one of the documents provided for in Article 29 of this Law, or failure to comply with the requirements for their registration established by this Law;

2) submission of documents by the initiative group in violation of the deadline established by part two of this Article;

3) receipt by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission of the opinion of the Central Election Commission on the non-compliance of the proposed question for a local referendum with the requirements of Articles 3, 17 and/or 18 of this Law within seven calendar days;

4) violation of the procedure for holding an Assembly of voters with electoral addresses within the territory of the relevant territorial community in relation to a local referendum provided for in Article 29;

5) existence of an already registered initiative group to hold a local referendum on a question that is identical in content to the question proposed by the initiative group;

6) existence of the circumstances specified in Article 18 of this Law.

6. Technical typos and inaccuracies identified by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in the documents submitted by the initiative group shall not be grounds for refusal of the Territorial Commission to register the initiative group. The Territorial Commission shall notify the representative of the initiative group about the detection of such typos and inaccuracies within three days from the date of detection. The identified typos and inaccuracies described in writing by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission may be corrected by re-submission of the corrected documents with identified typos and inaccuracies no later than the third day after the day of receipt of the specified notification. If the corrected documents are not received within the established time limit, the Commission shall decide to refuse registration of the initiative group for holding a local referendum.

7. Refusal of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission to register an initiative group for a local referendum or failure to make a decision on registration of an initiative group for a local referendum within the time period specified in part three of this Article, as well as registration of an initiative group for a local referendum while there is at least one of the grounds provided for in part five of this Article, may be appealed following the procedure established by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

8. There shall be no fee for registering an initiative group for a local referendum.

9. The notification of registration of the initiative group for a local referendum shall be published within three days in local print media and audiovisual (electronic) mass media, as well as on the official websites of the relevant local self-government bodies, and in any other way that will ensure that the territorial community is as well informed as possible about the start of the procedure for implementing the initiative to hold a local referendum.

10. Only one initiative group for the local referendum shall be registered for the questions that are suggested to be put to a local referendum. A decision to register another initiative group for a local referendum on a question that repeats in content or substance the question for which the initiative group has already been registered following the established procedure for putting to a local referendum may be made after the termination of the procedures for initiating a local referendum of the previously registered initiative group.

11. The relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall issue to the initiative group's authorised representative having submitted the documents referred to in paragraph fourteen of this Article a certificate of acceptance thereof. The certificate must contain the list of accepted

documents, date, month, year and the time of their acceptance, position and last name of the accepting person.

Article 31. Procedure and terms for collecting signatures of voters by an initiative group for a local referendum

1. From the day following the day of receipt of a copy of the resolution on its registration, the initiative group shall have the right to freely collect signatures, as well as conduct campaigning during the collection of signatures in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum on the initiative of voters, and spend funds of the initiative group fund to obtain support for the initiative of a local referendum.

2. The collection of signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum shall be carried out within sixty days from the date of receipt by the initiative group of a copy of the resolution on its registration. The relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall publish information in local print media, on its official website, as well as make public in any other way that will ensure that the territorial community is informed about the beginning of the sixty-day period for collecting signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum and about the day of its end (the last day of the term).

3. If the collection of signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum was hindered by a natural disaster or other objective insurmountable circumstances, independent of the activities of the initiative group from the local referendum, the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission may extend the total period for collecting signatures by ten days at the request of the initiative group.

The relevant decision shall be made public in the manner established by part two of this Article.

Voters supporting the initiative to hold a local referendum shall sign the signature sheets, the form of which is set by the Central Election Commission.

The Local Referendum Territorial Commission that registered the initiative group shall issue to the authorised representative of the initiative group certificates of members of the initiative group, a sample of a signature sheet together with a copy of the resolution on registration of the initiative group.

4. The initiative group for a local referendum shall have the right to produce any number of signature sheets by printing, photocopying or other means, provided that the established form of the signature sheet is observed.

5. The signature sheet shall indicate in print:

1) the designation “local referendum” as to a specific territorial community;

2) the date of registration of the initiative group;

3) wording of the question;

4) information about the person collecting signatures of voters (last name, first name, patronymic, date

of birth, citizenship, electoral address, phone number, if any);

5) information on the amount of funds required to finance the preparation and conduct of a local referendum in the relevant village, settlement, city territorial community for the corresponding year, calculated under part four of Article 57 hereof.

6. The signature sheet shall have columns that indicate:

1) serial number of the voter in the signature sheet;

- 2) last name, first name and patronymic of the voter;
- 3) day, month and year of birth of the voter;
- 4) citizenship of the voter;
- 5) electoral address of the voter;
- 6) contact phone number of the voter;
- 7) name, number and series of the voter's identity document;
- 8) date of the voter's signature;
- 9) personal signature of the voter.

Only members of the initiative group for the local referendum shall collect signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum. Collecting signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum by other persons shall be prohibited. The powers to collect signatures of voters shall be confirmed by the certificate of a member of the initiative group.

7. A voter who supports the initiative to hold a local referendum on the issue indicated in the signature sheet shall put his signature and the date of signing in the signature sheet. The columns of the signature sheet concerning the voter shall be filled in by him personally, and if it is impossible to fill in the signature sheet personally for health reasons – this can be done at his/her request and in his/her presence by another voter (except for the person collecting signatures, an official observer) having notified the person collecting signatures. The person collecting signatures shall make a note thereof next to such a signature indicating the information provided for in this Article about the voter who signed on behalf of the signatory.

8. A voter may support the same initiative to hold a local referendum with his signature only once. If several signatures of the same voter are found in the signature sheets, the corresponding signatures shall be counted as one signature.

9. All entries in the signature sheet shall be made with a pen (not pencil) without abbreviations.

10. An error made in the signature sheet shall be corrected by the person who made it, in a way that allows you to read the previous entry; the correction shall be certified by a separate signature of the person who made the correction.

11. The collection of signatures for an initiative to hold a local referendum may be carried out at the place of residence of voters and in other places where the collection of signatures is not prohibited by law.

12. It shall be prohibited to collect signatures of voters in state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and local self-government bodies, Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations established under the law, law enforcement agencies, children's institutions, education institutions, health care institutions, social protection institutions, enterprises and institutions of housing and communal services.

Participation of state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies, their officials, management bodies of enterprises, institutions, organisations, regardless of the form of ownership, in collecting signatures of voters under the initiative of holding a local referendum by members of the initiative group for a local referendum shall not be allowed.

13. It shall be prohibited to collect signatures on the initiative to hold a local referendum in places where salaries, scholarships, pensions, allowances and other social payments are issued, charitable assistance is provided, and places where administrative services are provided.

14. The use of violence, threats, deception, bribery or any other actions that prevent members of the initiative group from collecting signatures of voters for the initiative to hold a local referendum shall be prohibited. During the collection of signatures for an initiative to hold a local referendum, it shall be prohibited to force voters to put or not to put their signatures or reward them for it in any form.

15. The establishment of restrictions on the procedure for collecting signatures that are not provided for in this Article shall be prohibited.

16. To certify the completed signature sheet, the member of the initiative group who collected signatures shall indicate his last name, first name and patronymic, date of birth, electoral address, series, number and date of delivery of the passport of a citizen of Ukraine, number of the certificate of a member of the initiative group, as well as put his signature and the date of its affixing.

17. The member of the initiative group who collected signatures shall put down in numbers and words the number of signatures of voters collected in the signature sheet.

18. A member of the initiative group who collected signatures shall post the voter data collected on signature sheets in support of the local referendum in electronic form, organised in a format that allows its automated processing by electronic means (machine reading) for the purpose of reuse (hereinafter referred to as electronic signature data), in the form approved by the Central Election Commission. The accuracy of the specified data presented in electronic form shall be confirmed by the member of the initiative group that collected signatures, by affixing his/her own qualified electronic signature

Article 32. Transfer of signature sheets by the initiative group for the local referendum

1. The initiative group shall draw up a protocol based on the results of collecting signatures of voters in the form approved by the Central Election Commission simultaneously with the approval of the signature sheet form. The protocol shall be signed by an authorised representative of the initiative group.

2. The signature sheets, numbered and bound, electronic signature data formalised under part eighteen of Article 31 hereof, and the protocol on the results of collecting signatures in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum shall be transmitted by the authorised representative of the initiative group to the relevant Local Referendum Commission no later than 20 hours of the day on which the deadline for collecting signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum expires. The authorised person of the initiative group shall inform the relevant Local Referendum Commission about the time of transfer of signature sheets no later than on the eve of the transfer day.

3. The Territorial Commission shall accept signature sheets at the Assembly of the Commission, which shall be held within the time period specified in part two of this Article, in the presence of an authorised representative of the initiative group. Acceptance of subscription sheets shall be carried out by certifying each folder with subscription sheets with the seal of the Commission, checking the compliance of the number of submitted subscription sheets with the number specified in the protocol on the results of collecting signatures in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum.

4. The fact of acceptance of signature sheets shall be certified by a report of the Territorial Commission, indicating the number of accepted signature sheets and the declared number of signatures of voters pursuant to the protocol of the initiative group, as well as the date and time of their acceptance. The report shall be drawn up following the form established by the Central Election Commission, in two copies. The report shall be signed by all members of the relevant

Territorial Commission present at the Assembly and the authorised representative of the initiative group. The first copy of the report shall be issued to the authorised representative of the initiative group, the second copy of the report shall be kept by the Commission that accepted the signature sheets, and its copy shall be posted on the official website of the Local referendum Territorial Commission.

5. Members of the Local referendum Territorial Commission may not restrict the access of an authorised person of the initiative group to the premises where the Assembly of the specified Commission is held or refuse to accept documents if they are delivered before the expiration of the period specified in part two of this Article.

6. If the initiative group for a local referendum does not perform the actions specified in part two of this Article before 20:00 of the day when the deadline for collecting signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum expires, and there are no grounds for extending the general deadline for collecting signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum, established by part three of Article 31 of this Law, on the next working day after the day when the deadline for collecting signatures of voters expires, the relevant Territorial Commission shall decide to terminate the procedures for initiating a local referendum. A copy of this decision shall be provided to the authorised representative of the initiative group, and information about the termination of the procedure for initiating a local referendum shall be posted on the official website of the relevant Local referendum Territorial Commission.

7. If it is impossible to hold an Assembly within the time period specified in part two of this Article, due to the lack of the required number of members of the Commission, a report thereof shall be drawn up in two copies in the form established by the Central Election Commission and signed by the present members of the Commission and the authorised person of the initiative group. The first copy of the report shall be issued to the authorised representative of the initiative group, and the second copy of the report shall be kept by the Territorial Commission. The Chairman of the Commission (in his absence – the Deputy Chairman of the Commission) shall convene a meeting of the Commission the next day notifying of it all the members of the Commission. If it was not possible to hold an Assembly of the Local Referendum Commission and the deadline for submitting signature sheets by the initiative group was missed, it shall not prevent the adoption of signature sheets at the next Assembly of this Commission. The lack of actions of the Local Referendum Commission on accepting signature sheets from the initiative group may be appealed in court following the procedure established by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

Article 33. Verification and counting of voters' signatures by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, after accepting signature sheets from the initiative group for a local referendum as per the procedure established by the Central Election Commission, shall verify compliance with the procedure and deadlines for collecting signatures, and shall also ensure verification of the validity of information about voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum and the absence of circumstances specified in part six of this Article.

2. At its Assembly the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall verify compliance with the procedure and deadlines for collecting signatures of voters by the initiative group for a local referendum, as well as other requirements established by this Law.

To verify compliance with the procedure and deadlines for collecting signatures of voters, the Territorial Commission may request additional information and documents from the authorised representative of the initiative group.

If the Local Referendum Territorial Commission detects violations for which legal liability is provided, the Territorial Commission shall immediately contact the law enforcement agencies for a proper response.

3. After receiving the signature sheets, the Territorial Referendum Commission shall immediately provide the relevant body keeping the State Electoral Register with electronic signature data to verify information about voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum.

Verification of the validity of information about voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum shall be carried out by the State Electoral Register management body within three days using an automated information system under the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

Simultaneously with the beginning of this verification and no later than on the third day from the day of receipt of the documents defined in part two of Article 32 of this Law, the body keeping the State Electoral Register with the powers extending to the territory of the relevant territorial community shall provide each voter with the opportunity, upon his/her request in paper form or using electronic means of the State Electoral Register under the procedure determined by the Central Election Commission, to obtain information about himself/herself, whether his/her personal data was used to support the initiative of holding a local referendum on the initiative of the territorial community.

In case of identification of circumstances that constitute the grounds to not to count the signature sheets, signatures of individual voters (paragraphs 1-3, part five, paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, part six of this Article), the authorised official of the State Electoral Register management body shall produce in the form of an electronic document using an automated information system a list of voters in respect of whom such circumstances have been identified with reference to the relevant paragraph of part five or six of this Article, and affix an electronic digital signature on it. An authorised person of the initiative group, official observers shall have the right to get acquainted with this list in the reading mode in the premises of the State Electoral Register management body.

Based on the results of the verification, an authorised official of the State Electoral Register management body shall draw up a certificate that records the number of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum. The information thereof shall be valid, correspond to the information about them in the State Electoral Register and shall not contain circumstances that are the grounds for not taking into account their signatures. Such a certificate shall be submitted to the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission no later than the day after the verification of information about voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum is completed.

4. Verification of the validity of signatures of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum shall be carried out by direct personal questioning of such voters, using the state electronic resources, or in any other way that makes it possible to establish the validity of the person's signature. Information and technological capabilities of the Unified State Demographic Register and the Unified State Web Portal of Electronic Services can be used to conduct such verification. The procedure for verifying the authenticity of signatures of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum shall be approved by the Central Election Commission together with the Ministry of Interior.

If there are doubts about the authenticity of the voter's signature, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall immediately contact the territorial body of the National Police of Ukraine to verify the validity of the signatures of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum. Such verification shall be carried out within twenty days by employees of the territorial body of the National Police of Ukraine together with at least three members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised to do so by its decision.

Based on the results of the verification, a report shall be drawn up that records the number of voters and the confirmed valid signatures.

If it is necessary to verify the validity of more than ten thousand signatures of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission may decide to extend the term provided for in part eight of this Article, but not more than twice.

5. When determining the number of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum on the basis of signature sheets, the signature sheets shall not be taken into account in the following cases:

- 1) if the signatures of voters are collected by a person who is not a member of the initiative group for a local referendum;
- 2) if they contain false information about the person who collected signatures of voters;
- 3) if they do not contain information about the person who collected the signatures of voters or who contain the signature of another person instead of the signature of the person who collected the signatures of voters;
- 4) if the signatures of voters are collected in the places defined by parts twelve and thirteen of Article 31 of this Law;
- 5) if they are filled in with a pencil;
- 6) if they have an unidentified form.

6. When determining the number of voters who supported the initiative to hold a local referendum on the basis of signature sheets, the votes shall not be taken into account in the following cases:

- 1) if the signature sheet does not contain all or particular information about the voter who supports the referendum initiative with his signature, provided for in the signature sheet form;
- 2) if the records and signatures are made by another person instead of the voter, except for the grounds defined by this Law;
- 3) if they are affixed by a person who did not have the right to vote on the day of affixing the signature;
- 4) if their electoral address is not within the territory of the relevant territorial community where a local referendum is planned to be held as of the last day of the month preceding the month in which the collection of signatures in support of the initiative began;
- 5) if the signature is made by the voter before the date of provision by the Territorial Commission of a sample signature sheet for collecting signatures in support of the referendum initiative or after the deadline for collecting signatures established by this Law expires.

If multiple signatures of the same voter are detected in the signature sheets, the corresponding signatures shall be counted as one signature.

7. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall draw up a protocol on the results of collecting signatures in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum, established as a

result of the verification, in the form established by the Central Election Commission, which shall indicate the number of signatures of voters to be taken into account, the number of unaccounted signatures of voters and signature sheets with mandatory indication of the grounds for their non-registration. A copy of the protocol, certified by the signatures of the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission and the seal of the Commission, shall be provided to the authorised person of the initiative group.

8. Based on the results of the verification, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall make a decision on the results of collecting signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum within the following terms from the date of acceptance of signature sheets from the initiative group for a local referendum:

in a territorial community with no more than 10,000 voters, – 10 days;

in a territorial community with more than 10,000, but no more than 100,000 voters, – 15 days;

in a territorial community with more than 100,000, but no more than 500,000 voters, – 20 days;

in a territorial community with more than 500,000 but no more than 1,000,000 voters, – 25 days;

in a territorial community with more than 1,000,000 voters, – 30 days.

9. The decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission to indicate the question of a local referendum, as well as the day of its holding, shall be immediately published on the official websites of the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission, as well as local self-government bodies, and the relevant information shall be distributed in local print media and on the Internet no later than on the third day from the date of the relevant decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

10. If the number of signatures of voters who support the initiative to hold a local referendum is not sufficient to call a local referendum, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall decide to terminate the procedure for initiating a local referendum on these grounds. A copy of the relevant resolution shall be issued to the authorised representative of the initiative group no later than the next day from the date of its adoption, and information about this decision shall be posted on the official website of the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

11. The initiative group for a local referendum may appeal the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in court following the procedure established by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

Article 34. Termination of the activity of the local referendum initiative group

1. The initiative group for a local referendum shall cease its activities after the deadline for appealing the decision of the relevant Territorial Commission to terminate the procedure for implementing the initiative for holding a local referendum.

In case of appeal of the decisions specified in this Article, the initiative group for the local referendum shall cease its activities after the court decision comes into force.

SECTION III LOCAL REFERENDUM COMMISSIONS

Article 35. Local Referendum Commissions system

1. The Local Referendum Commissions system that prepare and conduct a local referendum shall consist of:

1) the Central Election Commission;

2) Local Referendum Territorial and Precinct Commissions.

2. The powers of the Local Referendum Commissions to prepare and conduct a local referendum shall be exercised by:

- 1) the Central Election Commission – within the entire territory of Ukraine;
- 2) the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which shall determine the results of a local referendum– within a single district;
- 3) the Local Referendum Territorial Commission; its powers shall be limited to a district of the city with a district division – within a territorial district;
- 4) a Local Referendum Precinct Commission – within the precinct for a local referendum.

3. Permanent village, town and city territorial election commissions established under the Electoral Code of Ukraine shall have the status of Local Referendum Territorial Commission and exercise the powers provided for by this Law. District Election Commissions in cities with district divisions shall have the status of Local Referendum Territorial Commissions and exercise the powers provided for by this Law. Termination of the powers of members of Village, Settlement, City, District in cities Territorial Election Commissions when they exercise the powers of members of Local Referendum Territorial Commissions shall be determined by the Electoral Code of Ukraine and this Law.

Permanent District Territorial Election Commissions established under the Electoral Code of Ukraine shall exercise the powers provided for in part four of Article 46, parts two, four, six – nine of Article 47 of this Law.

Article 36. Local Referendum Commissions' status

1. The Local Referendum Commissions are special collegial bodies authorised to organise the preparation and conduct of a local referendum and ensure compliance with and uniform application of the legislation on local referendums.
2. The status of the Central Election Commission is established by the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine “On the Central Election Commission”, this and other laws of Ukraine.
3. The Central Election Commission shall not be the legal successor of Local Referendum Territorial Commissions.
4. The status of Local Referendums Territorial and Precinct Commissions shall be determined by this Law.
5. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which determines the result of a local referendum, shall be the highest-level commission for all Local Referendum Territorial and Precinct Commissions within a single district.
6. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall not be a legal entity. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be an entity of the relevant process of a local referendum, shall have the right to refer within the limits of its powers to state authorities and local self-government bodies, as well as to enterprises, institutions and organisations, their officials and officers. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall have its own seal, the sample thereof shall be approved by the Central Election Commission.

Article 37. Requirements for members of the Local Referendum Precinct Commission

1. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission of an ordinary or special precinct for a local referendum may include citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote in elections and referendums.

2. A citizen of Ukraine who has the right to vote in elections and referendums may be a member of only one Local Referendum Commission.
3. The Local Referendum Territorial and Precinct Commissions may not include:
 - 1) members of the local referendum initiative group;
 - 2) representatives of entities of the local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission;
 - 3) authorised persons of the entities of the local referendum process;
 - 4) officials and officers of state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies;
 - 5) citizens held in penitentiary facilities;
 - 6) citizens who have a criminal record for committing a serious crime or a felony against the electoral rights of citizens or a corruption crime, if such criminal record is not removed or expunged as per the procedure established by law;
 - 7) official observers.
4. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission of a special precinct established in an inpatient health care facility or pre-trial detention center may not include employees of the relevant facility or institution.
5. The Secretary of the Local Referendum Territorial or Precinct Commission shall speak the state language to the extent necessary for conducting office work.

Article 38. Powers of the Central Election Commission

1. The powers of the Central Election Commission to organise the preparation and conduct of a local referendum shall be defined by the Law of Ukraine “On the Central Election Commission”, this and other laws of Ukraine.
2. The Central Election Commission shall monitor the compliance and uniform application of the legislation on the local referendum by voters, Local Referendum Territorial and Precinct Commissions and their members, state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and local self-government bodies, officials and officers of these bodies, enterprises, institutions, organisations, their officials, the mass media, their owners, officers and creative workers, political parties (local branches of political parties), their representatives in the Central Election Commission and authorised persons, official observers, public organisations, other public associations. The Central Election Commission shall establish the form of local referendum documents provided for in this Law.
3. The Central Election Commission shall ensure the functioning of an automated information system for organising referendums, which is a separate component of the Unified Automated Information and Analytical System of the Central Election Commission.

Article 39. Powers of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which determines the results of a local referendum shall:

- 1) ensure the preparation and conduct of a local referendum within a single district;
- 2) register the initiative group for the local referendum, supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue, observers;
- 3) exercise, within a single district, control over compliance with and uniform application of legislation on local referendums by voters, Local Referendum Precinct Commissions and their members, state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies, officials and officers of these bodies, enterprises, institutions, organisations, their officials, the mass media and entities of the local referendum process;
- 4) provide legal, organisational, methodological, and technical assistance to Local Referendum Precinct Commissions, organise training for members of these commissions on the organisation and conduct of local referendums;
- 5) establish Local Referendum Precinct Commissions under this Law;
- 6) convene, if necessary, on its own initiative, a meeting of the Local Referendum Precinct Commission;
- 7) make proposals on the use of local budget funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of a local referendum following the procedure established by the Central Election Commission;
- 8) control the provision of premises, transport, equipment, communications to Local Referendum Precinct Commissions, consider and resolve other issues of material and technical support for local referendums on the territory of a single district;
- 9) transfer voting ballots and other documentation forms to Local Referendum Precinct Commissions under this Law, ensure control over the accounting of voting ballots within a single district;
- 10) make a decision on the manufacturing of seals, stamps and transfer them to Local Referendum Precinct Commissions;
- 11) establish the results of voting within a part of the relevant single district (for precincts that are not part of any of the city's districts), draw up a protocol on establishing the results of voting and send it to the Central Election Commission for publication;
- 12) consider, within the limits of its powers, appeals, statements and complaints about the organisation and conduct of a local referendum on the territory of a single district, complaints about decisions, actions and lack of actions of Local Referendum Precinct Commissions, as well as about its members and make decisions on them;
- 13) exercise control over the use of local referendum funds;
- 14) inform the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine about the beginning of the term of campaigning in support of the initiative to hold a local referendum on the initiative of voters, campaigning for a local referendum, and also provide information about the initiative group, branches of parties, public organisations that carry out campaigning for the initiative of a local referendum, a list of entities of the local referendum process and information about the accounts of their funds;
- 15) exercise other powers in accordance with this and other laws of Ukraine.

2. When organising the preparation and conduct of such a referendum the Local Referendum Territorial Commission with the powers limited to the territorial district shall exercise the

powers provided for in paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, part two of this Article, shall transmit ballots for voting to Local Referendum Precinct Commissions, draw up a protocol on the results of voting within the territorial district and transport it together with other documentation from the local referendum to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which shall establish the results of the local referendum.

Article 40. Powers of the Local Referendum Precinct Commission

1. The powers of a Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall begin from the moment of taking the oath of office by a majority of its members included at the time of its setting up, at an Assembly of the Commission, which shall be held no later than on the second day after the day of making a decision on its setting up and shall be convened by the Chairman of the Commission.

2. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall:

1) exercise control over strict compliance with and uniform application of the legislation on local referendums during the preparation and conduct of voting, counting of votes at the polling station for a local referendum;

2) receive a list of voters from the State Electoral Register management body, draw up a list of voters in cases provided for by this Law, provide it for general review, and also make changes to it in cases provided for by this Law;

3) under the procedure and terms established by this Law, shall hand over or send to each voter included in the list of voters at the relevant polling station for the local referendum, a personal invitation indicating the date of voting, the address of the voting premises, the start and end time of voting;

4) provide an opportunity for citizens to familiarise themselves with the wording of the question submitted to the local referendum and the text of the relevant decision of the local Council, both during the preparation for the local referendum, and on the voting day, as well as with decisions taken by the Central Election Commission, territorial representative offices of the Central Election Commission, the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission, its own decisions and messages received by the Commission;

5) ensure accounting and storage of ballots received by the Commission;

6) ensure preparation of the voting premises and ballot boxes;

7) organise voting of voters in the voting premises, as well as at the place of residence of voters in cases provided for by this Law;

8) count the votes of voters at the polling station for the local referendum, draw up a protocol on the counting of votes at the polling station for the local referendum and transmit it together with other documents from the local referendum to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission under the procedure established by this Law;

9) invalidate voting at the polling station for a local referendum in case of circumstances provided for by this Law;

10) consider statements and complaints on the preparation and conduct of voting at a local referendum polling station, including complaints about the actions or lack of actions of its members, and, within the limits of its powers, make decisions on them.

3. The powers of the Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be terminated in ten days after the day of official publication by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission of the results of the local referendum.

Article 41. Submission of candidates to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission

1. The right to submit candidates to the Local Referendum Precinct Commissions shall be granted to the following entities:

- 1) initiative group;
- 2) a local branch of a political party, a public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of the issue of a local referendum.

The submission shall be made by an authorised person on behalf of such an entity of the local referendum process in a single district for a local referendum. Such a submission shall indicate the persons proposed for the position of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the Commission.

2. If within the time period established by part four of this Article, there are no submissions of candidates to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission from the entities defined in part one of this Article, or if the number of persons proposed to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission is less than the minimum number determined by parts two, three of Article 42 hereof, the Chairman of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall have the right to submit candidates to the Precinct Commission for a regular or special precinct for a local referendum based on the proposals of members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in the minimum number of persons determined by parts two and three of Article 42 of this Law.

3. The form of submission of candidates to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be approved by the Central Election Commission no later than thirty days before the voting day. The submission shall specify:

- 1) last name, first name (all first names) and patronymic (if any);
- 2) date of birth;
- 3) citizenship of the person;
- 4) the person's electoral address, as well as contact phone numbers;
- 5) proficiency in the state language;
- 6) education;
- 7) place of work and position of the person;
- 8) experience in participating in the work of Election Commissions or Local Referendum Commissions;
- 9) information about the absence of a criminal record for committing a serious crime or a felony having violated the electoral rights of citizens or a corruption crime;
- 10) the position in the Commission for which the person is proposed.

4. Submission of candidates to the Local Referendum Precinct Commissions shall be made in paper form and in electronic form no later than twenty-four days before the voting day, signed by the authorised person of the initiative group, heads of branches of parties, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue. Signatures of the heads of these organisations, parties, and public organisations shall be sealed.

5. Photocopies of the first and second pages of the passport of a citizen of Ukraine (passport of a citizen of Ukraine in the form of a booklet or card) of each proposed person shall be attached to the submission.

Statements of the persons proposed to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission on their consent to participate in the work of the Commission on behalf of relevant entity of submission, consent to perform the official duties of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the Commission, and on refusing consent to other entities of submission to participate in the work of the Commission shall be provided to the relevant entities of submission before filing to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission a submission regarding candidates for the Local Referendum Precinct Commission.

Article 42. Procedure for setting up Local Referendum Precinct Commissions

1. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be set up by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission no later than fifteen days before the day of voting in a local referendum and shall consist of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and other members of the Local Referendum Commission.

In cities with a district division Local Referendum Precinct Commission for precincts that: are located within a district in a city – shall be set up by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission with the powers limited to the corresponding territorial district;

are not located within any of the districts in the city – shall be set up by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which determines the results of the local referendum.

2. The Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be set up consisting of:

- 1) for small precincts – 10-14 people;
- 2) for medium-sized precincts – 12-16 people;
- 3) for large precincts – 14-18 people.

3. At the polling stations where the number of voters does not exceed 200 people, a Precinct Election Commission may be set up consisting of the Chairman, Secretary and two or four members of the Commission.

4. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall establish the composition of the Local Referendum Precinct Commission, in compliance with the restrictions on the number of Commissions established in parts two and three of this Article and in compliance with the principle of equal representation of supporters and opponents of the issue of a local referendum.

5. If there is a corresponding submission, the Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall include one representative from the initiative group. No more than one representative from each local branch of a political party, public organisation, having submitted a corresponding submission shall be included to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission by drawing lots, which shall be held by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission separately for each Local Referendum Precinct Commission under the procedure established by the Central Election Commission, not later than on the fifth day after the deadline for making submissions specified in part three of Article 41 hereof. To ensure the representation of supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue in the Local Referendum Precinct Commission, such drawing of lots shall be held separately for the inclusion of candidates from supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue (s) in the Commission. Candidates submitted to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission may be rejected only on the grounds of non-compliance with the requirements specified in this Law or the application of the drawing of lots mechanism provided for in this part. When drawing lots, the number of members of the Commission from supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue participating in the drawing of lots shall be determined in such a way as to make the smallest difference in the representation of supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue in the Commission.

In case of holding a local referendum on two issues (on the early termination of the powers of the village, settlement, city council and on the early termination of the powers of the village, settlement, city head), drawing of lots must take place in such a way as to ensure the smallest

difference in the representation of supporters and opponents of each issue of the local referendum in the Commission.

6. Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall verify the accuracy of information about the submitted candidates, including using personal data of the State Electoral Register. For this purpose, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall immediately after receiving the submission, contact the relevant body keeping the State Electoral Register with a request to verify the accuracy of the information. The Register management body shall respond to the request no later than on the fourth day after receiving the request.

7. Clerical typos or inaccuracies made in the submission shall not be the grounds to reject the submitted candidates. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall immediately notify the authorised person who submitted the candidates about the detection of such typos and inaccuracies. The specified typos and inaccuracies may be corrected by making an updated submission regarding the relevant candidates no later than the deadline specified in part three of Article 41 hereof, and in case of receipt of the specified notification on the last day of this deadline – the day after receipt of the specified notification. If the adjusted submission was not received in a timely manner, the respective candidates shall be rejected.

8. If within the time period established by part seven of this Article no submissions to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission have been received or if the number of persons proposed to the Local Referendum Precinct Commission is less than the minimum number established by parts two, three of this Article, the Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be set up by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the submission of its Chairman based on proposals of members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in the minimum number of persons determined by parts two, three of this Article, with mandatory consideration of the submitted candidates from the entities provided for in part one of Article 41 hereof. Persons submitted by the Chairman of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall meet the requirements specified in Article 37 hereof.

9. The decision on setting up of a Local Referendum Precinct Commission shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission no later than the next day from the date of its adoption, as well as in printed media, or, if impossible, in any other way, no later than on the third day from the date of its setting up.

10. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall issue certificates to the members of the Local Referendum Precinct Commission; the form thereof shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

11. Provision of the Local Referendum Precinct Commissions with premises, material and technical equipment shall be assigned to state authorities and local self-government bodies following the procedure determined by the Central Election Commission.

Article 43. Organisation of local Referendum Commissions' operation

1. Territorial and precinct local referendum commissions shall organise their work in accordance with the requirements of this Law and in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

2. The main format of the local referendum commission operation is a meeting convened by the Chairman of the commission, in case of his absence – by the Deputy Chairman, and in case the Chairman and his Deputy are absent – by the Secretary of the commission. If necessary, a meeting of a local referendum commission may be convened by a decision of a higher-level local referendum commission (in respect of a Local Referendum Territorial Commission that establishes the referendum results, –by a decision of the Central Election Commission).

3. At the written request of one third of the local referendum commission members, the Chairman of the commission or his Deputy shall convene a meeting of the commission no later than the next day after receiving such a request.
4. Voting on the election day in a local referendum is not a meeting of the precinct local referendum commission.
5. The first meeting is convened no later than the second day after the day of its formation, subsequent meetings are convened as necessary.
6. A meeting of a local referendum commission shall be valid provided that more than half of the commission members are present.
7. The meeting of the local referendum commission shall be convened with obligatory notification of all members of the commission about the time, place of the meeting and its agenda.
8. The members of the local referendum commission shall be provided with draft decisions of the commission and the necessary documents, as a rule, not later than the day preceding the day of the commission meeting, but not later than the beginning of the meeting. Such draft decisions are also placed in an automated information system.
9. The meeting of the local referendum commission shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Commission or his Deputy. In case they fail to fulfil this function, the commission shall appoint a Chairman from among its members at the meeting.
10. The local referendum commission at the request of three members of the commission, as well as by the decision of the local referendum commission of the highest level or the court is obliged to consider at its meeting issues within its powers, no later than within three days from the date of request or the adoption of the said decision, but not later than the election day, and on the election day, except for the precinct local referendum commission – immediately.
11. The precinct commission is obliged to consider at its meeting the issues within its competence, at the request of the said members of the commission on the election day or by the decision of the higher level commission or court adopted on the election day, immediately after the voting, except for changes to the voter list in a local referendum.
12. The decision of the commission is made by open voting by the majority of votes from the composition of the commission, except for the cases provided by this Law.
13. The decision of the commission comes into force from the moment of its adoption, except for the cases provided by this Law.
14. The decision of the local referendum commission, adopted within its powers, is binding on all parties to local referendum process, public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local governments, officials and officials of these bodies, enterprises, institutions, organisations and their officials, mass media, public associations.
15. A decision of a local referendum commission that contradicts the legislation of Ukraine or is adopted in excess of its powers may be revoked by a higher-level local referendum commission, the Central Election Commission based on the results of the appeal or on its own initiative or may be declared illegal and revoked by a court. In this case, the local high-level Referendum Commission has the right to decide on the merits.
16. Applications, complaints and other documents received by the local referendum commission shall be accepted and registered in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.
17. Relevant specialists, experts and technical staff may be involved to ensure organisational, legal, and technical support for territorial and precinct local referendum commissions to

exercise the powers provided for by this Law in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

18. No one has the right to interfere in the activities of local referendum commissions.

Article 44. The right to attend the commission meeting

1. At the meetings of local referendum territorial, precinct commission, including when counting the votes and determining voting results, at the local referendum precinct on the election day in the room where voting takes place, only the following persons shall have the right to be present without permission or invitation of the commission:

- 1) members of local referendum commissions of the highest level;
- 2) authorised persons of the parties to local referendum process and official observers (not more than two official observers from one party to local referendum process);
- 3) official observers from foreign states, international organisations accredited by the Central Election Commission;
- 4) representatives of mass media (not more than two persons from one mass media at the same time);
- 5) officials of the relevant territorial and regional offices of the Central Election Commission.

2. Persons other than those referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article may be present at a meeting of a local referendum commission only with the permission or at the invitation of this commission, which shall be decided at a meeting of the commission.

3. The presence of persons not provided for in Paragraph 2 of this Article at the local referendum precinct during the voting, as well as at a meeting of the local referendum commission when counting votes and establishing the voting results is prohibited.

4. The local referendum commission may decide to deprive the persons specified in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article of the right to be present at its meeting if they unlawfully obstruct its holding. Such a decision shall be made by at least two-thirds of the votes of the local referendum commission.

5. Authorised employees of the bodies of the National Police of Ukraine shall protect law and order on the election day and during the counting of votes only outside the polling station. In the event of a violation of law and order, the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the Commission may invite an employee of the National Police of Ukraine to take action to restore law and order.

Article 45. Documenting the activities of the local referendum commission

1. Documenting the activity of a territorial and precinct local referendum commission shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by this Article and the procedure for keeping records of local referendum commissions approved by the Central Election Commission.

2. The Secretary of the commission shall keep Minutes of the local referendum commission meeting. If the Secretary of the commission is absent or fails to fulfil his/her powers at the meeting, the commission shall elect from among its members the Secretary of the meeting to perform the duties of the Secretary of the commission at the meeting and in the course of processing the meeting documents. The Minutes of the meeting of the commission shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and the Secretary of the commission (or the Secretary

of the meeting). The Minutes of the commission meeting shall be submitted to the commission members for review not later than the next commission meeting, and the commission member shall have the right to sign them.

3. Decisions of the local referendum commission shall be executed in the form of a Resolution, which shall contain:

1) name of the commission;

2) name of the resolution;

3) date and venue of the resolution adoption and its sequential number;

4) the motivating part with reference to the circumstances that led to the consideration of the issue at the meeting of the commission, with reference to the relevant regulative provisions or the decision of the higher level local Referendum Commission, or court decision, which the commission was guided by;

5) resolution part.

4. The resolution shall be signed by the Chairman at the meeting of the local referendum commission. The content and number of the resolution must be reflected in the Minutes of the relevant meeting of the commission.

5. The resolution adopted by the territorial, precinct local referendum commission shall be posted on the commission's official materials stand for general information the morning of the next day after its adoption at the latest, and if the resolution was adopted on the eve of the election day, on the election day or when voting results were being established – four hours after the end of the local referendum commission meeting at the latest. Such resolution shall also be notified to the parties to the local referendum process as applicable within the same period. A copy of the resolution, certified by the Chairman of the local referendum commission or his Deputy and Secretary of the commission and sealed by the local referendum commission, shall be issued to the party to the local referendum process as applicable, at its request, no later than four hours after its adoption, and on the election day – immediately. The stand of official materials of the Commission shall be arranged in the Commission's premises in a place freely accessible to visitors.

6. An electronic copy of each resolution adopted by the territorial commission on a local referendum shall be entered into the automated information system accompanied by a qualified electronic signature of the responsible person determined by the decision of the commission no later than the next day of its adoption and immediately published on the Central Election Commission official website.

7. Regarding the issues related to ongoing activity and in other cases stipulated by this Law, the commission may adopt protocol decisions, the content of which shall be entered in the Minutes of the commission meeting and shall not be executed in the form of a separate document.

8. The local referendum commission shall draw up Acts and Minutes. The Act of the Commission certifies a certain fact or a certain event, identified and recognised by the Commission. The Minutes of the Commission establish the results of certain actions performed by the commission. The persons present at the Meeting as specified in Clauses 1 – 3, Paragraph 1 of Article 44 of this Law shall have the right to sign the first copy of the Act or the Minutes.

9. Acts and Minutes of the local referendum commission shall be drawn up in the cases provided for by this Law, in the format approved by the Central Election Commission, and in the number of copies established by this Law. The Act or the Minutes of the commission shall be signed by all members of the commission present at the Meeting accompanied by the seal of the local referendum commission. An electronic copy of each Act and Minutes of the local

referendum commission drawn up by the territorial and precinct local referendum commission shall be entered into the automated information system accompanied by a qualified electronic signature of the responsible person specified by the commission decision, within three days from the date they are executed and shall be made public immediately on the Central Election Commission website.

Article 46. Status of a member of the local referendum commission

1. The status of a member of the Central Election Commission is determined by the Law of Ukraine “On the Central Election Commission”.

2. The status of a member of a territorial election commission on a local referendum shall be determined by the Election Code of Ukraine and this Law.

Prior to taking the oath provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 38 of the Election Code of Ukraine, a member of the city, district in the city, settlement, village Local Referendum Territorial Commission must read the content of Paragraphs 4 to 9 of this Article.

3. The status of a member of a precinct local referendum commission, as well as the procedure for acquiring this status, is determined by this Law. The form of the certificate of a member of the precinct local referendum commission shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

A member of a precinct local referendum commission at the first meeting of the referendum commission in which he participates must read the content of Paragraphs 4 to 9 of this Article, followed by taking the following oath of a member of the commission:

“I (surname, name and patronymic), assuming the authority of a member of the local referendum commission and realising my high responsibility to the Ukrainian people, swear to abide by the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine, to perform my duties honestly and conscientiously, based on principles of the rule of law, legality, objectivity and impartiality, to ensure the implementation and protection of Ukrainian citizens' rights to participate in local elections.”

The person who took the oath shall sign the text of the oath. This document shall form an integral part of the documentation of the relevant commission. After taking the oath, a member of the Commission shall be issued a certificate signed by the Chairman of the higher-level Commission.

Refusal to take the oath shall mean a person's refusal to be a member of a local referendum commission.

4. By decision of the local referendum commission approved by the higher level Commission (in respect of village, urban-type settlement territorial election commissions – by the district territorial election commission; in respect of city territorial election commissions – by the Central Election Commission), the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary or other members of the territorial commission (two persons utmost) during the whole local referendum process or part of this period, the precinct local referendum commission (two persons utmost) during the whole term of office of the commission or part of this period may exercise their powers in the local referendum commission and get paid for their work in the commission in accordance with this Law:

Specified persons shall be released throughout this period from the performance of production or official duties at the main place of employment with the preservation of general and special work record.

5. A member of a local referendum commission shall have the right to:

- 1) participate in the preparation of items submitted for consideration by the local referendum commission;
- 2) speak at the meetings of the local referendum commission, ask other participants of the meeting questions on the agenda, make proposals on items related to the powers of the commission;
- 3) check the activities of lower-level commissions on behalf of a particular local referendum commission;
- 4) get acquainted without hindrance with all documents of the local referendum commission of which he is a member, as well as with the documents of lower level commissions;
- 5) compensation for damage caused to his life, health or property in connection with the performance of duties as a member of the local referendum commission, including travel expenses related to the performance of duties as a member of the commission, in the manner and the amount set by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.
6. A member of the commission may not be dismissed, transferred to a lower position on grounds related to the performance of his duties in the local referendum commission.
7. A member of a local referendum commission undertakes to:
 - 1) abide by the Constitution of Ukraine, this and other laws of Ukraine;
 - 2) participate in the meetings of the local referendum commission;
 - 3) execute the decisions of the particular local referendum commission, the decisions of local referendum commission of the highest level and perform the duties of the member of local referendum commission.
8. A member of a local referendum commission shall also have other rights and obligations in accordance with this and other laws of Ukraine.
9. In the course of direct performance of duties by a member of a local referendum commission, each member of a local referendum commission shall be subject to the guarantees and compensations provided by law for employees for the period during which they perform state or public duties during business hours.

A member of a local referendum commission shall be released from the performance of official duties at the place of his permanent employment for the period of time necessary to perform the duties of the commission member.
10. A member of a local referendum commission is prohibited from campaigning in support of or against the issue of a local referendum or from publicly assessing the issue of a local referendum.

Article 47. Early termination of powers of entire local referendum commission or a member of a local referendum commission

1. Powers of the entire local referendum commission may be terminated early by the commission which has formed it, at its own initiative or pursuant to the court decision in case of systematic violation of the Constitution of Ukraine, this and other laws of Ukraine by the commission.
2. The powers of a member of a precinct local referendum commission shall be terminated early by the commission that has formed it, due to:
 - 1) a personal statement on the resignation of the commission member;

- 2) submitting a proposal to replace a member of the commission by a subject who nominated the candidacy of such a member to the commission;
- 3) termination of his citizenship of Ukraine;
- 4) departure for the period up to and including the election day outside Ukraine, which causes the impossibility to perform the duties of the commission member;
- 5) his registration as the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, by authorised person of the party to local referendum process;
- 6) his inclusion to another local referendum commission;
- 7) refusal to take the oath of a member of the commission;
- 8) violation of the oath of a member of the commission, which manifested itself in the systematic failure to perform his duties, certified in this regard by at least two decisions of the commission of which he is a member;
- 9) systematic or one-time gross violation of the legislation of Ukraine on local Referendum, established by a court decision or a decision of a higher-level Commission, two or more instances of absenteeism without good reason or non-appearance at the commission meeting on the election day;
- 10) the entry into force of a court conviction for committing a serious or particularly serious crime, a crime against the voting rights of citizens or a corruption crime;
- 11) identification of circumstances that deprive a person of the right to be a member of the commission;
- 12) his recognition as incapable or missing;
- 13) his death or declaring him dead.

The powers of a member of a city, district in a city, urban-type settlement, or village territorial election commission shall be terminated early by the commission that formed it, on the grounds provided for in the Election Code of Ukraine and in connection with the circumstances stipulated in Clauses 5, 6, and 9 of this Paragraph.

3. In the event of the circumstances provided for in Clauses 3 – 7, 10 – 13 of Paragraph 2 of this Article, the powers of a member of the particular territorial election commission, a member of the precinct local referendum commission shall be terminated from the moment of their occurrence or detection, and in case of circumstances stipulated by Clauses 1, 2, 8, 9 of Paragraph 2 this Article – from the moment of the decision on termination of his powers.

4. A commission that has formed the composition of the particular territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission, and which has prematurely terminated the powers of the entire commission, an individual member of the commission or identified grounds for termination, shall notify no later than the next day the subjects who nominated to the commission the persons whose powers were terminated prematurely or in respect of whom grounds for termination of their powers were identified.

5. The subject who nominated the commission member, whose powers have been prematurely terminated, shall have a priority right to nominate another candidate for inclusion in the local referendum commission to replace the one who has resigned. Such nomination, made in accordance with the requirements of the Election Code of Ukraine (in respect of candidates to the territorial election commission), this Law (in respect of candidates to the precinct local referendum commission) no later than the day following the receipt of the corresponding notice may not be rejected.

6. In case the powers of the entire territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission are terminated early, the commission that formed it shall approve a new

composition of the territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission not later than on the third day from the day on which the Commission's powers were terminated, but not later than the last day before the election day in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

7. In case the powers of a member of a territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission are terminated early in instances provided for in Paragraph 3 of this Article, the commission that formed it shall no later than the third day from the date on which such powers are terminated, and on the election day at the latest, include another person in its composition to replace the member of the commission whose powers have been terminated, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law.

8. In case the powers of a member of a territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission are terminated early on the last day before election day, such decision shall be made simultaneously with the decision to include another person in the particular territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission from the same subject that nominated the former member. If the subject who nominates candidates refuses to submit a new candidacy, such nomination shall be made by the Chairman of the commission authorised to form the composition of the relevant territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission.

9. In case when:

the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the territorial election commission systematically fails to exercise the powers of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission respectively,

the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission systematically fails to perform their duties, -

a territorial election commission or a precinct local referendum commission, respectively, may address the commission that has formed it with a reasoned request to replace such person, if at least two-thirds of the members of the particular territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission have voted for it. This submission shall be subject to mandatory consideration within the time limits specified in Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Article. The decision to replace the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary of the territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission shall be made taking into account the requirements of Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 42 of this Law. Specified decision shall not entail the termination of these persons' powers as members of the particular territorial election commission, precinct local referendum commission.

SECTION IV VOTER LIST

Article 48. Compilation of preliminary voter lists for a regular local referendum precinct

1. In order to prepare and conduct voting in a local referendum, the body maintaining the State Register of Voters for each ordinary local referendum precinct formed on the territory of its jurisdiction, shall compile preliminary voter lists on the basis of information from the State Register of Voters.

2. The preliminary list of voters at a local referendum precinct shall include citizens of Ukraine who have reached or will turn 18 on the election day in a local referendum and who have the right to vote in elections and referendums and belong to this precinct according to the State Register of Voters. A voter may be included in the voter list of one local referendum precinct only.

3. In case of inclusion of a voter whose voting venue has been temporarily changed, a note shall be made to that effect in the column "Notes" across his/her surname.

4. Preliminary voter lists shall be compiled according to the form established by the Central Election Commission, in compliance with the requirements of Paragraphs 5 and 6 of this Article.

5. The preliminary voter list shall have end-to-end voter numbering and end-to-end sheet numbering. Information about voters in the voter list at a regular polling station shall be indicated in such a way that voters with the same polling address are placed next to each other.

6. The preliminary voter list shall contain the following information about the voter:

1) surname, first name (all first names) and patronymic (if any);

2) date of birth;

3) electoral address (without indication of postal code and country of residence or stay);

4) a note about permanent inability to move independently (if there are grounds) – in the column "Notes".

7. The preliminary voter list for a regular local referendum polling station shall be made in one hard copy, each sheet of which shall be certified by the signature of the head of the State Register of Voters with the seal of such body affixed to it.

Article 49. Transmission of preliminary voter lists and nominal invitations to local referendum commissions of ordinary local referendum precincts

1. Not later than thirteen days before the election day, the body maintaining the State Register of Voters in the premises where it is located shall submit a hard copy of preliminary list of voters and prepared personal invitations to the particular precinct local referendum commission.

2. On behalf of the precinct local referendum commission, the preliminary voter list shall be received by at least three members of this commission, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the commission, and in case of impossibility – the Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the local referendum commission.

3. A Statement on the transfer of the preliminary voter list shall be drawn up in two copies in the form established by the Central Election Commission. One copy of the Act shall be kept in the body maintaining the State Register of Voters, the other – in the precinct local referendum commission.

Article 50. Notification of voters on inclusion in previous voter lists

1. The body maintaining the State Register of Voters shall prepare a personal invitation for each voter notifying of his/her inclusion in the preliminary voter list at the particular regular local referendum precinct, the name of the local referendum where he/she is invited to vote, the address of the precinct local referendum commission, its telephone number and business hours, as well as the time and venue of voting.

In the case of simultaneous holding of a local referendum and national elections, the voter shall be sent one notice of his/her inclusion in the particular preliminary voter list.

2. Voters who have a mark in the voter list as being the persons who are not able to move independently shall be informed that they will be given an opportunity to vote at their place of stay.

Article 51. Compilation and updating of voter lists at special local referendum precincts

1. The list of voters, which is compiled at a special local referendum polling station shall include voters whose electoral address is assigned to the territorial community in which the local referendum is held.

2. At special local referendum precincts established in inpatient health care facilities, pre-trial detention centers, voter lists shall be compiled no later than seven days before the election day by the relevant precinct local referendum commissions in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission based on information submitted by the heads of the relevant institutions, institutions where such local referendum polling stations were formed.

3. The head of the relevant institution shall ensure the accuracy of the information specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article. Such information shall be submitted by the heads of the relevant establishments and institutions to the body maintaining the State Register of Voters to verify the assignment of the voter addresses to the territory of the respective territorial community.

After the verification by the bodies of the State Register of Voters relevant information shall be submitted to the precinct local referendum commissions no later than nine days before the election day in one copy signed by the head of the relevant establishment or institution and sealed.

4. Information shall be submitted in the form established by the Central Election Commission and shall contain the following information on each voter:

- 1) surname, first name (all first names) and patronymic (if any);
- 2) date of birth (day, month, year);
- 3) electoral address;
- 4) a mark in the column "Notes" on the permanent inability of the voter to move independently (if there are grounds).

Voters who must leave the inpatient health care facility before the election day shall not be included in such information and in the voter list at the relevant special local Referendum polling station.

5. After compiling the list of voters at a special local referendum precinct, the precinct local referendum commission shall immediately transmit information about the voters on the list to the body maintaining the State Register of Voters at its location.

6. If a voter arrives at an inpatient health care facility no later than ten days before the election day, but earlier than two days before the election day, the relevant precinct local referendum commission shall update the voter list, including the voter in the voter list on the basis of information submitted immediately by the head of the relevant institution, whose signature is certified by the seal of the relevant institution.

7. A voter whose electoral address belongs to the territorial community (in which a local Referendum is held) and who has arrived at an inpatient health care institution located in the territorial community (where a local Referendum is held) may contact the relevant local referendum commission of a regular polling station where he is included in the voter list on the possibility to vote at his place of residence in accordance with the procedure and terms established by this Law. In this case, such voter shall not be included in the voter list at a special precinct.

8. A voter shall have the right to personally apply to the precinct local referendum commission of a special precinct or directly to the court to clarify the list of voters.

9. The application referred to in Paragraph 8 of this Article may be submitted to the particular precinct local referendum commission no later than two days before the election day. Such application shall be considered by the local referendum commission immediately. Following consideration of the application, the precinct local referendum commission is obliged to make a decision to amend the voter list or a reasoned decision to refuse to satisfy the application. A copy of the decision shall be issued to the voter on the day of its adoption. The application submitted to the local referendum commission after the specified deadline shall not be reviewed.

10. An administrative lawsuit to clarify the list of voters may be filed with the court in the manner and within the timeframe established by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

11. When making changes to the voter list at a special precinct, the precinct local referendum commission shall immediately transmit information on voters included in the voter list or excluded from the list to the relevant body of the State Register of Voters.

12. In case such information is received later than five days before the election day and multiple inclusion of a voter in the voter list is detected at another precinct, the State Register of Voters shall immediately notify the relevant precinct local referendum commission.

13. Members of a special precinct local referendum commission who have the right to vote at the local referendum shall be included in the voter list in that precinct pursuant to the decision of the relevant local referendum commission to form a special precinct local referendum commission.

14. On the day before the election day, after making changes in accordance with this Article, the voter list at a special precinct shall be closed by crossing out blank columns for entering voter names in such a way as to prevent additional voters from being added to the list and signed by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission.

15. On the election day, no changes shall be made to the updated list of voters at special precincts.

16. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission shall correct on the election day inaccuracies and technical errors in the updated voter list – incorrect spelling of surname, first name (all proper names), patronymic (if any), date of birth, house or apartment number of the place of residence, – if, despite such technical errors, it is clear that the voter list at the special precinct includes the same voter who came to vote. Such correction shall be certified by the signature of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission in the column “Notes”.

Article 52. Procedure for acquainting voters with the preliminary voter list at a regular local referendum precinct and eliminating irregularities in the voter list

1. 1. Regular precinct local referendum commission on the next day after receiving the preliminary list of voters shall provide it for the general acquaintance in the precinct commission premises.

2. Regular precinct local referendum commission shall send or otherwise deliver to each voter a personal invitation received from the body maintaining the State Register of Voters.

Such personal invitation shall be sent or delivered no later than ten days before the election day.

3. A voter shall have the right to get acquainted with the preliminary list of voters in the premises of the precinct local referendum commission and to check the accuracy of the information entered.

Article 53. Procedure for making changes to previous voter lists

1. A voter may address the precinct local referendum commission or directly the body maintaining the State Register of Voters with a request to clarify the preliminary list of voters, including the inclusion or exclusion from the list of himself or others, as well as the presence or absence of marks with regard to permanent inability of the voter to move independently.

2. A voter shall personally submit an application to the precinct local referendum commission or directly to the body maintaining the State Register of Voters regarding the circumstances provided for in Paragraph 1 of this Article. If a voter is unable to submit an application in person due to health problems, the precinct local referendum commission shall, at the request of such voter, ensure that the voter's application is accepted in another way.

Documents (copies of documents) confirming the information specified therein shall be attached to the application.

3. The application referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article may be submitted no later than five days before the election day and shall be considered by the precinct local referendum commission within one day. The application submitted after the specified deadline shall not be reviewed.

4. Having reviewed the application, the precinct local referendum commission shall make a decision on the transfer of such application to the body maintaining the State Register of Voters. The decision of the local referendum commission along with the voter's application and attached documents (copies of documents) shall be promptly sent to the relevant body of the State Register of Voters and notified to the person who submitted the application no later than the next day after its adoption (if such person is not the person who submitted the application).

5. The body maintaining the State Register of Voters shall ensure the consideration of voter applications in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine "On the State Register of Voters". The results of the appeal shall be reported to the person who submitted it, as well as to the person to whom it relates (if the voter's appeal concerns another person).

6. A petition for clarification of the voter list may be filed with a court in accordance with the procedure established by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

7. The court decision to amend the voter list not later than five days before the election day shall be submitted by the voter to the relevant body of the State Register of Voters or to the relevant precinct local referendum commission for immediate referral to such body, and upon expiration of the above term – to the precinct local referendum commission.

Article 54. Clarification of the preliminary voter list at a regular local referendum precinct

1. The body maintaining the State Register of Voters on the basis of information submitted in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the State Register of Voters", decisions of relevant local referendum commissions on the formation of special precinct local referendum commissions (in terms of inclusion of the members of precinct local referendum commissions in the voter lists at the respective special precinct), based on the results of voter applications review, notifications of special precinct local referendum commissions on inclusion of voters

in the voter list at the special precinct, based on the statements of the members of territorial and precinct local referendum commissions submitted in accordance with Paragraph 2 of this Article, as well as court decisions received no later than five days before the election day, shall prepare an updated voter list.

2. The body maintaining the State Register of Voters, which has received from the special precinct local referendum commission information about the voters included in the voter list independently compiled by such commission, shall enter in the database of the State Register of Voters appropriate notes on voters who will not vote at their election addresses in connection with their inclusion in the voter lists at other precincts.

3. Revised voter lists for ordinary local referendum precincts shall be prepared by the bodies of the State Register of Voters in one hard copy according to the form established by the Central Election Commission and shall contain a column for the voter's signature to receive a ballot.

4. Revised voter lists shall be submitted to the relevant local referendum commissions no later than two days before the election day.

Article 55. Amendments to the revised voter list by a precinct local referendum commission at a regular local referendum precinct

1. Amendments to the revised voter list shall be made by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission on the basis of a court decision, notifications of the State Register of Voters on elimination of multiple inclusion of a voter in the voter list at such precinct. Such amendments may be introduced until 6 pm on the last Saturday before the election day.

2. When adding a voter to the voter list at a local referendum precinct, in accordance with the procedure for introducing amendments to an updated voter list, the information about him/her provided for in the voter list form shall be entered at the end of the voter list. Thereat, the date and number of the court decision shall be indicated in the "Notes" column.

3. Persons who have been unlawfully included in the voter list shall be excluded from it by deletion, confirmed by the entry "Excluded" and the signatures of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission in the column "Notes". In this case, the date and number of the court decision or notification of the body maintaining the State Register of Voters shall be indicated in the specified column next to the voter's name.

4. When making changes to the revised voter list on the basis of a court decision, the precinct local referendum commission shall immediately notify the relevant body of the State Register of Voters of the inclusion of a voter in the voter list or his/her exclusion from the voter list.

5. In case of detecting multiple inclusion of a voter in the updated voter lists in connection with the notification of a precinct local referendum commission on inclusion of a voter in the voter list at another precinct, the State Register of Voters who received such notification shall immediately notify the relevant precinct commission that is obliged to exclude such a voter from the voter list at such precinct.

6. On the day before the election day, after making changes to the updated voter list based on court decisions, notifications of the body which maintains the State Register of Voters, the voter list shall be closed by crossing out blank columns for entering voter names in such a way as to prevent additional voters from being added to the list and signed by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission, as well as sealed by the precinct local referendum commission.

7. On the election day, no changes shall be made to the updated list of voters.

8. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the precinct shall correct inaccuracies and technical errors on the election day in the updated voter list – incorrect spelling of surname,

first name (all proper names), patronymic (if any), date of birth, house or apartment number of the place of residence, – if, despite such technical errors, it is clear that the voter list at the local referendum precinct includes the same voter who came to vote. Such correction shall be certified by the signature of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman or Secretary of the precinct local referendum commission in the column “Notes”.

9. Information on voters included or excluded from the voter list in the form of an updated voter list, as well as on voters in respect of whom amendments have been made or inaccuracies and technical errors corrected in such updated voter list, shall be submitted by the precinct local referendum commission to the relevant body maintaining the State Register of Voters.

Article 56. Temporary change of the voting venue without change of the voter's electoral address

1. Temporary change of the voting venue of voters whose electoral address is assigned to the territorial community where the local referendum is held, without change of the electoral address in the local referendum shall be applied in the case provided for in Paragraph 2 of Article 54 with regard to the change of voting venue due to the state of health (disability) within the territorial community in which the local referendum is held.

2. Members of precinct local referendum commissions whose electoral address is assigned to the territorial community in which the local referendum is held may be included in the voter list at the regular precinct where they are included in the local referendum commission. Members of precinct commissions whose electoral address is assigned to the territorial community where the local referendum is held may no later than five days before the local referendum election day submit to the body which maintains the State Register of Voters at the location of the respective precinct where they are included to the local referendum commission or at his/her election address a statement on temporary change of the voting venue without changing the election address.

3. At the request of a voter with a health issue (due to disability), the body maintaining the State Register of Voters may temporarily (for the period of the local referendum process) change his/her voting venue (the local referendum precinct) without changing his/her election address. Such request may be submitted by this voter to the body maintaining the State Register of Voters no later than five days before the election day in hard or soft copy using the means of electronic identification provided by law. The procedure for submitting and considering an application for a temporary change of a voter's venue shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

4. The procedure for temporary change of the voting venue shall not apply to special local referendum precincts.

SECTION V

MEANS OF FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO PREPARE AND HOLD LOCAL REFERENDUM

Article 57. General principles of local referendum financial support

1. Expenditures for the preparation and holding of a local referendum shall be covered by the local budget and the funds of the local referendum process subjects provided for in Paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. An initiative group (in case of a local referendum initiated by a territorial community), a party organisation, a public organisation registered as supporters or opponents of a local

referendum issue in accordance with this Law may establish its own fund to finance its local referendum campaigning in the manner prescribed by this Law.

3. Financing of campaigning events or materials of a local referendum from sources not provided for in this Article shall be prohibited.

4. The Central Election Commission shall approve the average norms of expenditures for the financial support to prepare and hold a local referendum and the procedure for budgeting funds for the financial support to prepare and hold a local referendum.

The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the results of the local referendum, in accordance with the average norms of expenditures and the procedure for budgeting financial support funds to prepare and hold local referendum shall determine each year the amount of funds required for the financial support for the next year and shall furnish appropriate information to village, settlement, city council in order to have corresponding expenses included in the local budgets, in case of appointment of the local referendum.

The village, settlement, city mayor within two days from the day following the day on which the decision to appoint a local referendum is published shall convene a session of the relevant council in order to make changes to the decision on approval of the local budget to include expenditures on local referendum financial support.

Article 58. Financial support to prepare and hold a local referendum

1. Financial support to prepare and hold a local referendum is carried out by the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission at the expense of the local budget provided for the organisation and holding of the referendum, in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

2. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission within the average norms approved by by the Central Election Commission in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 57 of this Law shall prepare an estimate of expenditures for financial support of local referendum preparation taking into account the expenses of precinct local referendum commissions.

3. Financing of the local referendum voter lists and personal invitations preparation by the bodies maintaining the State Register of Voters shall be carried out at the expense of the relevant local budgets in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine upon submission by the Central Election Commission.

4. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall, not later than one week from the date on which the results of the local referendum held at the expense of the local budget are published, return unused budget funds for the preparation and holding of the local referendum in accordance with procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

5. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall, within fifteen days from the date on which the local referendum results were officially published, the local referendum process and local referendum initiation procedures ended, compile and submit to the relevant local council a financial report on the receipt and use of local budget funds.

6. Control over the correct and targeted use of local budget funds allocated for the preparation and holding of a local referendum shall be exercised in accordance with the procedure established by budget legislation.

Article 59. Material support to prepare and hold a local referendum

1. Local executive bodies, local self-government bodies, their officials and officers shall assist local referendum commissions in exercising their powers:

- 1) provide them with the necessary premises for the organisation of work and conduct of voting in accordance with the requirements and standards for the arrangement of such premises established by the Central Election Commission.
- 2) ensure their protection, as well as the protection of ballot papers and other documentation;
- 3) provide, in accordance with the norms established by the Central Election Commission, vehicles, means of communication, equipment, inventory, and office equipment that are subject to return after the powers of the local referendum commissions are ended.

The procedure for payment and reimbursement of these services is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

2. Bodies of the National Police of Ukraine, and if necessary — involved servicemen of the National Guard of Ukraine, shall provide round-the-clock security of the local referendum commission premises from the day on which ballot papers are received by local referendum commissions and until they are transported from the premises of local referendum commissions in accordance with the procedure established by Law, as well as, if necessary, at the request of the Central Election Commission, bodies of the State Register of Voters.

Upon request of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the bodies of the National Police of Ukraine shall provide round-the-clock protection of the commission premises from the date on which signature sheets in support of the local referendum initiative are received until the date on which the initiative group ends its activity or decision to appoint a local referendum is adopted at the initiative of the community.

Article 60. Remuneration of local referendum commissions members and persons involved to ensure their work

1. The work of a local referendum commission member who exercises his/her powers in a local referendum commission on a paid basis shall be paid in the amount and in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine at the request of the Central Election Commission and at the expense of the local budget allocated to prepare and hold a local referendum.
2. The remuneration of a local referendum commission member dismissed from the performance of production or official duties at the main place of employment may not be lower than his/her average salary at the principal place of employment. The remuneration of a local referendum commission member who is a pensioner or a person who is temporarily unemployed may not be lower than the amount of the minimum wage established at the time of its accrual.
3. A one-time monetary remuneration within the total savings limits of the wage fund may be accrued and paid to local referendum commissions members in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.
4. Remuneration of local referendum commissions members (including pensioners and persons temporarily out of work) on the election day and on the days when the results of voting are established shall be made in the amount and in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Remuneration of referendum commissions members (including those who exercise powers on a non-paid basis) on the election day and on the days when the results of voting are established shall be made: for members of Local Referendum Territorial Commissions — for three days utmost; for members of precinct local referendum commissions — for two days exactly.

5. Remuneration of the involved specialists, experts and technical workers, defined by Paragraph 17 of Article 43 of this Law, shall be made in the amount and in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, at the expense of local budget funds allocated for preparation and holding of local referendum. The amount of remuneration of such specialists may not be lower than the amount of the minimum wage set on the day on which the local referendum process begins.

6. Performance of works related to the preparation and holding of a local referendum by members of local referendum commissions or involved specialists, experts and technical staff who are persons recognised as unemployed in accordance with the procedure established by law shall not be grounds to deregister these persons in the public employment service as job seekers, or to stop paying them unemployment benefits and other benefits.

7. Remuneration of the local referendum commission members, involved specialists, experts and technical staff, including on the election day and on the days when the results of voting are established, shall not be grounds for cancellation, restriction or reduction of any types of social benefits, pensions, subsidies to them or members of their families living with them to reimburse the cost of housing and utility services, etc.

Article 61. Local referendum funds

1. An initiative group (in the case of a local referendum initiated by voters), a local organisation of a political party having the status of a legal entity, a public organisation registered as supporters or opponents of a local referendum in accordance with this Law may open a current account of their local referendum fund in order to finance their local referendum campaigning activities.

Initiative group (in case of a local referendum at the initiative of voters), local organisation of a political party without legal entity status, local organisation of a political party having legal entity status, public organisation registered as supporters or opponents of a local referendum that did not form a local referendum fund, shall not have the right to carry out campaigning measures specified in Section VIII of this Law, which require funding.

2. The local referendum fund of an initiative group, party organisation, public organisation registered as supporters or opponents of a local referendum may have only one current account in a bank of Ukraine determined at its own discretion and only in the national currency, which receives funds to finance campaign activities and pay the costs of campaign activities.

3. In case of a local referendum appointment, the current account of the initiative group fund shall be used as the current account of the local referendum fund of the initiative group.

4. The amount of the local referendum fund may not exceed:

1) 50 minimum wages – in a territorial community in which, according to the State Register of Voters, there are no more than 10,000 voters;

2) 250 minimum wages – in a territorial community with more than 10,000 but not more than 500,000 voters;

3) 500 minimum wages – in a territorial community with more than 500,000 voters.

Article 62. Opening, operating and closing accounts of local referendum funds

1. The procedure for opening and closing accounts of local referendum funds shall be established by the National Bank of Ukraine in agreement with the Central Election Commission.

2. The basis for a local organisation of a party with the status of a legal entity, public organisation to open a current account of the local referendum fund is a copy of the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on registration of the party organisation, public organisation as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum.
3. The Bank shall notify the Central Election Commission, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (in case of opening a current account by a local party organisation) in writing of the opening of the current account and its details no later than the next business day.
4. Information on opening a current account of a local referendum fund of a party organisation, public organisation registered as supporters or opponents of a local referendum and its details shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission, the website of the territorial referendum commission or the relevant council (if available), regional, territorial representation of the Central Election Commission (in case of their formation) no later than the second day after receiving the bank's notification on opening an account of the local referendum fund. Information on the account details of its local referendum fund shall be published by the relevant party to local referendum process in the mass media at the expense of this fund.
5. Expenditures from a local referendum fund account shall be made via bank transfer.
6. Expenditures from a current local referendum fund account after 6 pm on the eve of the election day can be processed only if the invoices for payment for goods, works and services have been presented before the specified time. Expenditures from a current local referendum fund account shall be terminated at 6 pm on the third day after the election day or the next business day after the day on which the local referendum process ended.
7. Seizure of funds in a current local referendum fund account is not allowed.
8. Closing a current local referendum fund account, suspension of operations on the local referendum fund account earlier than within the period established by Paragraph 6 of this Article is not allowed.
9. The bank's services related to the opening, operation and closing of a current local referendum fund account shall be provided on a general basis. The Bank does not accrue or pay interest on the use of funds in a current local referendum fund account.

Article 63. Initiative group fund

1. In order to finance measures for the preparation and collection of voters' signatures in support of the local referendum initiative, campaigning for the initiative, the initiative group shall form the initiative group fund.
2. To ensure the production of signature sheets, organisational support for the collection of signatures and campaigning to support the referendum initiative in formats that require spending, the initiative group is obliged to open a current initiative group fund account in accordance with the procedure established for opening a local referendum fund account in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 62 of this Law, not later than on the tenth day from the date of its registration by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission. The basis for opening a current initiative group fund account shall be a copy of the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the initiative group registration.

Without the formation of an initiative group fund, campaigning in support of a referendum initiative in formats that require spending is prohibited.

3. The initiative group fund shall be formed at the expense of own funds of the initiative group members, as well as voluntary contributions of the persons who according to the Law of Ukraine "About political parties in Ukraine" have the right to make contributions in support of political party.

The size of the initiative group's fund is not limited.

4. Voluntary contributions of a person to the initiative group fund are limited to 0.1 of the maximum contribution to support a political party during the year, as established by the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine".

Where a natural or legal person exerts or may exert decisive influence on the operation of one or more legal entities (is, in particular, the ultimate beneficial owner (controlling party) of such legal entity), contributions from such natural or legal person or legal entities controlled by it shall be regarded as contribution from a single person and shall be limited by the maximum size of the contribution in support of a political party allowed during the year by the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine".

Other than stipulated by this Article, any restrictions, including those imposed by financial and banking laws, shall not apply to setting up the initiative team fund.

5. The initiative group fund shall have one current account, which receives funds to finance the activities provided for in Paragraph 1 of this Article and which is used to finance the relevant costs. Expenditures from the fund for the purposes specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be made from the fund's account only via bank transfer.

6. The Bank shall notify the Central Election Commission, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in writing of the opening of the account and its details no later than the next business day after the opening of the initiative group fund account.

Information on opening an account of the initiative group fund and its details shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission, Local Referendum Territorial Commission or the appropriate council (if any) of regional, territorial representation of the Central Election Commission (in case of their formation) not later than on the second day after receiving the bank's notification on opening the appropriate account. This information may be published by the initiative group in the media at the expense of the initiative group fund.

7. The initiative group shall appoint from among its members the administrator of the current initiative group fund account, who shall have the exclusive right to manage the funds in this account.

8. The initiative group fund may be used exclusively to ensure the production of signature sheets, organisational support for the collection of signatures and campaigning for the initiative. The initiative group fund may not be used to pay the initiative group members or other persons.

9. Seizure of funds in a current initiative group fund account is not allowed.

10. Expenditures from a current initiative group fund account shall be terminated on the day on which the term to collect signatures established by this Law expires. In case the collection of signatures and campaigning on the initiative are suspended on the grounds stipulated in Paragraph 5, Article 18 of this Law, the expenditures from the fund shall be terminated on the day on which the relevant decree of the President of Ukraine enters into force.

9. The bank's services related to the opening, operation and closing of a current initiative group fund account shall be provided on a general basis. The Bank does not accrue or pay interest on the use of funds in a current local initiative group fund account.

12. In case the procedures for initiating a local referendum are terminated on the grounds provided by this Law, the bank shall close the current initiative group fund account based on a written notification of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission. Such notification shall be sent by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission not earlier than on the seventh day after the relevant decision is adopted (in case of appeal against the said decision – after the court decision enters into force). The bank shall close the current initiative group fund account and transfer the unused funds to the local budget no later than the fifth day after receiving the specified notification.

13. The administrator of the current initiative group fund account shall submit the financial report to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in a format established by the Central Election Commission on grounds provided for in Article 34 of this Law no later than the tenth day after the deadline to collect signatures or terminate the procedure for initiating a local referendum.

14. In case of calling a local referendum, the funds of the initiative group fund, which were in the relevant account, within the amount provided for in Paragraph 4, Article 61 of this Law, shall remain in the specified account, and the excess funds shall be transferred to the local budget.

Article 64. Administrator of the local referendum fund

1. Each party to local referendum process, defined by Paragraph 1, Article 61 of this Law, shall appoint one current administrator of its local referendum fund account, who shall have the exclusive right to manage funds in this account.

2. Each party to local referendum process specified in Paragraph 1, Article 61 of this Law shall notify the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention about the appointment of administrator of its current local referendum fund account no later than the next day from the day on which the local referendum fund account was opened (in case of opening a current account by a local party organisation) with indication of his/her surname, first name, patronymic, date of birth, place of residence or stay, information on identity documents and proof of citizenship of Ukraine. The notification of the party to local referendum process shall be signed by the authorised person of the initiative group. The notification shall be accompanied by a handwritten application of a citizen of Ukraine for consent to be a current account administrator.

3. The administrator of the local referendum fund account shall, no later than three days before the election day, submit to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention an interim financial report on the receipts and use of local referendum funds during the period from the opening of local referendum fund account until the fifth day before the election day (in hard and soft copy), which is published on the official websites of the territorial referendum commission or the relevant council (if any), regional, territorial representations of the Central Election Commission (in case of their formation) and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (in case the fund is formed by a local party organisation) not later than the next day after its receipt.

The administrator of the local referendum fund account shall submit the final financial report on receipts and use of funds in the local referendum fund account to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (in case the fund was formed by the local party organisation) no later than the seventh day after the election day or suspension of the local referendum process (in hard and soft copy), which is published on the official websites of the Central Election Commission, the territorial referendum commission or the relevant council (if any), the regional, territorial representations of the Central Election Commission (in case of their formation) and the National Agency on

Corruption Prevention (in the case the fund is formed by a local party organisation) no later than the next day after its receipt.

In the financial statements stipulated in this part, the last name, first name, patronymic and place of residence of the individual (region, district, settlement) are subject to mandatory disclosure). Other information about an individual, classified as restricted information, is not subject to disclosure.

The financial statements provided for in this Paragraph shall obligatorily reflect information on all receipts in current local referendum fund accounts, incurred expenses and balances in the relevant accounts, including information on the date when each contribution was received in the local referendum fund, its amount, the person who made the contribution to the relevant fund account, the name of the political party organisation, public organisation (in case of contribution by a political party, public organisation), purpose, date and amount of each payment from the relevant current account of the fund, and recipient of each payment.

4. The financial statements stipulated in Paragraph 3 of this Article shall be analysed by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (in case the fund is formed by a local party organisation) and consist in establishing compliance of reporting data with the requirements of this Law, timeliness of reporting and compliance of the reporting data with the information received from banks, in which local referendum fund accounts are opened.

The Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention shall publish on their official websites an analysis of the financial statements provided for in Subparagraph 1, Paragraph 3 of this Article no later than two days before the election day, and no later than thirty days after the election day shall publish an analysis of the financial statements provided for in Subparagraph 2, Paragraph 3 of this Article.

If the analysis of financial statements reveals signs of violation of the requirements of this Law, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies for verification and response according to the law.

5. The forms of financial statements stipulated in Paragraph 3 of this Article and the procedure for their analysis shall be established by the Central Election Commission upon approval with the National Agency on Corruption Prevention.

Article 65. Setting up the local referendum fund and its use

1. The local referendum fund of a party organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum item shall be formed at the expense of the party organisation's own funds, as well as voluntary contributions by persons entitled to make contributions in order to support political party under the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine".

2. The local referendum fund of the initiative group shall be set up with the balance in the initiative group's fund, referred to in Paragraph 14 of Article 63 of this Law, from personal resources of the initiative group members, as well as from voluntary donations made by the persons entitled to make contributions to support political parties under the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine".

3. The local referendum fund of a public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum item shall be formed by voluntary contributions of persons entitled to make contributions in order to support political party under the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine".

4. The amount of own funds of a party organisation, public organisation, voluntary contributions of a person to the initiative group fund, party organisation, public organisation registered as supporters or opponents of a local referendum shall be limited to 0.1 of the maximum contribution to support a political party during the year as set by the Law of Ukraine “On Political Parties in Ukraine”.

5. Where a natural or legal person exerts or may exert decisive influence on the operation of one or more legal entities (is, in particular, the ultimate beneficial owner (controlling party) of such legal entity), contributions from such natural or legal person or legal entities controlled by it shall be regarded as contribution from a single person and shall be limited by the maximum size of the contribution in support of a political party allowed during the year by the Law of Ukraine “On Political Parties in Ukraine”.

Other than stipulated by this Article, any restrictions, including those imposed by financial and banking laws, shall not apply to setting up the initiative team fund.

6. Own funds of a local party organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum issue, which are transferred to its local referendum fund, must be reflected in the political party's report on property, income, expenses and financial obligations as provided by the Law of Ukraine “On Political Parties in Ukraine”.

7. Persons not entitled to make contributions to support a political party under the Law of Ukraine “On Political Parties in Ukraine” shall not be allowed to make voluntary donations to the local referendum fund.

8. A voluntary contribution to the local referendum fund shall be made by a citizen of Ukraine personally by transferring the amount of the contribution to the appropriate bank account. The chosen method of conducting a banking transaction must provide the possibility to identify an individual. The document generated in the result of such banking transaction must contain information about the surname, first name and patronymic (if any), place of residence, registration number of the taxpayer's record card or identification number according to the State Register of Individual Taxpayers and Payers of Other Mandatory Payments (for persons who due to their religious beliefs refused to accept the registration number of the taxpayer's record card, notified the relevant supervisory authority and have a mark in their passport to that effect – the number and (if any) series of the passport of a citizen of Ukraine with the mark on refusal to receive an identification number or passport number with a record of refusal to accept the registration number of the taxpayer's record card in electronic contactless media), date of birth, purpose of payment, amount of the contribution.

9. The voluntary contribution shall be transferred by the bank or transferred by the post office to the local referendum fund account of the relevant party to local referendum process, defined in Paragraph 2 of Article 56 of this Law, no later than the next business day after receiving the relevant payment document. The overall period for the bank to transfer the contribution to the local referendum fund account may not exceed two banking days.

10. The administrator of the local referendum fund account shall have the right to refuse the contribution of the person, in which case he/she shall submit the relevant statement and the payment document to the bank where the local referendum fund account is opened. Such a voluntary contribution shall be returned to the person at the expense of these funds, and in case of impossibility of return shall be transferred to the local budget.

11. In case when a voluntary contribution received from a person exceeds the amount established by Paragraph 4 of this Article, the amount exceeding the established amount of contribution, on the basis of the relevant statement and payment document submitted by the administrator of the local referendum fund account, shall be returned to the person by the bank

where such account is open, at the expense of these funds, and in case of impossibility of return shall be transferred to the local budget.

12. The administrator of the local referendum fund account is obliged to refuse the contribution of the person who has no right to make such voluntary contribution according to this Law. Such refusal must be made within three days from the day when the administrator of the local referendum fund account becomes aware of this, by submitting the statement to the bank where the local referendum fund account is open, on transferring a certain amount to the local budget. The bank where the local referendum fund account is opened, based on the statement submitted by the administrator of the local referendum fund account, shall transfer such voluntary contribution to the local budget.

13. Remaining balance in the local referendum fund of the initiative group shall be transferred by the bank in which the fund account was opened to the local budget on the fifteenth day from the day on which the results of the local referendum are officially published by the territorial referendum commission.

14. Remaining balance in the local referendum fund of a party organisation, public organisation at the request of the head (governing body) of the local organisation of a political party, public organisation, which is submitted to the bank within ten days from the date on which the local referendum results are officially published, local referendum process has ended, shall be transferred from the current local referendum fund account to the current bank account of the relevant local organisation of the political party, public organisation within five days from the date of receipt of the said request. If such request is not received by the bank within the established period, the unused balance of the local referendum fund of the party organisation or public organisation shall be transferred by the bank to the local budget on the fifteenth day from the day on which the local referendum results are officially published by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

15. Voluntary contributions of persons received in the local referendum fund account later than one day before the election day, after the termination of the local referendum process shall be returned by the bank to the person at the expense of his/her contribution, and in case of impossibility of return shall be transferred to the local budget.

Article 66. Control over the funds of the local referendum initiative group

1. Control over the funds of the local referendum initiative group, parties to local referendum process as defined by Paragraph 1, Article 61 of this Law, shall be implemented by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, National Agency on Corruption Prevention (in part of monitoring the local referendum funds of parties' organisations) and the bank where local referendum fund account was opened in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission in conjunction with the National Bank of Ukraine with the agreement of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention no later than fifty-seven days before the day of voting.

2. The bank in which the current local referendum fund account is opened shall provide the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention weekly (daily) or upon their request with the information on the amounts and sources of contributions received on the fund's account, cash flows and balances on the account. The mechanism for the provision of the said information is defined by a procedure to be established under Paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. The National Agency on Corruption Prevention shall monitor the timeliness of submitted statements of receipts and expenditures in the local referendum funds of the parties' organisations, the completeness of such reports and the authenticity of information included therein.

SECTION VI GUARANTEES OF ACTIVITY OF THE PARTIES TO LOCAL REFERENDUM, OBSERVERS

Article 67. Supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue

1. City and district organisations of parties whose activities extend to the territory of the territorial community in which the local referendum is held, public organisations whose activities extend to the territory of the territorial community in which the local referendum is held, may participate in the local referendum process as parties to it in the case of their registration as supporters or opponents of the local referendum. The local organisation of the party in the manner prescribed by the Articles of Association of the political party at the meeting or conference adopts a decision to participate in the local referendum as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum, a copy of which shall be certified in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Notaries” and sent to the central management authority of the party within three days. Only one local organisation of the party may be registered as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum issue.

2. In case of holding a local referendum within a territorial community of a city, a supporter or opponent of a local referendum issue may register a city party organisation, and in case of holding a local referendum within a territorial community of a village or settlement, a district party organisation, which activity extends within the territorial community, may be registered.

The relevant local organisation of the party in the manner prescribed by the Articles of Association of the political party at the meeting or conference adopts a decision to participate in the local referendum as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue, a copy of which shall be certified in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Notaries” and sent to the central management authority of the party within three days.

3. The registration of party organisations, public organisations as supporters or opponents of a local referendum shall be carried out by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in accordance with the procedure established by Article 68 of this Law.

4. The initiative group is a party to local referendum process as a supporter of the local referendum issue.

Article 68. Procedure for registration of local party organisations, public organisations as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue

1. Application for registration of the local organisation of a party, public organisation as a party to the local referendum process (the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue) and other documents provided for by this Article may be submitted to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission after the local referendum process is initiated but not later than forty days before the day of voting.

2. The application specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be signed by the head of the local party organisation, public organisation and sealed (in its absence – the seal of the higher level party organisation or the party seal). The Application shall state that the local party organisation, public organisation will participate in the local referendum process as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue.

3. The following shall be attached to the Application referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article by the local party organisation:

1) a document that confirms the status of the local organisation of the party as a legal entity (if any);

2) a copy of the Articles of Association of the political party, certified in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine “On Notaries”, after the local referendum process has been initiated;

3) the decision of the meeting, conference of the local organisation of the party to participate in the local referendum as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue, adopted in accordance with the Articles of Association of the political party and signed by the head of the local organisation of the party with the seal of this organisation affixed, and if no such seal is available – by the seal of higher level organisation or the party;

4) substantiation of the position on the local referendum issue (in full and abbreviated form).

The substantiation of the position on the local referendum issue should include an assessment of the initiative group's statements on the problem to be solved, the goals of such a decision, the expected socio-economic, legal and other consequences of such a decision, and the possibility of achieving the set goals. It is prohibited to include calls to vote for or against the local referendum issue, as well as provisions aimed at eliminating Ukraine's independence, forcible change of constitutional order, violation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity, undermining its security, illegal seizure of state power. propaganda of war, violence, incitement of interethnic, racial, religious enmity, encroachment on human rights and freedoms, public health to the substantiation of the position on the local referendum issue.

Substantiation of the position on the local referendum issue in abbreviated form for its posting after the registration of the local party organisation as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue on the official websites of the Central Election Commission, local government (if any), territorial referendum commission (if available)) and for use in the manufacture of information posters in accordance with Article 85 of this Law may contain not more than 2500 printed characters.

4. The following shall be attached to the Application referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article by the public organisation:

1) the document verifying the status of the public organisation as a legal entity;

2) a copy of the Articles of Association of the public organisation, certified by the signature of its head and sealed or certified in the manner prescribed by the Law of Ukraine “On Notaries”, after the local referendum process has been initiated;

3) decision of the highest management body of the public organisation on the participation in the local referendum process as the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue adopted according to the Articles of Association of the public organisation and signed by the authorised person of the public organisation and bearing its seal.

4) substantiation of the position on the local referendum issue (in full and in abbreviated form), in accordance with Clause 3, Paragraph 3 of this Article.

5. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall issue to the representative of the political party, public organisation that submitted documents specified in Paragraphs 1–4 of this Article the certificate on their acceptance. The certificate must contain the list of accepted documents, date, month, year and the time of their acceptance, position and last name of the accepting person.

6. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall make a decision on registration of a party organisation, public organisation as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue no later than on the third day from the day of accepting the application and documents specified in this Article.

7. In case of non-compliance of the documents submitted for registration as the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue with the requirements of this Law and/or Articles of

Association of the political party, public organisation, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall, within the time limit prescribed by Paragraph 6 of this Article adopt a decision on the return of the submitted documents to the political party, public organisation indicating the exhaustive list of the non-compliance features. The specified decision along with the submitted documents shall be provided to the representative of the political party, public organisation who submitted the documents no later than the day following the day on which such decision was adopted.

Errors and inaccuracies detected in the registration documents submitted by the political party, public organisation, if their occurrence is not an obstacle to understanding the content of the data provided, shall be amended or clarified according to the procedure established by the Central Election Commission and shall not be the grounds for the return of the submitted documents to the political party, public organisation.

8. The organisation of the party, public organisation that received the documents back, according to Paragraph 7 of this Article may re-submit the application and relevant documents within the time limit established by Paragraph 1 of this Article.

9. If the Local Referendum Territorial Commission finds incompliance of the documents of the party organisation, public organisation, re-submitted in accordance with Paragraph 8 of this Article, with the requirements of this Law and/or the Articles of Association of the political party, public organisation specified in the previous decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, adopted in accordance with Paragraph 7 of this Article, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall refuse to register a party organisation, public organisation as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue.

10. Decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on refusal to register a party organisation, public organisation as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum, on return of documents in accordance with Paragraph 7 of this Article may be appealed in court in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.

11. A public organisation that has received permission from the Local Referendum Territorial Commission to have official observers in the local referendum may not subsequently be registered as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue.

12. The documents of the organisation of the party, public organisation, submitted after the term established by Paragraph 1 of this Article, shall be returned by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission without consideration.

Article 69. Representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the party to local referendum process

1. A party organisation, a public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum issue, as well as an initiative group have the right to delegate one representative to the territorial referendum commission, which establishes the referendum results (hereinafter referred to as the representative of the party to local referendum process) with the right of an advisory vote, authorised to represent the interests of a party organisation, public organisation, initiative group in the territorial local referendum commission during the local referendum process. The candidacy of a representative of a party organisation, public organisation, initiative group in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall be approved by a decision of the party organisation, public organisation, initiative group.

A party organisation, a non-governmental organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of a local referendum issue, as well as an initiative group may have no more than five authorised persons in a single constituency.

2. A representative of the party to local referendum process in a Local Referendum Territorial Commission, an authorised person of the party to local referendum process may be a citizen of Ukraine who has the right to vote in elections and referendums.

The following may not be a representative, an authorised person of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission:

- 1) a member of a local referendum commission;
- 2) an official or officer of the public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities;
- 3) a serviceman;
- 4) a person engaged in an alternative (nonmilitary) service;
- 5) a person having a criminal record for committing a serious or especially serious crime, crime against the elective franchise or corruption-related crime which has not been removed or expunged from official records in accordance with the law.

3. The authorised person of the party to the local referendum process represents the relevant party organisation, public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue, initiative group in their relations arising in the local referendum process, within a single constituency and is not an independent party to the local referendum process.

4. An authorised representative of the initiative group defined by Paragraph 5, Article 29 of this Law, with the commencement of the local referendum process exercises the powers of the authorised person of the initiative group in the single constituency of the local referendum.

Article 70. Procedure for registration of the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the party to local referendum process

1. The application for registration of the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the party to local referendum process in electronic and paper form, signed by the head of the party organisation, public organisation and sealed by the party organisation (if no such seal is available – by the seal of the organisation of the higher level party or the seal of the party), public organisation, authorised representative of the initiative group, a copy of the decision on approval of the list of authorised persons shall be submitted to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission at any time after registration.

2. Application for registration of authorised persons of the party to the local referendum process shall indicate the following data regarding each authorised person:

- 1) surname, name (all names), patronymic (if any) of each authorised person;
- 2) citizenship of the person;
- 3) day, month and year of birth;
- 4) place of employment, current position (occupation) of the person;
- 5) voter's address;
- 6) contact phone number;

7) information on the absence of a criminal record for committing a serious or especially serious crime, crime against the elective franchise or corruption-related crime which has not been removed or expunged from official records in accordance with the law.

The application for registration of the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall contain the information provided for in Clauses 1– 7 of this Paragraph.

3. Applications specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be accompanied by written consents of the persons specified in the applications to represent interests of the party to local referendum in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, in the single constituency of the local referendum, copies of the Ukrainian citizen passport (copies of the first and second pages of the Ukrainian citizen passport in the form of a passport book or a copy of the front and back sides of the Ukrainian citizen passport in the form of a card), copies of the first and second pages of the temporary certificate of Ukrainian citizenship (for persons who have recently acquired the citizenship of Ukraine).

4. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall register the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the party to local referendum process no later than the third day after receipt of the documents specified in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article and issue a certificate to the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission or one of the authorised persons of such party in the single constituency for the local referendum in the form established by the Central Election Commission.

Article 71. Powers of the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the party to local referendum process

1. A representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall have the right:

1) to attend the meetings of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission during addressing issues related to the local referendum and participate in their discussion in a consultative capacity: prior to the meeting, receive the agenda and materials on the agenda issues, submit proposals regarding the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission;

2) to get familiar with the content and receive copies of the Minutes and transcripts of the meetings of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, to get acquainted with its decisions, to receive copies of such decisions;

3) to get familiar with the documents used as the basis for adopting a decision at such meeting;

4) to get familiar with the protocols, telephone messages, faxes and other official notifications received by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission from other local referendum commissions, including on the results of voting, and to receive copies thereof;

5) to exercise other rights provided by this Law for the representative of the party to local referendum process in the territorial local referendum commission.

2. An authorised person of the party to local referendum process without a power of attorney shall represent the party to local referendum process, campaign in line with the position of the party to local referendum process and support its activities during the local referendum process. Authorised person of the party to local referendum process:

1) shall represent the interests of the party to local referendum process in relations with voters, local referendum commissions (except for the Local Referendum Territorial Commission,

which establishes the results of the local referendum), other parties to local referendum process, public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic Crimea, local governments, mass media, enterprises, institutions, organisations within a single constituency for a local referendum;

2) shall participate in a consultative capacity in the meetings of the local referendum commissions within the single constituency for the local referendum (except for the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the results of the local referendum);

3) shall have the right to be present during the voting in voting premises at the local referendum precinct, during voting according to the voter's place of stay;

4) shall have the right to be present at the meeting of the local referendum precinct commission when counting the votes, at the meeting of the local referendum commission when establishing the results of voting in the relevant constituency and the results of the local referendum;

5) shall have the rights of the official observer stipulated by Paragraph 1, Article 77 of this Law;

6) shall have other rights and exercises other powers according to this Law.

3. The representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the authorised person of the party to local referendum process from the date of their registration by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission until the termination of their powers or termination (ending) of the local referendum process shall have the right to be released from production or official duties without preservation of wages upon agreement with the owner of the enterprise, institution, organisation or its authorised body.

Article 72. Replacement of the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised person of the party to local referendum process

1. The representative of party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the authorised person of the party to local referendum process shall have the right at any time before the day of voting to apply to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission with regard to their resignation.

2. The party to local referendum process at any time before the day of voting may apply to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission with a request to withdraw his representative in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the authorised person, as well as to nominate another candidate instead of the withdrawn one. The respective application together with the written consent of the candidate and copies of the first and second pages of the Ukrainian citizen passport shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission according to the procedure specified by Article 70 of this Law. Decision to recall an authorised representative of the initiative group and election of a new person as an authorised representative of the initiative group shall be taken by a majority vote of the overall composition of the initiative group.

3. On the basis of the application submitted in accordance with Paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, no later than on the third day of its receipt, but no later than on the day preceding the day of voting, and on the election day without undue delay, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall adopt a decision to cancel the registration of the representative of the party to the local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised person of the party to the local referendum process and (if a respective application is available) to register the other representative of the local referendum process in the Local Referendum

Territorial Commission, authorised person of such party. A copy of such decision shall be immediately issued to the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

4. The certificate of the representative of the party to local referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the authorised person of the party to local referendum process, whose powers are terminated before the end of the local referendum process, shall be considered invalid.

Article 73. Official observers

1. Official observers from the following organisations shall participate in the local referendum process:

- 1) organisations of the parties registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue;
- 2) public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue;
- 3) public organisations that have received permission to have official observers in a local referendum;
- 4) initiative group (in case of holding a local referendum at the initiative of voters).

2. An official observer specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be a party to the local referendum process.

3. An official observer specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall exercise his/her powers established by this Law within the single constituency of the local referendum where he/she is registered.

4. Official observers from foreign states and international organisations, including international non-governmental organisations registered outside Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as international observers), may observe the collection of signatures in support of the local referendum, their verification and the progress of the local referendum process within single constituency for a local referendum. An international observer shall not be a party to the local referendum process.

5. An official observer from a public organisation, registered by a Local Referendum Territorial Commission, shall exercise his/her powers established by this Law throughout the territory of a single constituency for a local referendum.

Article 74. Term of powers of official observers

1. The powers of an official observer shall begin on the day of his/her registration by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in the manner prescribed by this Law and shall end on the day of termination of the local referendum initiation procedure, suspension of signature collection and campaigning on the initiative of voters, and in case of local referendum appointment, after the official announcement by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission of the local referendum results, termination of the local referendum process, except in cases of early termination of its powers.

2. An official observer shall be entitled at any time to appeal to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission that registered him/her with an application to terminate his/her powers. On the basis of such application, the specified commission shall adopt a decision to cancel the registration of the official observer, the copy of which is provided to the party introducing the candidacy of the official observer.

3. A party introducing the candidacy of the official observer shall be entitled to withdraw this official observer by addressing the Local Referendum Territorial Commission that registered the official representative, with a written application to terminate the powers of the official

representative and submit the documents to register another person as an official observer according to the procedure established by this Law.

Article 75. Involvement of public organisations in the local referendum monitoring

1. A public organisation, registered according to the procedure established by the law, which statutory activity includes the electoral franchise and/or referendum right issues, observance and protection of the citizens' electoral rights and/or monitoring of the electoral or referendum process and which did not receive the status of the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue (hereinafter – public organisation), shall be entitled with the permission of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission to have official observers at the local referendum, including during the collection of the signatures to support the local referendum process, their verification.

2. Having registered the initiative group, but not later than on the twentieth day after the beginning of the local referendum process, the public organisation may apply to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission (in the city territorial community of the city with district division – to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the local referendum results) with a request for permission to have official observers at the local referendum. A copy of the Articles of Association of the public organisation, certified in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine “On Notaries”, shall be attached to the petition, signed by the head of the public organisation and certified by the seal of the organisation the next day after the initiative group registration.

3. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission no later than on the fifth day of the application's receipt shall adopt a decision to grant a permission to the public organisation to have official observers at the local referendum or refuse granting such permission and inform the public organisation thereon on the day following the adoption of the respective decision. The decision shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission no later than the next day after its adoption in order to be published on the official website.

Only violations of the requirements established by Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article by the public organisation and registration of the public organisation as the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue may be the grounds for refusal. A copy of the decision to grant a permission to the public organisation to have official observers or refuse granting of such permission is provided to the authorised representative of the public organisation no later than the day following the adoption of such decision. A public organisation shall be entitled to appeal in court against a decision to refuse granting of the permission to have official observers.

4. On its official website, the Central Election Commission shall post the list of public organisations that were granted the permission to have official observers at the local referendum.

5. No later than thirty days before the day of voting in a local referendum, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall send a list of public organisations that have been allowed to have official observers in the local referendum to other local referendum commissions.

Article 76. Registration of the official observers

1. An official observer in a local referendum may be a citizen of Ukraine who has the right to vote in elections and referendums.

The following persons shall not be registered as official observers:

1) a member of a local referendum commission;

- 2) a representative in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, an authorised person of the party to local referendum process;
 - 2) an official or officer of the public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities;
 - 4) a judge, an employee of the court, prosecutor's office, law enforcement agencies;
 - 5) a military serviceman or person performing an alternative (nonmilitary) service;
 - 6) a member of an initiative group;
 - 7) a person having a criminal record for committing a serious or especially serious crime, crime against the elective franchise or corruption-related crime which has not been removed or expunged from official records in accordance with the law.
2. At the request of the authorised person of the party to local referendum process or the head of the public organisation, the official observer shall be registered within the single constituency for the local referendum by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.
 3. The submission on registration of the official observer shall indicate his/her surname, name (all names) and patronymic (if any), day, month and year of birth, information on citizenship, place of work (occupation), current position, voter's address, contact phone numbers, information on the absence of a criminal record for committing a serious or especially serious crime, crime against the elective franchise or corruption-related crime which has not been removed or expunged from official records in accordance with the law.
 4. With a submission, they enclose an application of consent of the person to be an official observer from the party to the local referendum process or public organisation and a copy of the Ukrainian citizen passport (a copy of the first and second pages of the Ukrainian citizen passport in the form of a passport book or a copy of the front and back sides of the Ukrainian citizen passport in the form of a card) or a copy of the first and second pages of the temporary certificate of Ukrainian citizenship (for persons who have recently acquired the citizenship of Ukraine) and a copy of the decision by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission allowing to have official observers at the local referendum.
 5. Submission on registration of the official observer signed by the authorised person of the party to the local referendum process or head of the public organisation (in hard and soft copies using the electronic means of identification established by the law) shall be provided to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission no later than five days before the day of voting.
 6. Only violation of the provisions of Paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Article may be the grounds for refusal to register an official observer.
 7. Clerical errors or inaccuracies made in the submission shall not be the grounds to reject the introduced candidacies of the official observers. Upon detecting such errors or inaccuracies, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall immediately notify the submitting party to that effect. Specified errors and inaccuracies may be corrected by way of an adjusted submission regarding respective candidacies within the time limit stipulated by Paragraph 5 of this Article, and if the message is received on the last day of such period – on the next day following the message receipt. If the adjusted submission was not received in a timely manner, the respective candidates shall be rejected.
 8. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall register official observers in a single constituency, ensure the preparation and issuance of certificates in the form established by the Central Election Commission, no later than the third day after the submission.

Article 77. Rights and obligations of the official observers

1. An official observer shall be entitled to:

- 1) monitor the collection of signatures in support of the local referendum;
 - 2) attend meetings of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, precinct local referendum commission in compliance with the requirements of this Law, including during the counting of votes at the local referendum precinct, establishing the results of voting in the constituency and local referendum results;
 - 3) be present at the local referendum precinct during voting, observe from any distance actions of local referendum commission members, including while issuing voting ballots, without creating physical obstacles for the local referendum commission members;
 - 4) accompany members of the precinct local referendum commission while organising voting according to the place of stay and be present while conducting such voting;
 - 5) carry out a photo, video shooting and audio recording without violating the secrecy of vote and creating a threat of voter intimidation;
 - 6) appeal to the members of the respective local referendum commission, initiative group, members of the initiative group with the request to immediately eliminate violations of this Law in case of their detection;
 - 7) appeal legislative violations on local referendum in the relevant local referendum commission or the court according to the procedure established by the law;
 - 8) draw up an act on detection of law violations on the local referendum according to the procedure established by Paragraph 3 of this Article that may be attached to the complaint or statement of claim;
 - 9) implement necessary measures to cease illegal actions during voting and vote count at the local referendum precinct;
 - 10) receive copies of protocols on the transfer of ballot papers to local referendum commissions, on the counting of votes at the local referendum precinct, on the results of voting in the constituency and on the results of the local referendum, other documents in cases provided by this Law;
 - 11) exercise other powers of official observers stipulated by this Law.
2. An official observer shall not be entitled to:
- 1) fill in a voting ballot instead of a voter (including upon his/her request);
 - 2) be present in the booth for secret voting while filling in of the voting ballot by the voter or otherwise violate the secrecy of vote;
 - 3) take other actions that violate the lawful course of the local referendum initiation process, the local referendum process or unlawfully prevent the local referendum commission members from exercising their powers.
3. Act on violation of legal requirements on local referendum shall witness the commission of unlawful actions or inactions by the local referendum commission, commission member or another person. Such act shall be drawn up without undue delay after the violation is detected. The act shall be signed by the person drawing it up and not less than two other voters that witness such violation specifying their surnames, names, patronymics and voter's addresses.
4. In case an official observer violates the requirements of Clause 3, Paragraph Two of this Article, the local referendum commission which meeting is attended by the official observer shall issue him/her a warning. In case an official observer repeats a violation or commits a single gross violation of the specified requirements, the commission may deprive him/her of the right to attend commission meetings, according to the procedure established by this Law.

Such decision may be appealed by the official observer in the higher level commission according to the procedure stipulated by this Law or in court.

5. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission that has registered an official observer may prematurely terminate his/her powers in case of establishing the facts of violation of the requirements set forth by Clauses 1, 2 of Paragraph 2 of this Article or systematic violation of the Constitution of Ukraine and laws of Ukraine. A justified decision shall be made to terminate the powers of the official observer.

Article 78. International observers

1. Official observers from foreign states, international organisations (international observers) shall be accredited by the Central Election Commission. Proposals for their registration shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission after the local referendum process has started, and in case of initiating a local referendum at the initiative of voters – following the initiative group's registration, but not later than seven days before the day of voting at the local referendum directly or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

2. Citizens of Ukraine shall not be accredited as international observers. The following persons shall not be registered as international observers:

1) a person who is a citizen (national) of the state recognised by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state or an occupying power;

2) a person, proposals on whom were initiated or submitted by the state recognised by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state or an occupying power.

3. The decision to register international observers shall be made by the Central Election Commission no later than five days before the day of voting. The procedure for registration of the international observers shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

4. The Central Election Commission shall issue an international observer a certificate in accordance with the form established by it.

5. International observers shall exercise their powers within the territorial community in which the local referendum is held.

Persons fluent in the Ukrainian language may accompany accredited official observers from foreign states, international organisations within the territorial community in which the local referendum is held, and during meetings of local referendum commissions exclusively to perform the functions of an interpreter (not more than one person with each official observer).

6. An international observer shall be entitled to:

1) monitor the collection of signatures in support of the local referendum;

2) attend the meetings of representatives of the parties to local referendum initiation process with voters, meetings, protests and other campaigning events of the local referendum;

3) review official information materials and campaigning materials of the local referendum;

4) upon complying with the requirements of this Law, attend the meetings, be in the premises of precinct and Local Referendum Territorial Commissions, observe from any distance actions of the local referendum commission members, including while issuing voting ballots to voters, during the vote count, determination of the election results, without physically interfering with the commission members;

5) carry out photo, video shootings and audio recording without violating therewith the secrecy of vote;

6) following the local referendum, express his/her suggestions regarding organisation of the local referendum and improvement of the Ukrainian legislation taking into account the

international practices, hold press conferences observing the requirements of the Ukrainian legislation;

7) establish temporary observers' groups together with other observers from foreign states, international organisations to coordinate their activities within the powers stipulated by this Law;

8) receive copies of the minutes, other documents in cases stipulated by this Law.

7. International observers shall not be entitled to interfere with the activities of the local referendum commissions, take actions violating the legal course of the local referendum process or unlawfully prevent the local referendum commission members from exercising their powers; fill in a voting ballot instead of a voter (including upon his/her request) or otherwise violate the secrecy of vote, use their status in the activities not related to monitoring the course of the local referendum process. The specified restriction shall also apply to persons that accompany official observers from a foreign state, international organisation.

8. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, other public authorities, local self-government authorities and local referendum commissions shall support foreign observers in exercising their powers.

9. Financial and material support of the foreign observers' activities shall be provided at the expense of states or organisations that directed these observers to Ukraine or at their own expense.

SECTION VII INFORMATION SUPPORT OF LOCAL REFERENDUM

Article 79. Basic Principles of Information Support for the Local Referendum

1. Voters, including those with impaired vision or hearing, shall be provided with access to diverse, objective, and unbiased information required to make a conscious, informed, and free choice.

The Central Election Commission, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall provide access to information for voters with disabilities by providing it in accessible formats:

1) use of audio format and electronic format of printed messages, including by bringing the official website in line with the technical requirements approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

2) use of the "simplified reading" format in accordance with the procedure approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

The procedure and scope of using the available formats in local referendums shall be approved by the Central Election Commission.

2. Information contained in the documents submitted to the respective local referendum commission is public. Territorial and precinct local referendum commissions shall, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law, transmit the information specified by this Law to be published on the official websites of the Central Election Commission and the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission. Such information may be published and provided under the procedure established by [https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2939-17 - blank](https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2939-17-blank) the Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public Information".

3. During the local referendum, the Central Election Commission and the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall publish on their official websites information

determined by this Law in the form of dataset arranged in a machine-readable format for the purpose of its subsequent re-use.

4. When disseminating information on local referendum issue and its course that is not part of referendum campaign materials under Article 87 of this Law, local referendum commissions, mass media and news agencies, public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities, their officials and officers, local organisation of political parties, public organisations and other non-governmental organisations shall follow principles of objectivity, impartiality, balance, reliability, completeness, and accuracy of information.

Article 80. General Information Support for the Local Referendum

1. General information support for the local referendum includes informing voters of the following:

- 1) citizens' right to participation in the local referendum, methods used to exercise and protect this right;
- 2) the possibility and procedures to verify their inclusion and that of other voters in the State Register of Voters and voter lists at the local referendum precincts;
- 3) the possibility and procedures to change the voting venue without changing the voter's address;
- 4) the location address of the territorial and precinct local referendum commissions, local referendum precinct to which the voter's electoral address belongs;
- 5) address of the venue for voting, data and time of voting;
- 6) grounds and procedure for a possibility to vote at the place of stay;
- 7) voting procedure and the method for filling in the voting ballot;
- 8) the right to appeal violations of the rights to participate in the local referendum and methods to exercise this right;
- 9) responsibility for violating the legislation on the local referendum;
- 10) a list of parties to the local referendum – supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue registered in accordance with Article 68 of this Law.

2. The Central Election Commission and the relevant Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall publish on their websites information specified in Clauses 1-9 of Paragraph 1 of this Article no later than on the second day following the local referendum process.

3. The Central Election Commission and the relevant territorial local referendum commission shall publish on their websites information specified in Clause 10 of Paragraph 1 of this Article no later than on the next day following the registration of the party to the local referendum process.

4. Dissemination of information materials that are part of the general information support for the local referendum shall be governed by the legislation on social advertising.

Article 81. Special Information Support for the Local Referendum

1. Special information support for the local referendum provides for informing voters of the following:

- 1) the beginning of the local referendum process;
- 2) the text of the local referendum issue;
- 3) accounts of the funds of the parties to the local referendum, acceptable contribution amount and the way for making a contribution;
- 4) official (contact) addresses of local referendum commissions, the initiative group, local organisations of political parties, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue;

- 5) facts and events related to the local referendum process;
 - 6) activities of the initiative group, local referendum commissions, local organisations of political parties, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue;
 - 7) substantiation by the initiative group, local organisation of a political party, public organisation as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue of their position on referendum issue.
2. Special information support of the local referendum concerning data specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be carried out by the Central Election Commission, as well as Local Referendum Territorial Commissions within the framework determined hereunder and in the manner established by the Central Election Commission.
3. In case a local referendum is appointed on the initiative of the village, settlement, city council, village, settlement, city mayor additional special information support of the local referendum shall be carried out by the corresponding village, settlement, city council, village, settlement, city mayor.

Article 82. Principles of Mass Media and News Agencies' Participation in the Information Support of the Local Referendum

1. During the local referendum process, news agencies and mass media shall place information materials at the request of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the results of the local referendum, based on relevant agreements.
2. Media and news agencies shall disseminate notification about the course of the local referendum process and the events associated with the local referendum on the principles of authenticity, completeness and accuracy of information and its unbiased presentation.
3. News agencies, mass media disseminating information on the course of the local referendum process, events related thereto must prevent suppression of the publicly relevant information on such events if they were aware of the same at the time of its dissemination.

News agencies, mass media must disseminate information on the local referendum according to facts while preventing its distortion. Mass media and news agencies must try to obtain information on events related to the local referendum process from two or more sources giving preference to original sources.

When sharing information on the local referendum issue, views and actions of the parties thereto – supporters and opponents of the local referendum, news agencies and mass media must treat all opinions concerning the local referendum equally.

4. News agencies and mass media shall cover in a balanced way the comments of all parties to local referendum process – supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue – on the content of the local referendum issue, events related to the local referendum.
5. Audiovisual (electronic) mass media (hereinafter referred to as television and radio organisations) shall participate in the information support of a local referendum in compliance with the requirements of Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article by means of:
 - 1) dissemination of relevant information in news programmes or other information programmes (programme cycles);
 - 2) distribution of special programmes at the request of the referendum commission.

In the programmes referred to in Paragraph 1, the dissemination of editorial or authorial comments, other evaluative judgments of both positive and negative nature regarding the

content of the local referendum issue, events related to the local referendum shall not be allowed.

Broadcasters shall adhere to a balanced dissemination of information on the content of local referendum issues in individual programmes or series of programmes that relate to the same or similar issues, are clearly interrelated and can be viewed as a whole.

When disseminating information on local referendum events, broadcasters shall maintain a balance between the parties to referendum process who are registered as supporters or opponents of the referendum with regard to the distribution of airtime during which certain information is disseminated.

6. Broadcasters shall have the right to create and broadcast live programmes with the participation of the initiative group members (in case of a local referendum initiated by voters), party organisations, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum in accordance with this Law, in the form of debates or discussions on the issue of a local referendum. Such broadcasts shall be organised in a series of broadcasts of the same format, respecting the principle of equal conditions and equal access for supporters and opponents of the local referendum. A broadcaster may create only one cycle of such broadcasts during the local referendum process. Representatives of different parties to local referendum process, registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, shall take part in one programme.

A broadcaster intending to broadcast programmes in the form of debates or discussions on a local referendum, shall publish appropriate proposal on its own website and in a specially designated section on the website of National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting at least two weeks before the broadcast of the first programme. Such proposal shall indicate the format of the programme and the period during which you must consent to participate in the programme. The distribution of programmes (series of programmes) in the form of debates or discussions on local referendum issue is prohibited without the publication of a proposal.

7. The format of a programme (programme cycle) shall include:

- 1) the procedure for determining participants of each programme;
- 2) the procedure for determining the chronological distribution of programmes throughout the cycle;
- 3) the duration of the programme and the amount of airtime provided for each of the participants' speeches;
- 4) schedule of broadcasts;
- 5) the host of the programme or the procedure for his/her determination;
- 6) the presence of other persons in the studio during the programme (experts, journalists, audience in the studio, etc.), their role and the procedure for their selection or determination;
- 7) rules of procedure and participants' conduct;
- 8) the topic of discussion or the procedure for its determination;
- 9) terms of other information dissemination during the programme (results of opinion polls, interactive voting, statistical information, educational and reference information, concert performances, etc.);
- 10) and other terms for creating a programme.

The amount of air time for the speeches of supporters or opponents of the local referendum shall be equal within the broadcast cycles and each individual broadcast. The amount of airtime

allocated to each participant in the programme to participate in the discussion or to answer questions shall be determined using the same rules.

8. Broadcasts in the form of debates or discussions on the local referendum issue shall not be a form of referendum campaigning and shall be disseminated in accordance with the general principles of broadcasters' participation in providing information on local referendums, taking into account the specifics defined in this Article. When broadcasting in the form of debates or discussions, it is not allowed for presenters, participants or other invited persons to spread calls to vote or not to vote for or against the referendum issue.

Such broadcasts can be held exclusively at the expense of the television and radio organisation or at the expense of the local budget.

The broadcasting time allocated to live broadcasts in the form of debates or discussions on a local referendum may not exceed 15 percent of the actual broadcast time during the astronomical period by a broadcaster of any form of ownership.

Broadcasters shall perform audio and video recordings of all programmes in the form of debates or discussions on the local referendum and keep them for the period of thirty days from the date on which the local referendum results were officially published.

Broadcasters of all forms of ownership upon written requests of the relevant territorial referendum commission, the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting shall provide all information on airtime allocation for the programmes specified in this Article and, if necessary, programmes recorded on tape and/or other media

9. The National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting (concerning electronic (audiovisual) mass media) and central executive authority, which implements state policy in the information and publishing spheres (in relation to the print media and news agencies) shall monitor (control) compliance with the requirements stipulated by this Law regarding the participation of mass media and news agencies in the information support of the local referendum and local referendum campaign.

In the course of such monitoring, monitoring materials provided by public organisations registered in the manner prescribed by law, the statutory activities of which include matters related to the election and referendum process, ensuring the voting rights of citizens of Ukraine, may be used.

If violations are detected as a result of such monitoring, the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting shall take measures provided by law.

The National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting may enter into agreements and memoranda with the owners of platforms for shared access to information (including foreign ones). Such agreements and memoranda, in particular, may provide for requirements and restrictions on information disseminated on information sharing platforms and available in Ukraine, co-regulation mechanisms, cooperation in combating the spread of misinformation and ensuring transparency in the financing of local referendum campaign on the platforms, compliance with other legislative requirements on local referendum imposed on users. Users of the Internet, shared access platforms, when distributing any materials related to the local referendum process in Ukraine, shall comply with the legislative requirements on information provision and local referendum campaign.

Article 83. Peculiarities of Disseminating Information on the Results of the Public Opinion Poll Related to the Local Referendum

1. Individuals and legal entities conducting public opinion polls shall be entitled to publish the results of such polls related to the local referendum issue and must specify its time, coverage

area, the size and method used to form the respondent sociological sample, polling methods, exact wording of questions, possible statistical error.

2. When disseminating the results of the public opinion poll related to the local referendum, news agencies, mass media must specify the complete name of the polling organisation, poll commissioners, and other data stipulated by Paragraph 1 of this Article. This provision applies to cases of dissemination of public opinion poll results related to local referendums on the Internet by mass media and news agencies.

3. It is prohibited to publish or otherwise disseminate the results of a public opinion poll related to the local referendum during the last seven days prior to the day of voting.

4. Methods for conducting voter polls concerning their choice during voting must ensure the secrecy of voting of the polled voter. It is forbidden to publish results of such poll on the election day before the voting is over.

5. If the broadcasting company publishes the results of an interactive audience poll conducted during the programme related to the local referendum or with the involvement of parties thereto – supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, programme participants are forbidden from commenting on such poll results or otherwise referring to them. Results of the interactive audience poll must be accompanied at all times by the text message “This poll only reflects the opinion of this audience” and must be demonstrated on the screen (for TV programmes) in a form acceptable to the viewer or may be voiced (for radio programmes) in a clear voice by the anchor or the presenter directly before and after the respective results are promulgated.

Article 84. Official Information Materials of the Local Referendum

1. Official information materials of the local referendum include:

- 1) the text of the document, which is an integral part of the local referendum, – Articles of Association of the territorial community (as amended), the territorial community development programme (as amended), the draft decision on recognition of local self-government, some of its provisions that have expired (in case a relevant issue is put on the local referendum agenda);
- 2) informative posters clarifying the voting procedure and responsibility for violating the legislation on the local referendum.

2. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the results of the referendum, at the expense of the local budget allocated for the preparation and holding of the local referendum, not later than thirty days before the day of voting shall ensure the production of official information materials of the local referendum specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article in the amount determined by the Central Election Commission.

The text of the document, which is an integral part of the local referendum issue, shall be presented in the form of a poster, if the volume of the text does not exceed 2500 printed characters, or a booklet – if the volume of the text exceeds this number of characters.

Poster form, size, text, and polygraphic processes, as well as the procedure for their production and transfer to precinct local referendum commissions, shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

3. Immediately after establishing precinct local referendum commissions, Local Referendum Territorial Commissions shall provide the latter with copies of official materials on the local referendum in the quantities specified by the Central Election Commission.

4. Territorial and precinct local referendum commissions shall provide each citizen with a possibility to review official informative materials, including on the day of voting.

Article 85. Informative Posters of the Initiative Group, Political Parties, Public Organisations Registered as Supporters or Opponents of the Local Referendum Issue

1. Using money of their local referendum fund, the initiative group, political parties, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue may produce informative posters with the substantiation (at most 2,500 printed characters) of their position concerning the local referendum issue that was registered by them at the time of registration to be placed in the local referendum precincts. The informative poster form, size, and polygraphic processes shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.
2. Informative posters must contain information on the printing company, circulation, data on the commissioner specifying whether it is the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue.
3. No later than 18:00 of the day preceding the day of voting, the initiative group, political parties, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum shall supply precinct local referendum commissions with informative posters in the amount of at most two copies of each poster per every local referendum precinct.
4. Precinct local referendum commissions shall provide each citizen with a possibility to review official information materials, including on the day of voting.

**SECTION VIII
CAMPAIGNING FOR INITIATIVE OF VOTERS,
CAMPAIGNING FOR A LOCAL REFERENDUM****Article 86 Campaigning during Collection of Signatures in Support of the Initiative to Hold a Local Referendum at the Initiative of Voters**

1. Campaigning during collection of signatures in support of a local referendum initiative at the initiative of voters shall mean any activity that encourages voters to support or not to support the initiative of holding a local referendum at the initiative of voters (hereinafter - campaigning for the initiative).
2. Campaigning for a local referendum initiative that requires financial costs shall be carried out only at the expense of the local referendum initiative group fund, the campaign fund for the initiative of a party organisation with the status of a legal entity, public organisation, and in compliance with Articles 86-93 of this Law.

An initiative group, a party organisation, a public organisation that has not established the appropriate fund may not campaign for a local referendum initiative in forms that require financial expenditures.

Citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote in elections and referendums may personally carry on or participate in campaigning for support or non-support of the initiative to hold a local referendum at the initiative of voters without spending their own funds, except for contribution to the local referendum initiative group fund, the campaign fund for the initiative of local referendum.

3. The account of the campaign fund for the initiative may be opened by a local organisation of a political party with the status of a legal entity, a public organisation after the day following the day of receiving a copy of the resolution of the territorial commission for local referendum on registration of the initiative group and until the end of the period for collecting signatures of citizens in support of this initiative. The procedure for opening and closing the accounts of the campaign fund on the initiative of a local organisation of a political party with the status of a legal entity or public organisation shall be established by the National Bank of Ukraine in

agreement with the Central Election Commission until December 31 of each year and is valid for the next calendar year and is valid for the next calendar year.

Information on opening an account of the initiative group fund, campaigning fund on the initiative of a local organisation of a political party with the status of a legal entity, public organisation and its details shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission, territorial commission for local referendum or the appropriate council (if any) of regional, territorial representation of the Central Election Commission (in case of their formation) not later than on the second day after receiving the bank's notification on opening the appropriate account. This information may be published by an initiative group, a party organisation with the status of a legal entity, a public organisation in the mass media at the expense of the appropriate fund.

4. The money of the campaigning fund for the initiative created by a local organisation of a political party with the status of a legal entity, a public organisation shall be formed according to the procedure stipulated in Article 65 of this Law.

5. Party organisation, public organisation shall appoint one administrator of the account of its campaign fund for the initiative, who shall have the exclusive right to dispose of money from the account of this fund. The local organisation of a political party or public organisation shall notify the territorial commission for local referendum and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of the appointment of the administrator of its campaign fund for the initiative no later than the next day after its opening, indicating the name, patronymic, date of birth, place of residence or stay, information on identity documents and proof of citizenship of Ukraine. The notification of the local organisation of a political party, public organisation shall be signed by the head of the local organisation of the political party, public organisation. The notification shall be accompanied by a handwritten application of a citizen of Ukraine for consent to be an account administrator.

6. The administrator of money of the campaign fund's account for the initiative created by the party organisation, public organisation shall keep records of receipt and expenditure of the fund's money.

The account administrator of the campaign fund for the initiative shall ensure compliance with financial discipline, targeted use of the fund's money.

7. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the National Agency on Corruption Prevention and the bank in which the fund's account is opened shall control the activities of the campaign funds on the initiative, according to the procedure established by the Central Election Commission together with the National Bank of Ukraine in coordination with the National Agency on Corruption Prevention. The bank in which the fund's account is opened shall provide the territorial commission for local referendum and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention weekly (daily) or upon their request with the information on the amounts and sources of contributions received on the fund's account, cash flows and balances on the account. The National Agency on Corruption Prevention monitors the timeliness of reports on the receipt and use of funds' money, the completeness of such reports, the accuracy of the information included in them.

8. The administrator of the campaign fund's account for the initiative within ten days from the date of expiration of the deadline for collecting signatures or termination of the procedure for initiating a local referendum on the grounds stipulated in Article 34 of this Law shall submit to the territorial commission for local referendum and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention the financial statement on receipt and use of the fund's money (in paper and electronic form), which shall be published on the official websites of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention and the territorial commission for local referendum (if any) no later than the day following the day of its receipt.

In the financial statements stipulated in this part, the last name, first name, patronymic and place of residence of the individual (region, district, settlement) are subject to mandatory disclosure). Other information about an individual, classified as restricted information, is not subject to disclosure.

9. The financial statements stipulated in part eight of this Article shall be analyzed by the territorial commission for local referendum and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention and consist in establishing compliance of reporting data with the requirements of this Law, timeliness of reporting and compliance of the reporting data with the information received from banks, in which the funds' accounts are opened. The Central Election Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention shall publish on their official websites the results of the analysis of the financial statements stipulated in part eight of this Article within fifteen days from the date of expiration of the term for collecting signatures or terminating the procedure for initiating a local referendum on the grounds envisaged in Article 34 of this Law. If the analysis of financial statements reveals signs of violation of the requirements of this Law, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies for verification and response according to the law.

10. The financial statements stipulated in part eight of this Article shall contain information on all receipts to the account of the campaign fund for the initiative, expenses and balances on the relevant accounts, including information on the date of receipt of each contribution to the fund, its amount, the person who contributed to the relevant account of the fund (indicating the information about the person who contributed to the fund stipulated in the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine" for the persons who make contributions to support a political party), the name of the political party (local organisation of a political party) (in case of contribution by a political party (local organisation of a political party), purpose, date and amount of each payment from the relevant fund's account, recipient of each payment (indicating information on the recipient stipulated in the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine").

11. The forms of financial statements stipulated in part eight of this Article and the procedure for their analysis shall be established by the Central Election Commission upon approval with the National Agency on Corruption Prevention.

12. Unused funds of the campaigning fund for procedures of initiating a local referendum of a local political party organisation, public organisation at the request of the governing body of the local political party organisation, public organisation submitted to the bank within ten days from the date of collection of signatures or termination of local referendum initiation procedures on the grounds envisaged in in Article 34 of this Law, shall be transferred from the account of the campaign fund for the initiative to the current bank account of the local organisation of the political party, public organisation, respectively, within five days from the date of receipt of the said request. If such a request has not been received by the bank within the established term, the unused money of the fund of the local organisation of the political party, public organisation shall be transferred by the bank to the local budget on the fifteenth day from the date of expiration of the term of collecting signatures.

Article 87. Forms and Methods of Campaigning for a Local Referendum

1. Campaigning for a local referendum shall mean carrying out any activity aimed at encouraging voters in a local referendum to vote for or against a local referendum issue. Campaigning also includes announcements of events held or supported by the parties to the local referendum process.

2. Citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote in elections and referendums, representatives of a party organisation, public organisation, who are registered by supporters or opponents of a local referendum and do not form a campaign fund have the right to freely and comprehensively discuss local referendum issues, official information materials of a local referendum, possible consequences of a local referendum, personally conduct or participate in campaigning for support or non-support of the local referendum issue without spending money, except for contributions to local referendum funds.

3. Campaigning for a local referendum can take the following forms:

1) holding citizen meetings, meetings with voters, debates, discussions, and other public events aimed at campaigning for a local referendum (by supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue);

2) holding meetings, marches, demonstrations for or against the local referendum issue;

3) installing information tents for the purpose of campaigning;

4) promulgating (distribution) in the printed and audiovisual (electronic) mass media, information agencies and on the Internet speeches, interviews, sketches, films, other publications, and messages for or against the local referendum issue;

5) disseminating leaflets, posters, and other printed campaign materials or printed publications with materials promoting the local referendum;

6) placing printed campaign materials on the outdoor advertising media;

7) public calls to vote for or against the local referendum issue, public assessment of the content of the local referendum issue;

8) other forms that are not contrary to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

4. The foregoing shall not be considered as campaigning for a local referendum:

1) distribution of programs by television and radio broadcasters in the form of debates or discussions, provided that the balance of representation of the views of supporters and opponents of the referendum is maintained;

2) dissemination of reports on the course of the local referendum process, events related to the local referendum by news agencies, mass media with observance of the principles of reliability, completeness and balance of information and subject to its impartial presentation;

3) dissemination of information materials related to the general and special information support of the local referendum.

The local referendum campaign materials using advertising media are subject to the requirements, set forth by the Law of Ukraine "On Advertising".

5. Campaigning for a local referendum shall be carried out at the expense of budget funds allocated for the preparation and holding of a local referendum for the purposes specified by this Law, and from the money of parties of the referendum process.

6. Installation of information tents for the purpose of campaigning for a local referendum, organisation and conduct of meetings, marches, demonstrations, and pickets do not require obtaining any permits from the executive or local self-government authorities, except for the cases stipulated in the law.

7. A party to the local referendum that created a local referendum fund shall be entitled to rent buildings and premises of all forms of ownership based on contracts and using their fund's money to hold assemblies, meetings with voters, debates, discussions, and other public events aimed at campaigning for a local referendum.

8. If the building (premises), regardless of its property form, is provided to one of the parties to the local referendum process for the purpose of holding a public event related to the local referendum or for the campaigning for a local referendum, the owner (user) of this building (premises) has no right to refuse its provision on the same terms to the other party to the local referendum that has an alternative stand concerning the local referendum issue.

9. The requirement outlined in part seven of this Article does not apply to the premises that are owned or permanently used by the political party or public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue.

10. News agencies shall provide parties to the local referendum process - supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue - with premises for press-conferences under the terms of equal access and equal pay.

11. Legal entities and individuals providing advertising instruments (outdoor advertising media) for placing campaign materials must ensure equal access and equal terms for the parties to the local referendum process - supporters and opponents of the local referendum.

12. Official announcements during the process of the local referendum on the actions of officials, state authorities, the authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the local self-government authorities connected with exercising of their official powers stipulated in the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine, and prepared according to the procedure envisaged in the Law of Ukraine "On the procedure for covering the activities of state authorities and local self-government authorities in Ukraine by the media" shall not be referred to campaigning for referendum. Such official announcements shall not contain comments of a campaigning nature on the content of the local referendum issue.

13. Support by the party to the local referendum process that is registered as a supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue on his/her behalf of holding concerts, performances, sports competitions, film demonstrations, TV programs or other public events, as well as holding these public events for or against the local referendum issue may be carried out only in case of full financing of such measures from the money of the local referendum fund of the respective party to a local referendum

14. The requirements of this Law regarding the content, form, marking, restrictions and sources of financing of referendum campaigning shall also apply to campaign materials distributed on the Internet, including on shared access platforms. The National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting and the relevant administration of the common access platform shall take measures to stop violations of the requirements of this Law, including by blocking access to such campaigning for a local referendum until the relevant local referendum process is completed, in the manner prescribed by agreements and memoranda of cooperation.

15. The parties to the local referendum process shall facilitate the access of voters to campaign materials without discrimination, in particular by using accessible formats in printed and audiovisual materials, bringing official websites in line with accessibility standards, and in other ways not prohibited by law.

Article 88. Time Limits for Campaigning for a Local Referendum

1. The initiative group shall be entitled to start campaigning for a local referendum on the first day of the local referendum process. The party organisation, public organisation shall be entitled to start campaigning for a local referendum on the day following the day of the decision on their registration as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue.

2. campaigning for a local referendum shall end at 24:00 on the last Friday before voting.

3. campaigning for a local referendum on the day before and on the voting day shall be prohibited. It is also prohibited during this time to hold mass events related to the local

referendum or its issues, disseminate campaign materials, discuss the local referendum issue in the mass media, news agencies, on the Internet or during public events. Campaign materials shall be removed by the appropriate local executive and self-government authorities starting from 24:00 on the last Friday before the voting day.

Article 89. Printed Materials and Local Referendum Products

1. Any party to the local referendum process may, at its sole discretion, produce printed campaign materials for the local referendum at the expense and within the limits of its local referendum fund.

2. Printed campaign materials of the local referendum include leaflets, posters, booklets, brochures, other printed products with inscriptions or texts related to the local referendum issue.

The above printed materials of campaigning for a local referendum cannot contain unreliable, incomplete, and inaccurate information.

3. The party to the local referendum process may, at the expense of its local referendum fund, produce goods (badges, calendars, packages, pencils, pens, etc.) that contain inscriptions or images expressing a certain attitude to the local referendum issue, visual images, flag, identification sign, motto) or logos of the initiative group, political party (local party organisation), public organisation - supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, and the use of the anthem, slogans, slogans of the initiative group, political party (local party organisations), public organisation of supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, provided that the value of each unit of such goods does not exceed 3 percent of the subsistence level for able-bodied persons as of January 1 of the year in which the referendum is held.

4. Printed campaign materials of the local referendum shall contain information on the printing company, circulation, person responsible for the edition, information about the commissioner of materials specifying whether the latter is the supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue. Supporters and opponents of the local referendum issue may also produce printed campaign materials using the equipment they own.

5. Local executive or self-government authorities shall allocate space and equip stands, advertising boards in public places for posting campaign materials of the local referendum no later than on the tenth day of the local referendum process.

6. The party to the local referendum process shall be entitled to disseminate freely the printed campaign materials of the local referendum specified in part two of this Article, the printed publications where the respective campaign materials of the local referendum are published, and the products indicated in part three of this Article.

Article 90. General Procedure for Using Mass Media, News Agencies

1. Campaigning for a local referendum using news agencies, mass media of all forms of ownership shall take place in compliance with the principle of equal terms and in the manner stipulated in this Law.

2. Campaigning for a local referendum in news agencies, mass media of all forms of ownership shall be paid out of the local referendum fund of the respective party to the local referendum process and shall be based on the equal pay per unit of air time or space.

3. Rates of the cost of a unit of printed space and a unit of air time for campaigning at the expense of money of the local referendum fund of the parties to the local referendum process shall be set by the appropriate news agency, mass media no later than the second day of the local referendum process. At the same time, news agencies, mass media may calculate the cost of such unit of printed space or air time separately for working days and weekends or holidays,

and separately for air time slots or printed space differing in their potential audience. These prices may not differ depending on the proximity to the day of voting in the local referendum.

The cost of the unit of printed space and air time for campaigning cannot change during the entire local referendum process. The news agency, mass media cannot provide a discount to an individual party to the local referendum process. This information shall be immediately provided to the territorial commission for local referendum, which establishes the results of the local referendum, and published on the official website of the Central Election Commission, the territorial commission for local referendum or the appropriate council (if any), regional, territorial representation of the Central Election Commission (in case of their formation).

4. During the local referendum process, the mass media shall be prohibited, in their materials and programs not stipulated in the agreements concluded with the administrator of the local referendum campaign fund, from campaigning for or against local referendum issues or disseminating information that shows signs of campaigning for a local referendum, free of charge or paid from sources not provided in this Law, and disseminating any information that is intended to encourage voting for or against the local referendum issue.

5. Local referendum campaign materials shall be clearly separated from other information, including commercial advertising, regardless of the form or manner in which they are presented, so that they can be identified as such campaign materials and shall be placed under the heading "Campaigning for a Local Referendum" and contain the name of the village, settlement, city, in the territory of the territorial community of which a local referendum is held. Mixing campaign materials and commercials shall not be permitted.

6. The news agency, mass media that provided air time or printed space to one party to the local referendum process cannot decline the request for air time or printed space on the same terms from another party to the local referendum process with alternative stand concerning the local referendum issue.

The news agency, mass media may refuse to provide airtime or printed space to a party to the process only if the campaign materials provided for distribution do not meet the provisions of Article 89 of this Law.

This requirement does not apply to news agencies, mass media where their founders (owners) are political parties (local political party organisations), public organisations - parties to the local referendum process.

The mass media shall not be responsible for the content of campaigning, which was placed according to the agreements with the customers, except for the cases stipulated in part one, Article 89 of this Law. In case of attempts by a participant of television and radio broadcasting organisation to disseminate live the information specified in part two, Article 89 of this Law, the host of the program shall take all measures to stop such dissemination.

7. The parties to the local referendum process registered as supporters or opponents shall have the right to address the news agency, the mass media that published the information on the content of the local referendum issue, events related to the local referendum, which they consider unreliable, with a request to publish their response. The news agency, the mass media that published the relevant information, not later than two days after the date of the request for a response, but not later than the penultimate day before the day of voting in the local referendum shall give such party to the local referendum process the opportunity to publish a response: provide the same airtime on television and radio or the same area in print and online news agencies, media. In print and online news agencies, mass media the material provided by such party shall be executed in the same font and placed under the heading "Response" in the same place where the information declared as unreliable was published, on television and radio such material shall be declared or made public at the same time when the information declared

as inaccurate was disseminated. The response shall include a link to the appropriate publication and an indication of the appropriate sections of the publication that contain information declared as unreliable. The response shall not contain direct calls to vote for or not to vote on the local referendum issue. The response shall be published without appendices, comments and abbreviations at the expense of the news agency, the media. The news agency, the media shall have the right to refuse publishing a response if the volume of the response exceeds the amount of information that contains the facts declared as unreliable, or is not limited to the facts declared as unreliable. No response to response shall be provided.

8. The news agency, the mass media shall have the right to refuse provision of a response in the following cases:

- 1) if the response does not contain a reference to information that is considered unreliable;
- 2) if the volume of the response exceeds the volume of the information which is subject to refutation;
- 3) if the response is not limited to refuting the facts that are considered unreliable;
- 4) if the response is given in another language (except for the response in the state language);
- 5) if publication of the response causes a violation of the law or the rights of a third party.

Failure to grant the right to response may be challenged in court.

Article 91. The procedure for use of electronic (audiovisual) mass media, campaigning on the Internet

1. The regional and local television and radio broadcasting companies shall be obliged to publish in the regional and local printed mass media the information on the cost of one minute (second) of air time no later than on the third day following the start of the local referendum process. The television and radio broadcasting companies that broadcast on the national channels shall set the cost of one minute (second) of air time for local referendums and make such a publication in the newspaper "Golos Ukrainy" no later than December 31 of each previous year.

2. Air time paid for from the money of the local referendum fund of the party to the local referendum process shall be provided to the respective party based on the agreement concluded on its behalf by the account administrator of the local referendum fund of the respective party and the television and radio broadcasting company of any form of ownership. It shall be prohibited to provide the party to the local referendum process with air time without entering into such an agreement and money transfer to the account of the television and radio broadcasting company.

3. It shall be prohibited to include the campaign materials of the parties to the local referendum process in the news television and radio broadcasting programs (news broadcasts). Campaigning for a local referendum in television and radio broadcasting programs shall be clearly separated from other programs, broadcasts at their beginning and end by means of audio, video, combined means, captions, advertising logo or comments of presenters using the words "Campaigning for a local referendum" and contain the name of village, settlement, city, in the territory of the territorial community of which the local referendum is held.

It shall be prohibited to interrupt broadcasts of campaigning for a local referendum with commercials of goods, works, services and other communications.

4. During broadcasting of campaigning for a local referendum on television, the full name of its customer shall be indicated in the form of a text message, covering at least 15% of the screen space and having a colour, which is contrast to the main background image colour, and be acceptable to the viewer.

5. The television and radio broadcasting companies shall carry out audio and video recording of all programs containing campaigning for a local referendum and store them during the term

of such campaigning and thirty days after the official announcement of the local referendum results.

6. At the written request from the Central Election Commission, the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine, the television and radio broadcasting companies of all forms of ownership shall provide all information on the allocation of air time to the party to the local referendum for the purpose of campaigning for a local referendum, and, if needed, - copies of the appropriate agreements, payment documents, and programs recorded on tape or other information media.

7. Campaign materials using electronic (audiovisual) mass media must contain closed captions and/or translation into Ukrainian sign language to make them accessible to persons with vision and hearing impairments and account for the requirements established by the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine.

8. The National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting, pursuant to the agreements and memoranda of cooperation, shall provide the administrations of shared access platforms with information on the initiative group, party organisations, public organisations campaigning for a local referendum initiative, the list of parties to the local referendum process and the information on the accounts of their funds, from which campaigning for a local referendum initiative, campaigning for a local referendum may be paid. In case of receiving the information that dissemination of campaign materials on local referendum initiative, campaigning for a local referendum was paid from other sources, except for the campaign fund for the initiative of local referendum, the fund of local referendum initiative group, the fund of the appropriate local referendum party, the administration of the appropriate shared access platform shall take measures to stop their dissemination.

Article 92. The Procedure for Using Print Media

1. The initiative group, local organisation of political party, public organisation registered as supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue shall be entitled using the money from its local referendum fund to publish campaign materials in print media of any form of ownership published in Ukraine, save for the mass media specified in part fifteen, Article 93 of this Law.

2. The print area allocated for the publication of local referendum campaign materials during the local referendum process in the print media, including advertising ones, may not exceed 25 percent of the print area of each edition (special edition) or appendix to it.

Campaign materials of the local referendum must be clearly separated from other materials published in the print media and must be published in the section "campaigning for a local Referendum".

The campaign materials of the local referendum must be marked with the phrase "campaigning for a local Referendum" and contain the name of the village, settlement, city, in the territory of the territorial community of which the local referendum is held, placed directly at the top of the main text or image of the campaigning for a local referendum and be accompanied with the information about its customer - the party to the local referendum process, from the fund of which the placement of the specified material is paid (surname, first name (all proper names) and patronymic (if any) or the name of the customer), and the date and number of the agreement on the basis of which the corresponding printed area is provided. This information shall be placed directly at the bottom of the main text or image of campaigning for a local referendum. The mark "campaigning for a local Referendum" and the specified information must together occupy at least 10 percent of the printed area of all local referendum campaign material. The news agency, the mass media shall refuse to place campaign materials if they do not meet the specified requirements.

3. Campaign materials specified in part one of this Article shall be published based on the agreement concluded on behalf of the party to the local referendum process by the administrator of account of its local referendum fund with the print media editorial board (publisher). Publication of these materials shall be prohibited without entering into the agreement and transfer of money to the account of the print media editorial board (publisher). This requirement does not apply to a mass media founded (owned) by a political party (local organisation of a political party), a public organisation - a party to the local referendum process.
4. Upon written requests of the territorial commission for local referendum, the National Agency on Corruption Prevention, the print media editorial boards (publishers) of all forms of ownership must provide it with all information on the use of the print space for placing of campaign materials of the parties to the local referendum, and if needed - send to it the copies of the appropriate agreements, payment documents, and corresponding publications.

Article 93. Restrictions on campaigning for a local Referendum

1. During campaigning for a local referendum it shall be prohibited to:

- 1) disseminate in any form the materials calling for the liquidation of Ukraine's independence, forcible change of the constitutional order, violation of the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity, undermining its security, illegal seizure of state power, propaganda of war, violence and incitement of interethnic, racial, national religious enmity, encroachment on human rights and freedoms, sexism, encroachment on public health, symbols of communist or National Socialist (Nazi) totalitarian regimes, propaganda of communist or National Socialist (Nazi) totalitarian regimes;
 - 2) place statements that are discriminatory on the grounds of human origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, political views, religion, gender and occupation, place of residence, language or other characteristics;
 - 2) provide information or call for actions that may cause violations of legislation, cause or may cause harm to human health or life and/or environment, and encourage the neglect of safety measures;
 - 3) use instruments and technologies that influence the subconsciousness of voters;
 - 4) use or imitate the image of the State Emblem of Ukraine, the sound of the National Anthem of Ukraine, the image of state symbols of other states and international organisations, as well as the official names of state bodies, bodies of local self-government;
 - 5) place an image of an individual or use his or her name without a written consent of that individual;
 - 6) place elements of cruelty, violence, pornography, cynicism, humiliation of human honor and dignity;
 - 7) use images of children in dangerous situations or in circumstances that, if imitated, may harm children or others, and information that may cause children to be disrespectful to health and life-threatening situations;
 - 8) disseminate the information, the unreliable nature of which was established in court;
 - 9) use the materials that can cause moral or physical harm to children, cause them to feel inferior.
2. The use of citizens' own money or money from sources other than the funds of the appropriate party to the local referendum, including at the initiative of voters, for campaigning for a local referendum shall be prohibited.

3. Covert campaigning and publishing or disseminating of campaign materials that are not marked according to the requirements of this Law shall be prohibited. Covert campaigning is characterized by the following features:

1) contains information that allows directly or indirectly to associate the activities stipulated in paragraphs 1-8, part three, Article 87 of this Law with the content of the local referendum issue, facts and events related to the local referendum process, activities of the initiative group, party organisations, public organisations registered as supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue (in particular, placement of symbols (anthem, flag, identification mark, motto) or logos of a political party (local party organisation), public organisation - supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, use of slogans, mottos of initiative group, party organisations, public organisations - supporters or opponents of the local referendum), substantiation of the position on the local referendum issue;

2) encourages voters to vote for or against the local referendum issue;

3) financing of activities in the forms stipulated in paragraphs 1-8, part three, Article 87 of this Law is not carried out from the campaign fund for the initiative to hold a local referendum, initiative group funds, local referendum funds, provided that these activities require such financing.

4. It shall be prohibited to participate in the local referendum for the following persons:

1) foreigners and stateless persons, including through journalistic activities or in the form of participation in concerts, plays, sports competitions, other public events held to support or oppose the local referendum issue;

2) officials and officers of public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and local self-government authorities, law enforcement agencies and courts (except for officials and officers on leave);

3) members of commissions for local referendum during the entire term of office in the respective commissions.

4) employees of enterprises, organisations, institutions of state and communal ownership form, which provide any services to citizens (administrative, medical, educational, financial and banking, transport, concert and entertainment, consumer services, trade in goods, etc.) - while performing their official or employment duties.

5. It shall be prohibited to public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities to participate in any form of campaigning for a local referendum.

6. Premises of public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities cannot be used to hold events dedicated to campaigning for a local referendum.

7. Officials and officers of the public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities, state-owned, communal enterprises, institutions, organisations, military units (formations) are prohibited from using for campaigning purposes company vehicles, communication means, equipment, premises, other objects, and resources at the place of employment, neither are they allowed to use official or productivity meetings, team meetings to campaign for the local referendum.

Prohibitions on the use of company transport, communication means, equipment, premises, other objects and resources at the place of employment shall not apply to officials or officials who are employees of the information services of the relevant local self-government authorities, who initiated the local referendum and make public official position of the local

self-government body, which does not contain comments of a campaigning nature and calls to vote for or against the local referendum issue.

8. During the local referendum process, it shall be prohibited to use the following in commercial and social advertising:

1) the text of the local referendum issue;

2) visual images (flag, identification mark, motto) or logos of the initiative group, political party (local party organisation), public organisation - supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, and the use of the anthem, slogans, mottos of the initiative group, political party (local party organisations), public organisation of supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue and the names of charitable organisations, public associations or other legal entities whose names and symbols (including registered marks for goods and services) are identical or similar to the degree of confusion with the symbols of political party (local party organisation), public organisation - supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue;

3) notifications in any form about support by the party to the local referendum process registered as supporter or opponent of the local referendum issue of spectacular or other public events for or against the local referendum issue.

9. It shall be prohibited to campaign for the local referendum by giving to voters, institutions, establishments, organisations of money or goods, free of charge or on preferential terms (save for the goods indicated in part three, Article 95 hereof), services, works, securities, loans, lottery tickets, gift certificates, food and alcoholic beverages, other material values. Such campaigning or provision to voters, institutions, establishments, organisations of money or goods, services, works, securities, loans, lottery tickets, gift certificates, food and alcoholic beverages, other material values, free of charge or on preferential terms, accompanied by appeals or proposals to vote for or against the local referendum issue or provision of positive or negative assessments of the content of the local referendum issue, visual images (flag, identification mark, motto) or logos of the initiative group, political party (party organisation), public organisation - supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue, and the use of anthem, slogans, mottos of the initiative group, political party (party organisations), public organisation of supporters or opponents of the local referendum issue shall be considered as indirect bribery of voters.

10. It shall be prohibited to produce and disseminate printed campaign materials of the local referendum that do not contain all or some data specified in part four, Article 95 of this Law.

11. It shall be prohibited to place and disseminate local referendum campaign materials in the premises of state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities, the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other created according to law military formations, law enforcement agencies, children's institutions, educational institutions, health care institutions, social protection institutions, housing and communal services enterprises and institutions.

12. It shall be prohibited to place campaign materials of the local referendum at the cultural heritage objects.

13. It shall be prohibited to post campaign materials of the local referendum on the external surfaces of public transport, including taxi, on the premises and buildings of subway stations, bus and railway stations, ports and airports, or disseminate such campaign materials through television and radio broadcasting networks or other passenger information networks and information boards on the premises of stations and in subway carriages, in bus and railway stations, ports and airports, public transport.

14. It shall be prohibited to advertise books, print media or television and radio programs using the text of the local referendum issue or parts thereof, symbols (flags and logos) of the parties to the local referendum process.

15. It shall be prohibited to campaign for the local referendum both in foreign media operating in Ukraine and in the media registered in Ukraine where the share of foreign ownership exceeds 50 per cent.

16. During the local referendum process, mass media, their officials, officers, and creative professionals shall be prohibited to campaign for or against the local referendum issue in their materials and programs, if it was not stipulated in the agreements concluded under this Law, disseminate information intended to encourage citizens to vote for or against the local referendum issue.

17. It shall be prohibited to post campaign materials of the local referendum in one section with the commercial and social advertising.

18. It shall be prohibited to include the campaign materials of the parties to the local referendum process in the news television and radio broadcasting programs (news broadcasts). All campaign materials of the local referendum must be separated from other materials and marked as such campaign materials.

19. The National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting shall suspend by its decision, until the end of the local referendum process, broadcasting in the territory of the territorial community in which the local referendum is held, including by telecommunications operators and foreign TV channels, which in their activity violate the prohibition to foreign nationals, stateless persons to campaign for a local referendum, including through journalist activity.

20. If upon consideration of the dispute concerning the local referendum the court finds a one-time violation of this Law by a mass media, the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine shall pass a decision with an official note of warning for the respective mass media demanding to stop violations of the legislation on the local referendum. Such note of warning shall be published in the mass media and on the official website of the Central Election Commission.

21. If upon consideration of the dispute concerning the local referendum, the court finds a repeated or one-time serious violation of this Law by a mass media, the court shall pass a decision on temporary suspension (until the end of the local referendum process) of the respective program, license for the audiovisual media or temporary prohibition (until the end of the local referendum process) on the issue of a printed publication.

22. Interference with exercising of the right to campaign for the local referendum and violation of the procedure for such campaigning established by this Law shall entail liability under the laws of Ukraine.

23. If the territorial commission for local referendum receives an application, complaint, or other notification concerning violations of this Law with regard to campaigning for a local referendum that contains signs of crime or administrative offence, such commission shall immediately address the appropriate law-enforcement agencies with a request to verify the said notification and respond to it as required by the laws of Ukraine.

SECTION IX
VOTING AND ESTABLISHING THE RESULTS OF THE LOCAL REFERENDUM

Article 94. Ballot for voting in a local referendum

1. Voters shall vote in a local referendum using a ballot paper.
2. Ballots for voting in the local referendum are limited issue documents and are subject to accounting. The documents intended for accounting of voting ballots shall be provided by manufacturing enterprises, territorial and precinct commissions for local referendum to the Central Election Commission. After the official announcement of the local referendum results, the Central Election Commission shall ensure transfer of the accounting information to the appropriate archival institutions for safekeeping.

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, and members of respective commissions for local referendum shall bear personal responsibility for ensuring the proper storage and use of ballots for voting at the local referendum.

3. The form and color of the ballot paper shall be approved by the Central Election Commission. The text of the ballot paper shall be approved by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission according to the issue submitted to the local referendum within 10 days from the day of the beginning of the local referendum. Ballots for voting on the issue put to the local referendum must be identical in size, colour and content. The degree of protection of the ballot paper shall be determined by the territorial commission for local referendum.
4. The ballot paper shall contain the name and date of the local referendum, the number of the territorial district (if any), the number of the polling station for local referendum, and the designation of the place for the seal of the polling station commission for local referendum. The voting ballot text shall be written in the official state language and must be printed on one sheet and on one side only.
5. The ballot paper shall state the text of the issue submitted to the local referendum (indicating the name of the charter, program or draft decision, if they are part of the text of the issue) and invite the voter to answer "yes" or "no". There shall be an empty square under each of these answer options.

The text of the charter, programs, draft decision shall not be stated in the ballot.

6. Voting ballot shall contain clarifications on the procedure for filling the ballot by the voter during voting.
7. The voting ballot has a counterfoil separated by a detach line. The counterfoil shall contain the name and date of the local referendum, the number of the territorial constituency (if any), the number of the polling station for local referendum, and an indication of the place for the number according to which the voter is included in the voter list at the polling station, signature of the voter, who receives the voting ballot, surname and signature of the member of the precinct commission for local referendum who will issue the voting ballot.

Article 95. Procedure for making voting ballots

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the results of the referendum, shall ensure the production of voting ballots in a centralized manner no later than seven days before the day of voting by a printing enterprise on the basis of an agreement concluded with such enterprise.
2. The enterprise manufacturing voting ballots shall ensure strict adherence to the commissioned amount of produced ballots, their accounting and transfer to the customer under the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

3. Industrial waste, polygraphic defects, and typographic plates shall be destroyed in the manner and within the terms determined in the agreement on manufacture of voting ballots.
4. Control over production of voting ballots at the manufacturing enterprise, compliance with the requirements for destruction of typographic plates, technical waste, printing defects shall be carried out by the control commission formed by the territorial commission for local referendum upon submissions of subjects of nomination to the composition of precinct commissions, defined in Article 41 of this Law.
5. The territorial commission for local referendum shall receive voting ballots in the package of the manufacturing enterprise based on the certificate of acceptance in the form established by the Central Election Commission.
6. Voting ballots for each polling station for local referendum shall be manufactured in the quantity which exceeds the number of voters on the voter list by 0.5 per cent with a possible deviation from the specified quantity considering the multiplicity factor of ballot location on the polygraphic sheet during production.

Article 96. Procedure for transferring voting ballots to local referendum commissions

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission accepts voting ballots from the manufacturing enterprise not earlier than seven days before the day of voting at its meeting. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall execute three copies of the protocol on acceptance of voting ballots. The said protocol shall be drawn up according to the procedure approved by the Central Election Commission. The first copy of the protocol shall be forwarded to the Central Election Commission, the second - stored at the territorial commission for local referendum, and the third one shall be immediately posted in the premises of the territorial commission for local referendum for public review.
2. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall ensure safety and security of voting ballots. Ballots shall be stored in the premises of the territorial commission for local referendum in a safe (metal cabinet or separate room) sealed with a strap containing signatures of all commission members attending the meeting and a seal of the commission. The safe (metal cabinet or separate room) must be guarded by the employee of the National Police of Ukraine at all times (until ballots are issued to precinct commissions on local referendum).
3. In the city territorial community of the city with district division, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the results of the referendum, passes the ballots in the package of the manufacturing enterprise to the territorial commissions for local referendum, whose powers are limited to the respective territorial districts, no later than four days before the voting day.
4. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission (in the city territorial community of the city with district division - territorial commission for local referendum, whose powers are limited to the territorial district) not earlier than three days before the voting day, but not later than 12 o'clock on the last Saturday before the voting day, shall pass the voting ballots to the precinct commissions at its meeting. Ballots shall be accepted by at least three members of each precinct commission for local referendum authorized by its decision.
5. The precinct commission for local referendum shall be provided with all voting ballots where the number of the appropriate polling station for local referendum is indicated.
6. The protocol on transfer of voting ballots by the territorial commission for local referendum to precinct commissions shall be executed in the form and according to the procedure established by the Central Election Commission. The protocol shall specify the following:
 - 1) the number of the territorial district for local referendum (if there are territorial districts);

- 2) the number of the polling station for local referendum to whose commission members ballots are issued;
 - 3) the number of voters at the polling station for local referendum according to the voter list as of the day of protocol execution;
 - 4) the number of voting ballots issued to the polling station for local referendum;
 - 5) last names and signatures of members of the precinct commission for local referendum who accepted voting ballots.
7. The protocol on transfer of voting ballots to precinct commissions for local referendum shall be executed in three copies. Copies of the protocol shall be numbered and have equal legal force. The first copy of the protocol shall be sent to the Central Election Commission, the second - stored by the territorial commission for local referendum, and the third one shall be immediately posted in the premises of the territorial commission for public review.
8. The extract from the protocol in the form established by the Central Election Commission containing data related to the respective polling station for local referendum shall be issued along with voting ballots to representatives of each precinct commission for local referendum upon their signature by the chairman and deputy chairman of the territorial commission for local referendum and three members of the respective precinct commission for local referendum and certified by the seal of the territorial commission.
9. The authorized person of party to local referendum process, the official observer, who were present during transfer of voting ballots, shall be entitled to receive, immediately upon their request, copies of protocols specified in parts one and five of this Article with each page signed by the chairman and the secretary of the respective local referendum commission and stamped with the commission seal in the amount of at most one protocol copy per the respective party to local referendum process.
10. Members of precinct commissions of ordinary and special polling stations for local referendum shall transport the ballots received by them to the premises of the precinct commission for local referendum accompanied by an employee of the National Police of Ukraine.
11. The precinct commission for local referendum shall accept voting ballots at its meeting immediately after commission members, who received ballots, arrive at the polling station. Precinct commission members shall re-count received ballots, check the correspondence of numbers of the polling station for local referendum specified on ballots with the number of the polling station that received voting ballots, and stamp allocated places on each ballot with a seal of the precinct commission for local referendum.
12. During ballot counting, the commission member chosen by the commission for local referendum shall count voting ballots aloud. Other commission members shall observe the counting. During ballot counting, it is prohibited to divide the commission into several groups each counting a part of ballots.
13. If quantity of counted voting ballots does not correspond to the quantity specified in the extract from the protocol of the territorial commission for local referendum on transfer of voting ballots, the precinct commission shall execute two copies of a non-conformance report specifying the reason of such non-conformance determined by the decision of precinct commission. This report shall be executed in the form and manner established by the Central Election Commission. One copy of the report shall be provided to the territorial commission for local referendum, and the second one shall be stored by the precinct commission. In case of such non-conformance, the quantity of voting ballots received by the precinct commission for local referendum shall be deemed the quantity of voting ballots determined at the meeting

of the precinct commission and recorded in the non-conformance report and the minutes of the commission meeting.

14. Ballots shall be stored in the premises of the precinct commission for local referendum in a safe (metal cabinet), which is sealed at the same meeting of the commission with a tape with the signatures of all members present at the commission meeting and the seal of the local referendum commission and shall be under protection of a police officer permanently (before the beginning of the preparatory meeting of the commission envisaged in Article 98 of this Law).

Article 97. Voting premises

1. The voting shall take place in the specially designated and equipped premises with booths for secret voting and allocated places for voting ballot issue and installation of ballot boxes. One voting premises shall be equipped at one polling station for local referendum. Control over equipment of voting premises shall be vested with the precinct commission for referendum.

2. Executive and local self-government authorities shall provide polling stations for local referendum with required voting premises suitable for voting as required according to this Law and regulations established by the Central Election Commission, and shall provide technical assistance during the equipment of such polling stations.

3. Voting premises of a small polling station for local referendum shall have an area of at least 50 square meters, a medium polling station - at least 75 square meters, and a large polling station - at least 90 square meters.

4. If the premises of the precinct commission for local referendum and the voting premises cannot be fully adapted to the needs of persons with disability and other low-mobility population groups, the appropriate executive and local self-government authorities shall organise unimpeded access of said individuals to such premises.

5. Voting premises shall be equipped with a sufficient number of booths for secret voting. For small polling stations for local referendum, there must be at least two booths, for medium - at least four booths, and for large - at least six booths. Equipment shall be located in the voting premises in a way that places for the voting ballot issue, entry into and exit from the booths for secret voting, and ballot boxes were in sight of members of the precinct commission for local referendum and persons with a right to be present in the voting premises under this Law, and in a way that ensures the free movement of voters, including people using wheelchairs and other low-mobility population groups.

6. Voting premises at the special polling station for local referendum must be accessible to members of the commission for local referendum, authorized representatives of the parties to the local referendum process, official and international observers and media representatives, officials of the respective Central Election Commission.

Heads of establishments, institutions, commanders of military units (formations) where such polling stations are established shall ensure unimpeded access to the voting premises for members of commissions for local referendum, voters included in the voter list at the given polling station, authorized persons of the parties to the local referendum, official observers and media representatives.

7. Each polling station for local referendum shall be provided with the required amount of ballot boxes - stationary (large) and mobile (small). Ballot boxes shall be made of transparent material according to the size determined by the Central Election Commission. Small polling station for local referendum shall have at least two stationary ballot boxes, medium - at least three stationary ballot boxes, and large - at least four stationary ballot boxes. Each polling station for local referendum shall have at least two mobile ballot boxes. Stationary ballot boxes shall be installed in the voting premises so that voters have access to them through the booths

(rooms) for secret ballot. The procedure for manufacturing, accounting, using and storing of ballot boxes shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

8. The precinct commission for local referendum shall ensure the placement of official informative materials on local referendum in the voting premises or right in front of them.

9. In the voting premises, the precinct commission for local referendum shall provide a voter with an opportunity to get acquainted with the issue submitted to the local referendum, information posters of the initiative group, local organisations of political parties, public organisations - subjects of the local referendum process with substantiation of their position on the issue of local referendum (in case of their provision by the relevant subjects).

10. Placement of a poster (booklet) with the text of the document, which is an integral part of the local referendum, information posters shall be carried out taking into account the possibility of acquaintance with them of the wheelchair users, taking into account the requirements established by the Central Election Commission.

11. Precinct commissions for local referendum shall assist voters who cannot review information posters of the parties to the local referendum in accessing their content in a way that is most convenient for voters.

Article 98. Preparation for voting

1. The precinct commission for local referendum of the regular or special polling station shall inform its voters included in the voter list on this polling station of the voting date, time, and venue using personal invitations sent under the requirements of this Law.

2. The precinct commission for local referendum shall hold a preparatory meeting no earlier than 45 minutes before the voting starts on the voting day. At the beginning of the meeting, all attendees shall inspect the strap used to seal the safe (metal cabinet) where voting ballots are stored.

3. If the strap on the safe (metal cabinet) is not damaged and has the relevant signatures and the seal, the chairman of the precinct commission for local referendum shall let the precinct commission members, attending authorized persons of the parties to the local referendum process, official and international observers and media representatives to inspect one by one all ballot boxes available at the polling station for local referendum.

After each ballot box is inspected, it shall be sealed or stamped with the seal of the precinct commission for local referendum, whereafter the control sheet is dropped inside specifying the number of the polling station for local referendum, the time when the control sheet is dropped into the ballot box, signatures of all attending members of the precinct commission, and - at their discretion - signatures of authorized persons of the parties to the local referendum process, official observers. Signatures shall be stamped with a seal of the precinct commission for local referendum. After the control sheet is dropped into the ballot box, the commission chairman shall present the next ballot box for inspection and repeat the same procedure.

After the last ballot box is sealed and the control sheet is dropped inside, and the stationary (large) ballot boxes are located in the dedicated places, the voting premises shall be deemed ready for voting. Mobile (small) ballot boxes shall be placed in the voting premises with their ballot holes down and located in sight of members of the commission for local referendum and other individuals present in the voting premises as required by this Law.

4. If the inspection of the strap used to seal the safe (metal cabinet) where voting ballots are stored shows that the strap is damaged or signatures and a seal on it do not correspond to signatures and the seal specified in part fourteen, Article 96 of this Law, the chairman, deputy chairman or secretary of the precinct commission for local referendum shall immediately bring

this fact to the attention of the bodies of the National Police of Ukraine and the territorial commission for local referendum.

Then the chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary of the commission for local referendum shall immediately open the safe (metal cabinet) and remove voting ballots from it. Members of the precinct commission for local referendum shall inspect voting ballots, in particular, for the conformity of numbers of the polling station for local referendum, the presence of the seal of this precinct commission for local referendum, whereafter they re-count voting ballots in the manner established by part twelve, Article 96 of this Law. The precinct commission for local referendum shall execute a report on identified signs of safe (metal cabinet) being opened and (if found) on the non-conformity of voting ballot quantity. The said report shall be executed in the form and manner established by the Central Election Commission. The number of voting ballots found in the safe (metal cabinet) shall be recorded in the minutes of meeting of the commission for local referendum. In this case, the established quantity shall be deemed the number of ballots received by the precinct commission for local referendum.

5. If the strap on the safe (metal cabinet) is not damaged and contains relevant signatures and seal, after sealing or stamping and installing ballot boxes according to part three of this Article, the safe (metal cabinet) with ballots shall be opened. The chairman of the precinct commission for local referendum shall remove from the safe ballots and extract from the protocol of the territorial commission for local referendum on the transfer of voting ballots to the precinct commission for local referendum.

6. Based on the extract from the protocol of the territorial commission for local referendum on transfer of voting ballots to the precinct commission for local referendum or the report specified in part four of this Article, the chairman of the precinct commission for local referendum shall announce the quantity of voting ballots received by the precinct commission for local referendum. The commission secretary shall enter this quantity in the precinct commission protocol on vote count at the polling station for local referendum, and record it in the minutes of the commission meeting.

7. The chairman of the precinct commission shall transfer the required quantity of voting ballots to members of the precinct commission for local referendum who will then issue ballots to voters in the voting premises and organise mobile voting. The commission members, who organise mobile voting, shall be issued two ballots over the number of voters included in the extract from the voter list specified in part three, Article 100 of this Law.

The fact of ballot transfer shall be recorded in the report in the form established by the Central Election Commission. The specified commission members shall confirm the receipt of ballots by affixing their signatures in the report and shall ensure their safe-keeping and observance of the procedure for their issue to voters as determined by this Law. After this procedure, no voting ballot shall be remained in the safe (metal cabinet).

Article 99. Voting organisation and procedure in the voting premises

1. Voting shall continuously take place on the voting day from eighth to twentieth o'clock.
2. Voting organisation and maintenance of due order in the voting premises, ensuring of secrecy of voting shall be the responsibility of the precinct commission on local referendum. In the event of violations, for which the law establishes responsibility, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum has the right to invite an employee of the National Police of Ukraine to the voting premises, who shall take the offender out of the voting premises and take measures provided for by law outside this premises. In all other cases, officers of the National Police of Ukraine are not allowed to be present inside the voting premises.

3. During voting at the polling station of the local referendum, two members of the commission on local referendum shall provide the voter with a possibility to vote: upon voter's presentation of one of the documents specified in Article 6 of this Law and provided that the voter is included in the voter list on the given polling station, one precinct commission member offers the voter to sign the voter list; the second precinct commission member enters his or her last name and signs the voting ballot and the ballot counterfoil in designated places. In the event of a local referendum on the early termination of the powers of the village, settlement, city council and on the early termination of the powers of the village, settlement, city mayor, the voter is issued two voting ballots: one ballot on each issue that is submitted to a local referendum. Then, the member of the commission on local referendum shall detach the counterfoil from the voting ballot (s) and issue the voting ballot to the voter. The ballot counterfoil shall be kept by the commission member who issued the ballot (s). Ballot counterfoils for each referendum issue shall be kept separately. Any other marks on the voting ballot are prohibited.

4. The voter may stay in the voting premises only during the time needed for voting.

5. The voter shall personally fill in the ballot in the booth for secret voting. The presence of other persons in the booth for secret voting is prohibited at the time of ballot filling. Upon prior notification of the Chairman or other member of the precinct commission on local referendum, the voter who due to physical impairments cannot fill in the ballot himself or herself shall use the assistance of another voter, except the member of the commission on local referendum, authorised persons of the party to the referendum process, or official observers.

6. Voters shall have no right to give their voting ballots to other individuals. It is prohibited to receive voting ballots from individuals other than the member of the commission on local referendum authorized to issue ballots, encourage or coerce voters to give their voting ballots to other individuals through bribes, threats, or otherwise.

7. The voter shall make one "plus" mark ("+") or another mark on the voting ballot in the relevant square under the answer to local referendum issue, which will indicate the voter's will.

8. The voter shall personally drop the filled in voting ballot into the ballot box. The voter who, due to physical disabilities, cannot independently drop a ballot into the ballot box, has the right, with the consent of the Chairman or another member of the precinct commission on local referendum, to use the assistance of another voter, except for a member of local referendum commission, an authorised person of the subject of the referendum process, an official observer.

9. If the ballot box is damaged during voting, it shall be sealed by the Chair and at least three members of the precinct commission representing different parties to the local referendum process. This shall be done in a way that makes it impossible to drop or remove any voting ballots.

During voting, such ballot box shall stay in the voting premises within sight of commission members and other individuals present at the polling station of the local referendum as required by this Law, and shall not be used until the voting ends.

10. If the voter makes a mistake when filling in the voting ballot, he or she shall have the right to immediately address the member of the commission on local referendum, who issued the respective voting ballot with an application requesting to issue another ballot. The commission member shall issue the voter another voting ballot in accordance with the procedure established by Part 3 of this Article only in exchange for the ballot returned by the voter, which a member of the precinct commission for a local referendum shall make a corresponding mark in the voter list opposite the voter's name, which he/she shall certify with his/her signature.

The commission member that issued the respective ballot shall invalidate it as unused and execute a respective report. This report shall be signed by two members of the precinct

commission on local referendum who registered ballot issue and by the voter who spoiled the ballot, whereafter the report shall be attached to the voter list.

The commission member who issued the ballot shall keep such invalidated ballot until vote count. During vote count, this ballot shall be counted as unused and packed along with its counterfoil into a package with unused voting ballots. It is prohibited to re-issue the ballot to replace the one returned by the voter.

11. Five minutes before 20:00 o'clock, the Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum shall announce the end of voting and closing of the polling station of local referendum at 20:00. Voters who came to the polling station as of 20:00 shall have the right to vote. To ensure the exercise of such right by voters, at 20:00 one of the commission members, upon the instruction by the Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum, shall approach the entrance and invite all voters who have not voted to enter the voting premises, and then close the door. After the last voter left the voting premises, free access of voters and other persons to the said premises is not allowed (except for members of the precinct commission on local referendum and persons entitled to attend a meeting of the precinct commission on local referendum without permission and invitation).

Article 100. Ensuring of mobile voting

1. Voters who are included in the voter list on the polling station of local referendum but are unable to move due to their age or health condition, for whom a measure of protection in the form of house arrest has been applied, shall be provided by the precinct commission on local referendum with a possibility to vote at home.

2. To arrange mobile voting for voters unable to move, on the last day before voting, the precinct commission on local referendum shall prepare an extract from the voter list in the form established by the Central Election Commission.

Once executed, such extract shall be immediately made available for review at the premises of the precinct commission on local referendum.

3. The extract from the voter list shall include:

1) without the commission decision – voters who are permanently incapable of moving where there is a respective mark opposite their last names in the voter list as provided for by this Law if such voters have not notified the respective precinct commission on local referendum in writing or personally of their wish to vote at the voting premises by 12 o'clock in the afternoon of the last day before voting;

2) according to the decision of the commission on local referendum – voters who are temporarily unable to move based on the document confirming the corresponding fact and the application submitted to the precinct commission on local referendum with a request to arrange mobile voting for such a voter. Such an application specifying the voter's place of stay may be submitted not later than 20:00 on the last Friday before the voting day.

4. Voter's application about his/her desire to vote at home is registered by the precinct commission on local referendum in a separate log, which indicates the day and time of application receipt, full name and location of the voter.

5. When the voter is included into the extract from the voter list, the Secretary of the precinct commission on local referendum shall make an entry “mobile voting” in the voter list of the polling station on local referendum in the column “voter's signature”.

6. At the special polling stations of local referendum established at in-patient medical facilities, mobile voting shall take place based on the personal application written by the voter with a request to arrange mobile voting due to the need to remain on bed rest. Instead of the voter who

cannot write such an application, it can be written by another person who must specify the respective fact in this application.

Article 101. The procedure for counting votes of voters who voted at the polling stations of local referendum

1. Voters' votes shall be counted after the voting is finished and only by members of the precinct commission on local referendum during its session, which shall last without breaks until all votes are counted. Minutes of this session of the precinct commission on local referendum shall be executed and signed in the same premises where the voting took place.

2. If during voting the precinct commission on local referendum received applications, complaints concerning violations that had occurred during voting at this polling station, the precinct commission on local referendum shall consider them at the beginning of the session before starting vote count at the polling station.

Votes shall be counted at the polling station of local referendum openly and transparently and only by members of the precinct commission on local referendum. Votes shall be counted at the polling station of local referendum in accordance with the procedure established by this Article.

4. After the voting is finished, the precinct commission on local referendum shall determine the number of voters who took part in the voting on the given polling station of local referendum based on the respective voter list.

5. Before starting vote count, the precinct commission on local referendum shall count unused ballots. The number of such ballots shall be announced and recorded by the Commission Secretary in the protocol on vote count. Unused ballots shall be invalidated by detaching the bottom right corner of the ballot. When counting unused ballots and voter's votes, making any marks, notes on voting ballots is prohibited.

6. Unused ballots (along with counterfoils) and ballots specified in Article 99 of this Law shall be packed. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents and their quantity, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum or the marking of the foreign district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase "Unused ballots" shall be written on the package.

7. The precinct commission on local referendum shall count the number of voters who received ballots based on signatures in the voter list. This number shall be announced.

8. The precinct commission on local referendum shall count the number of ballot counterfoils with signatures of voters and commission members who issued them, for each issue of local referendum separately. The number of counterfoils is then announced.

9. If the number of counterfoils specified in Part 8 of this Article corresponds to the quantity of voters who received ballots under Part 7 of this Article, this amount shall be announced and entered in the section "The number of voters who received ballots" of the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum.

10. If the number of counterfoils specified in Part 8 of this Article does not correspond to the quantity of voters who received ballots, the report shall be executed specifying the reason for such non-conformity determined by the decision of the precinct commission which is to be signed by present members of the precinct commission on local referendum. Signatures shall be stamped with a seal of the precinct commission on local referendum. Then, the commission on local referendum shall make a decision on determining the number of voters who received

ballots. The number of voters is announced and entered in the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum.

11. A voter list, extract from the voter list attached thereto, and applications that served as the basis for extract execution shall be packed in a separate package. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents and their quantity, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum or the marking of the foreign district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase “Voter lists” shall be written on the package.

12. Ballot counterfoils for each referendum issue shall be packed in a separate package. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents and their quantity, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum or the marking of the foreign district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase “Counterfoils” shall be written on the package.

13. The precinct commission on local referendum shall verify that the sum of unused ballots and the number of voters who received ballots is equal to the number of ballots received by the precinct commission on local referendum. In case of non-conformance of these data, the precinct commission on local referendum executes a report specifying reasons for such non-conformance established by the commission decision, and such a report is then signed by the present members of the precinct commission on local referendum. Signatures shall be then stamped with the precinct commission seal.

14. The Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum in the presence of this precinct commission members and other individuals who can attend the commission session under this Law shall verify that the seal imprint and the security label on the ballot boxes are intact.

15. In case of damages to security labels, straps, or seals or other damages on ballot boxes that compromise the integrity of the ballot box, the precinct commission on local referendum shall execute a report in the form and in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission specifying the nature of identified damages.

16. Ballot boxes shall be opened by the precinct commission on local referendum one by one. Mobile boxes used during mobile voting shall be opened first, and the last to open are ballot boxes with damaged security labels, straps, or seals or other damages that compromise the integrity of the ballot box, identified (if any) during voting.

17. Once the intact ballot box is opened, its content shall be emptied on the table, at which members of the precinct commission of the local referendum are seated. Herewith, commission members verify the presence in the ballot box of the control sheet (control sheets – for the mobile ballot box).

18. Ballots from the damaged ballot box shall be removed one by one without mixing them. The precinct commission on local referendum shall count the number of ballots in the ballot box. Herewith they verify the presence in the ballot box of the control sheet which is to be removed the last.

19. The total number of ballots in each ballot box shall be counted separately. Ballots on each issue of the local referendum shall be counted separately. There is no need to determine voting results for each ballot box separately. During ballot counting, the commission member chosen by the commission on local referendum shall count voting ballots aloud. Other commission

members shall observe the counting. During ballot counting, it is prohibited to divide the commission into several groups each counting a part of ballots.

20. All objects found in ballot boxes other than voting ballots of the established form shall be put aside and not counted. Such objects include control sheets. In case of doubts as to whether the object is a voting ballot, the precinct commission on local referendum shall resolve such issue by voting. Each commission member shall have the right to inspect the object personally. The voting shall be suspended for the time of such inspection. Objects other than voting ballots shall be packed.

The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase "Objects" shall be written on the package.

21. Once the mobile ballot box is opened, if there are more voting ballots inside than the number specified in the control sheet in this ballot box, the precinct commission on local referendum shall execute a report on such non-conformance in the form and in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission specifying the number of voting ballots in this, and the last names of members of the precinct commission on local referendum, whose signatures are on the said ballots.

22. When executing the report specified in Part 21 of this Article, the precinct commission on local referendum shall verify that voting ballots found in the mobile box have the number of the respective polling station of local referendum, the imprint of the seal of the relevant precinct commission, specified last names and signatures of the relevant precinct commission members who carried out mobile voting. Ballots with inappropriate signs shall not be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and during vote count. If after separating ballots with inappropriate signs from voting ballots subject to be taken into account, the non-correspondence specified in Part 21 of this Article is eliminated, all valid ballots shall be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and during counting votes at the polling station of local referendum. If no ballots with inappropriate signs are identified or their separation from valid ballots subject to be taken into account does not eliminate the non-conformance specified in Part 21 of this Article, all voting ballots from the mobile ballot box shall not be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and counting votes.

23. If there is no control sheet in the ballot box (control sheets for the mobile ballot box), the precinct commission on local referendum shall execute a report in the form and in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission stating the absence of the control sheet (control sheets) in the ballot box specifying the actual number of ballots in this ballot box. Such ballot shall not be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and counting votes.

24. If commission members have doubts concerning the validity of the control sheet and in other questionable situations set forth in Parts 21 and 23 of this Article, the precinct commission on local referendum shall make a decision on recognizing ballots in this ballot box as such that are not subject to be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and counting votes. The respective decision and voting results shall be recorded in the minutes of the commission session.

25. Voting ballots found in ballot boxes where the number of the polling station of local referendum do not correspond to the number of the polling station where the vote count took place, as well as ballots with no imprint of this precinct commission's seal or with the seal of

another commission or any other seal, shall be deemed as such that are not subject to be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and counting votes.

26. Once votes are counted in the last ballot box, the total number of ballots for each referendum issues in boxes shall be summed up separately, except for ballots that are not subject to be taken into account.

The number established as a result of counting is the number of voters who took part in the voting. The Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum announces this number and the Commission Secretary then records it in the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum.

27. Ballots that under this Article are not subject to be taken into account when determining the total number of participating voters and counting votes shall be packed. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase "Ballots not taken into account" shall be written on the package.

28. Voting ballots to be taken into account shall be placed on designated spots marked with sign plates saying "yes", "no", and "invalid" on both sides. When placing ballots on designated spots, the commission member appointed by the precinct commission on local referendum shall show each ballot to all commission members and announce the voter's choice.

29. The ballot shall be deemed invalid if:

- 1) it is not stamped with the seal of the relevant precinct commission on local referendum;
- 2) it contains no last name and/or signature of the member of the precinct commission on local referendum who issued this ballot;
- 3) there is more than one mark in respective squares;
- 4) there is no mark on the ballot;
- 5) the ballot counterfoil is not detached;
- 6) the voter's choice cannot be ascertained for any other reasons.

30. During ballot counting, the commission member chosen by the commission on local referendum shall count voting ballots aloud. Other commission members shall observe the counting.

During ballot counting, it is prohibited to divide the commission into several groups each counting a part of ballots. If commission members have doubts concerning the ballot content, the commission on local referendum shall resolve this issue by voting. Before voting, each commission member shall have the right to personally review the ballot. While the commission members inspect the ballot and vote, counting of other ballots shall be suspended. The respective decision and voting results shall be recorded in the minutes of the commission session.

31. Invalid ballots shall be counted separately. The Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum announces this number and the Commission Secretary then records it in the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum.

Then, invalid ballots are packed. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct

commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase “Invalid ballots” shall be written on the package.

32. The precinct commission on local referendum shall count the number of votes for each local referendum issue and the number of votes against it.

During vote count, each member of the precinct commission on local referendum shall be entitled to check or re-count respective ballots. The precinct commission Chairman announces the results of vote count at the polling station of local referendum, and the Commission Secretary then records this number in the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum.

33. During vote count at the polling station of local referendum, the precinct commission must verify that the number of voters who took part in voting on the polling station is equal to the sum of invalid ballots, ballots with votes for and against the local referendum issue. If these data do not match, the precinct commission on local referendum may re-count ballots. If the specified non-conformance is confirmed, the precinct commission on local referendum shall execute a report and specify the reason for such non-conformance established by its decision in the form and in accordance with the procedure determined by the Central Election Commission.

34. Ballots with votes cast for and against the local referendum issue shall be packed separately. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, and the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase “Yes” or “No” shall be written on respective packages.

35. Documents of local referendum stipulated by this Law shall be packed so that no voting ballot nor other documents could be removed or inserted without breaking the seal imprint or the package.

Article 102. Protocol of the precinct commission on local referendum on counting votes at the local referendum precinct

1. The precinct commission of local referendum at its meeting shall draw up a protocol on counting votes at the local referendum precinct on each issue of the local referendum. The form of the protocol of local referendum on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be approved by the Central Election Commission not later than thirty days before the voting day.

The protocol of a precinct commission on local referendum on counting votes at local referendum precinct may be prepared using technical means. The procedure for the preparation and requirements for the protocols of the precinct commission on local referendum on counting votes at the local referendum precinct shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

2. The following data in words and numbers shall be entered in the protocol of the precinct commission on local referendum on vote count at the polling station of local referendum:

- 1) number of voting ballots received by the precinct commission on local referendum;
- 2) number of unused voting ballots;
- 3) number of voters on the voter list at the polling station of local referendum (at the end of voting);
- 4) number of voters included in the extract from the voter list for mobile voting at the polling station of local referendum;

- 5) total number of voters who received voting ballots;
- 6) number of voters who received voting ballots for mobile voting;
- 7) total number of voters who took part in the voting;
- 8) number of voting ballots that are not subject to be taken into account;
- 9) number of voting ballots found invalid;
- 10) number of votes for local referendum issue;
- 11) number of votes against local referendum issue;

3. The protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be executed by the precinct commission on local referendum in the number of copies that exceeds the number of members of the precinct commission on local referendum by four copies. Copies of the protocol shall be numbered and have equal legal force.

4. The protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall specify the date and time (hours and minutes) of its signing by members of the precinct commission on local referendum. Each copy of the protocol shall be signed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, and other members of the precinct commission on local referendum present at the commission session. If the commission member does not agree with the commission actions or the results of vote count, such commission member shall sign the protocol and add a note "with a dissenting opinion". The written statement of dissenting opinion shall be attached to the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum. This protocol shall be signed and stamped by the seal of the precinct commission on local referendum only after it is fully completed.

If any of commission members fail or refuse to sign the protocol, it shall have no legal consequences for the protocol validity.

5. The first and second copies of the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum can be signed by authorised persons of the referendum process subjects, official observers present during vote count at the session of the precinct commission on local referendum.

6. It is prohibited to complete protocols on vote count at the polling station of local referendum with a pencil or make any corrections in them.

7. If the precinct commission on local referendum detects inaccuracies (a typo or a mistake in numbers) after signing the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, but before the protocol is sent to the territorial commission along with other documents of local referendum, the commission shall consider during the same session the issue of making changes to the determined voting results at the polling station by executing a new protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum and eliminating inaccuracies. This new protocol shall be marked with the note "Adjusted". Herewith, voting ballots shall not be re-counted. The protocol with the note "Adjusted" shall be executed in the number of copies specified in Part 3 of this Article and shall be signed in accordance with the procedure established by Part 4 of this Article. The fact of execution of the protocol with the note "Adjusted" shall be specified in the protocol of the session of the precinct commission on local referendum.

8. If an automated information system is used by a precinct commission on local referendum, the Commission Secretary or a person in charge determined by the decision of the precinct commission on local referendum shall enter data required for drawing up a protocol on counting votes into the database of the automated information system, and check it using this system.

If the protocol is filled in correctly, the Commission Secretary or the person in charge shall:

1) make four copies of the protocol on counting votes at the local referendum precinct and hand them over to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and other members of the local referendum precinct commission for signing and affixing a seal of the precinct commission. Printed protocol copies shall have a unique security digital element (for example, QR code) that identifies and links the specified protocol with the record entered in the automated information system containing the protocol information.

2) after signing the printed copies of the protocol on counting votes by all members of the commission present at the meeting, apply their own qualified electronic signature and send the protocol information to the automated information system.

9. The first and second copies of the protocol of precinct commission on local referendum on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, and if available – respective copies of the protocol with the note “Adjusted” – shall be packed in the package with the special protection system. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, and the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase “Protocol on vote count” shall be written on the package. The third copy of the protocol of the precinct commission on local referendum on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, as well as a respective copy of the protocol with the note “Adjusted” (if any), shall be stored with the Secretary of the precinct commission on local referendum. The fourth copy of the said protocol shall be immediately posted on the premises of the precinct commission on local referendum for public review, while the remaining copies shall be issued to precinct commission members.

10. Upon request of authorised persons of the subjects of local referendum process, official observers present during vote count at the polling station of local referendum, they shall be immediately provided with copies of the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, including the protocol with the note “Adjusted” signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the precinct commission and stamped with its seal in the amount of one copy of each protocol per every party to local referendum process.

11. The fact confirming the issue of copies of the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be reflected in the report executed in the form established by the Central Election Commission. The report shall specify a list of individuals who received copies of the respective protocol, the ordinal number of the copy, date and time when the copy was received, and signatures of these persons. The report shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the precinct commission on local referendum and stamped with the precinct commission seal. Then, the report is packed along with the first and second copies of the protocol of the precinct commission on vote count at the polling station of local referendum.

12. Packages with protocols of the precinct commission on local referendum on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, voting ballots, counterfoils and objects, voter lists, as well as dissenting opinions of precinct commission members (if any), reports, applications, complaints, and decisions made by the commission shall be delivered to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in accordance with the procedure established by Part 1 Article 104 of this Law immediately after the precinct commission session ends.

Article 103. Recognition by a precinct commission on local referendum of voting at a local referendum precinct invalid

1. A precinct commission on local referendum may recognize voting at the local referendum precinct as invalid if it finds violations of the requirements of this Law, as a result of which it is impossible to reliably establish the results of the voters' will, under the following circumstances:

1) number of cases of illegal voting (another person drops voting ballots in the ballot box instead of voters, save for cases stipulated by the this Law; votes are cast by persons who have no right to the same; votes are cast by persons who are not included in the voter list at this polling station of local referendum or are included in it without due grounds for it; voters cast votes more than once) exceeds the number of voters who received voting ballots at the given polling station of local referendum by 5%;

2) destruction or damage of the ballot box (boxes) which makes it impossible to determine the voting ballot content if the number of such ballots exceeds the number of voters who received voting ballots at the polling station of local referendum by 10%;

3) number of voting ballots found in ballot boxes exceeds the number of voters who received voting ballots at the polling station of local referendum by 10%.

2. In case of circumstances specified in Part 1 of this Article, in each separate case, the precinct commission on local referendum shall execute a report in the form and in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission. Such a report (reports) shall constitute a ground for the precinct commission on local referendum to consider finding the voting at the given polling station invalid.

3. If the precinct commission on local referendum makes a decision on finding the voting at this polling station invalid, the protocol of this commission on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall contain only data outlined in paragraphs 1 to 6, Part 2, of Article 102 of this Law. A dash shall be written instead of other data. The protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be executed by the precinct commission on local referendum under the procedure determined by Article 102 of this Law.

4. If the decision is made to recognise the voting at the polling station of local referendum invalid, all voting ballots found in ballot boxes shall be packed. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, as well as the number of the territorial district of local referendum (if there are territorial districts), the number of the polling station of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase "Voting ballots" shall be written on the package.

5. The decision of the precinct commission on local referendum on finding voting at this polling station invalid and the report (reports) that served as a basis for such a decision, shall be attached to the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, packed and transported to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in accordance with the procedure determined by Part 1 Article 104 of this Law.

Article 104. The Procedure of Transporting and Submission of Documents of Local Referendum to the Territorial Commission on Local Referendum

1. Documents specified in Part 12, Article 102 of this Law shall be transported by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the precinct commission on local referendum and two other commission members guarded by two police officers and – if needed and upon the request of the Central Election Commission – by officers of the Security Service of Ukraine. Other members of the commission on local referendum, authorised persons of the subjects of local referendum process, official observers may, at their discretion, accompany them during the transportation of such documents. Other persons are prohibited from accompanying such documents. During document transportation, it is prohibited to unseal packages with ballots and other documents.

2. The Secretary of the precinct commission on local referendum, other commission members who do not accompany document transportation to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall stay in the premises of the precinct commission until they are notified that

protocols on vote count at the polling station of local referendum were accepted by the respective territorial commission. During document transportation, the seal of the precinct commission on local referendum and forms of protocols on vote count at the polling station of local referendum if they were not used to execute the protocol with the note “Adjusted” before sending these protocols with other documentation to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, shall be stored in the safe (metal cabinet) in the premises of the respective precinct commission on local referendum.

3. The protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be submitted to the respective territorial commission during its session.

4. In the territorial city community:

1) with the regional division, the documents of local referendum are delivered to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the powers of which are limited to the territorial district.

From polling stations formed in the territory of settlements (villages, settlements, cities) that are part of the corresponding urban (city with regional division) territorial community, but are not part of the city districts, the referendum documents shall be delivered to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes referendum results;

2) without regional division, –the documents of the local referendum shall be delivered to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which establishes the referendum results.

Article 105. The Procedure for Accepting and Reviewing Documents from Precinct Commissions on Local Referendum by the Territorial Commission on Local Referendum

1. The moment the voting ends, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission starts its session, which lasts continuously until the voting and local referendum results are determined. At this time, members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission cannot be engaged in any other functions except the participation in the commission session.

2. The session of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission is recorded in the form of protocol of the continuous session which is then signed by the session Chairman, as well as the Commission Secretary or member performing Secretary duties during such a session. Dissenting opinions (if any) of the territorial commission members who participated in the session and disagree with the decision adopted by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall be attached to the protocol.

During the session of the territorial commission, its Chairman shall accept sealed packages with protocols of precinct commissions on local referendum, open them and announce the content of protocols on vote count at respective polling stations, and accept sealed packages with other documents of local referendum stipulated by Part 12 Article 101 of this Law. Time of adoption of the protocol of precinct commission on local referendum on counting votes at the local referendum precinct by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, a list of local referendum documents adopted and data entered into the protocol on counting votes at the local referendum precinct, announced by the Chairman of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall be recorded in the protocol of the territorial commission session.

4. When accepting documents from the precinct commission, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall verify the completeness of documents and the integrity of all packages with documents of local referendum. Herewith, every member of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall be entitled to review each package with documents. If the document set is complete and the packages intact, the package with a protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be opened and data specified therein announced.

Based on the results of review of documents from the precinct commission on local referendum and complaints of violations of this Law during voting and vote count at the polling station of

local referendum, and transportation of documents of local referendum, that were submitted to the territorial commission at the time of acceptance of precinct commission documents, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall make one of the following decisions:

- 1) accept the documents of local referendum from the precinct commission on local referendum and take into account the information of the protocol on vote count at the local referendum precinct;
 - 2) refuse to accept the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum from the precinct commission and oblige the latter to correct identified shortcomings;
 - 3) re-count votes at the polling stations of the local referendum.
5. The decision stipulated by Part 4 of this Article shall be made through voting of all territorial commission members present at the commission session by the majority of votes and recorded in the protocol of the territorial commission session.
6. The protocol of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on vote count at the polling station of local referendum shall be reviewed by the territorial commission after its announcement. If the territorial commission finds mistakes, inaccuracies in the precinct commission's protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum, then the Local Referendum Territorial Commission may oblige the precinct commission to make changes in the protocol on vote count at the polling station of local referendum in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 Article 102 of this Law which fact shall be recorded in the protocol of the territorial commission session. While this issue is considered, protocols on vote count at the polling station of local referendum submitted by the precinct commission to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and documents attached thereto shall be stored at the territorial commission.
7. The precinct commission on local referendum must consider the issue of making changes in the protocol on vote count without re-counting ballots within the term determined by the territorial commission. The protocol with the note "Adjusted" shall be transported to the district commission on local referendum in accordance with the procedure established by Article 104 of this Law. The time when the Local Referendum Territorial Commission accepts the precinct commission protocol with the note "Adjusted" and data specified in the same shall be recorded in the session protocol of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

Article 106. Re-counting Votes at the Polling Stations of Local Referendum

1. Should there be complaints confirmed based on reports executed by authorised persons of the parties to local referendum, official observers, voters concerning violations of the requirements of this Law during voting and/or vote count at the polling station of local referendum that cast doubt on the results of vote count at this polling station, as well as in the presence of the report or written complaint from individuals specified in Part 1 Article 104 of this Law concerning violations of this Law during the transportation of protocols on vote count and other documents to the district commission on local referendum, the latter may make a decision on re-counting of votes cast at the respective polling station of local referendum.
2. If inaccuracies in the precinct commission protocol cannot be eliminated without ballot recounting, as well as in the event of evident signs of opening of packages with packed documents from the precinct commision, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission must make a decision on recounting of votes cast at this polling station.
3. Until recounting is completed, protocols on vote count at the polling station of local referendum and sealed packages with other documents from this precinct commission shall be stored in the premises where the session of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission takes place.

4. Votes cast at the polling station of local referendum shall be re-counted by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission after the review and acceptance of protocols and other documents from all precinct commissions in accordance with the procedure established by Article 101 of this Law. All members of this precinct commission have the right to take part in the re-counting by the territorial commission of votes at the polling station of local referendum, and a representative of the referendum process subject in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission may be present, authorised persons of the referendum process subjects, official observers.

5. Based on the results of vote count at the polling station, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission executes a protocol on recounting of votes at the relevant polling station of local referendum using the form established by the Central Election Commission. This protocol must contain data stipulated by Part 2, Article 102 of this Law.

6. The protocol on vote recount at the polling station of local referendum shall be executed by the territorial commission in the number of copies that exceeds the number of members of the territorial commission on local referendum by four copies. Copies of the protocol shall be numbered and have equal legal force. All protocol copies are the signed by present members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and members of the precinct commission who took part in recounting at the relevant polling station and are stamped with the seal of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission. Protocol content shall be announced during its execution in accordance with the procedure contemplated by Articles 101-103 of this Law. The first and second copies of each protocol may be signed by a representative of the local referendum process subject in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the local referendum process subjects, official observers who were present at the vote recounting.

If any of commission members fail or refuse to sign the protocol, it shall have no legal consequences for the protocol validity.

7. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission can make a decision on finding voting at the polling station invalid if during recounting of votes cast at the relevant polling station it finds circumstances set forth in Part 1, Article 103 of this Law.

8. If recounting results in finding voting at the polling station invalid, the protocol of the territorial commission on recounting of votes cast at this polling station of local referendum shall be executed under the procedure established by Parts 5 and 6 of this Article and must contain only data specified in Paragraphs 1 to 6, Part 2, Article 102 of this Law. A dash shall be written instead of other data.

9. The first copy of the protocol of the local referendum territorial commission on the recount of votes at the local referendum precinct, together with the corresponding protocol of the local referendum precinct commission on the counting of votes at the local referendum precinct, decisions of the local referendum territorial commission on recognising voting in the local referendum precinct as invalid shall be added to the protocol of the local referendum territorial commission on the voting results in the corresponding territorial district of the local referendum (if the protocol on the voting results is not prepared – to the protocol on the local referendum results). The second copy of the territorial commission protocol on recounting of votes cast at the polling station of local referendum shall be stored by the territorial commission Secretary, while the third one shall be issued to the relevant precinct commission and the fourth one – immediately posted on the premises of the territorial commission for public review; the remaining copies are issued to territorial commission members – one copy per member.

Article 107. Determination of Local Referendum Voting Results

1. In a city with a regional division, the voting results are determined by drawing up a protocol on voting results:

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions whose powers are limited to a territorial district – within a territorial district;

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions that determine the referendum results – within a part of a single district on the basis of protocols of precinct commissions on local referendum on the counting of votes in referendum precincts operating in the territory of settlements (villages, settlements, cities) that are part of the corresponding urban (cities with regional division) territorial community, but are not part of the city districts.

Protocols on the voting results at a local referendum in a city (cities without regional divisions), settlement, village territorial community are not drawn up by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission determining the referendum results. In this case, the protocol on the referendum results shall be drawn up directly on the basis of the protocols of the precinct commissions on local referendum on the vote counting.

2. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission after the adoption and consideration of the protocols of the precinct commissions on counting of votes in the referendum precincts, including those marked “Adjusted”, on the basis of the protocols of the precinct commissions on local referendum on counting votes in the precincts, and in the case of recounting of votes – also based on the protocol of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on recounting of votes at the corresponding local referendum precinct, within the territorial district of local referendum or part of a single district shall determine:

- 1) number of voting ballots received by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission;
- 2) number of voting ballots received by precinct commissions of the territorial district of local referendum;
- 3) number of unused voting ballots invalidated by precinct commissions on local referendum in the territorial district of local referendum;
- 4) number of voters included in the extracts from the voter list at polling stations of the territorial district of local referendum;
- 5) number of voters who received voting ballots in the voting premises in the territorial district of local referendum;
- 6) number of voters who received voting ballots during mobile voting in the territorial district of local referendum;
- 7) total number of voters included in the voter lists at polling stations of the territorial district of local referendum;
- 8) number of voters who received voting ballots within the territorial district of local referendum;
- 9) number of voting ballots, not subject to registration, revealed at the territorial district referendum precincts;
- 10) total number of voters who cast votes within the territorial district of local referendum;
- 11) number of voting ballots found invalid;
- 12) number of votes for each local referendum issue;
- 13) number of votes against each local referendum issue;

3. Information on the voting results within a territorial district or part of a single district of a local referendum shall be entered in figures and words into the protocol of Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the voting results within a territorial district or part of a single district. The information specified in Part 1 of this Article shall be entered into the protocol in figures for each local referendum precinct that is part of a territorial district of a local

referendum or part of a single district, as well as in total in figures and words for a territorial district of a local referendum or part of a single district.

4. The protocol on the voting results shall be drawn up by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in the number of copies, which is three more than the number of persons who are territorial commission members. Copies of the protocol shall be numbered and have equal legal force.

5. It is prohibited to fill in the protocol on the voting results in pencil, as well as to sign it and certify it with the seal of the territorial commission of the local referendum before it is finalised.

6. Protocol on the voting results is signed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and other members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, present at the commission meeting, and certified by the territorial commission seal. The protocol shall specify date and time (hour and minutes) when it was signed by members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission. Should the commission member disagree with voting results, he or she shall sign the territorial commission protocol and add the note "With a dissenting opinion". A written statement of such dissenting opinion shall be attached to the protocol on voting results. The first copy of the protocol can be signed by authorised persons, official observers present at the time when voting results were determined. If any of members of Local Referendum Territorial Commission fail or refuse to sign the protocol, it shall have no legal consequences for the protocol validity.

If after the protocol on voting results but before its submission to the Central Election Commission, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission identifies inaccuracies (a typo or mistake in numbers), such commission shall, during the same session, consider the issue on making changes in the protocol on voting results by executing a new protocol with the note "Adjusted". The protocol with the note "Adjusted" shall be executed and signed in accordance with the procedure and in such number of copies as established by this Article. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission is prohibited from executing the protocol with the note "Adjusted" during another session unless instructed so by the Central Election Commission.

8. The first copy of the protocol of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on the voting results within the territorial district of local referendum and the first copy of the protocol with the note "Adjusted" (if any) are packed in a package with a special protection system. The package with documents of local referendum shall be sealed; the package shall specify the type of packed documents, and the number of territorial district of local referendum, date and time of packing, signatures of all present precinct commission members, and the seal of the precinct commission. The phrase "Protocol on voting results" shall be written on the package.

9. The first copy of the territorial commission protocol on voting results within the territorial district of local referendum, and in case of changes thereto – the protocol with inaccuracies (typos or mistakes in numbers) and the protocol with the note "Adjusted" along with respective protocols and reports from precinct commissions, decisions made based on these reports, and, if available, territorial commission protocols on recounting votes cast at the relevant polling station, dissenting opinions of district commission members set forth in writing, applications and complaints of the violation by the territorial commission of the procedure for determining voting results within the territorial district of local referendum and decisions made by the territorial commission based on the results of their review, shall be transported by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission to the territorial commission, which will establish the results of a local referendum. The second copy of the protocol shall be stored at the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the third one shall be immediately posted on the premises of the territorial commission for public review, while the remaining protocols are issued to members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission – one copy per member.

10. Documents of local referendum specified in Part 8 of this Article shall be transported by the territorial commission Chairman or Deputy Chairman and two members of this commission.

11. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission must determine voting results within a territorial district of local referendum or part of a single district not later than on the fifth day after voting, regardless of the number of polling stations in the respective district where the voting was found invalid. Recognition of voting as invalid within a territorial district of local referendum or part of a single district is prohibited. The protocol on the voting results within the territorial district of local referendum, immediately after signing, is transported to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which will establish the results of the local referendum.

12. Information on the voting results in a territorial district of local referendum or a part of a single district is formed and transmitted to the Central Election Commission by means of an automated information system only after the transmission to the Central Election Commission of information on the counting of votes in all local referendum precincts of such a territorial district or part a single district by means of this system.

Article 108. Determination of the Referendum Results

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission at its meeting on the basis of protocols of the precinct commissions on local referendum on counting votes at the referendum precincts, including those with the note “Adjusted”, and in the case of a recount of votes, on the basis of the protocols of the territorial local referendum on counting of votes at a local referendum precinct, not later than on the seventh day from the voting day, establishes the local referendum results, about which a protocol is drawn up.

In a city with a regional division, the Local Referendum Territorial Commission whose powers extend to a single district, at its meeting on the basis of protocols of the Local Referendum Territorial Commissions on the voting results within the respective territorial districts, including those with the note “Adjusted”, voting results protocol within part of a single district, not later than on the tenth day from the voting day, establishes the local referendum results, about which a protocol is drawn up.

The following information shall be entered in words and letters in the protocol on local referendum results:

- 1) number of voting ballots made to order of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission;
- 2) number of voting ballots received by the Local Referendum Territorial Commissions;
- 3) number of voting ballots received by the district commissions on local referendum;
- 4) total number of unused voting ballots;
- 5) number of voters included in voter lists;
- 6) number of voters who received voting ballots in the voting premises;
- 7) number of voters who received voting ballots for mobile voting;
- 8) total number of voters who received voting ballots;
- 9) number of voters who cast votes in the voting premises;
- 10) number of voters who cast votes during mobile voting;
- 11) number of voting ballots found invalid;
- 12) total number of voters who took part in the voting;

13) number of voting ballots that are not subject to be taken into account;

14) number of votes for each local referendum issue;

15) number of votes against each local referendum issue;

2. If the Local Referendum Territorial Commission fails to submit its protocol on voting results (including the adjusted one) to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, the latter shall determine the local referendum results in that district based on existing protocols from precinct commissions on local referendum.

3. Information on voting results shall be entered in words and numbers into the protocol of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission results. The information specified in part one of this article shall be entered in figures for each territorial district of local referendum, as well as in total in figures and in words for a single district of local referendum.

4. The protocol of the territorial commission on the local referendum results shall be drawn up in two copies. The protocol shall specify date and time (hour and minutes) when it was signed by members of the territorial commission. The said protocol shall be stamped with the seal of the territorial commission. If the commission member does not agree with the information specified in the protocol, such member shall be entitled to present his or her dissenting opinion that is to be attached to the protocol.

If any of members of Local Referendum Territorial Commission fail or refuse to sign the protocol, it shall have no legal consequences for the protocol validity.

The first copy of the protocol may be signed by the representative of the initiative group in the territorial commission (in the case of local referendum initiated by voters), representative of the subject of the referendum process in the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, authorised persons of the referendum process subjects who were present when the local referendum results were determined.

A protocol copy shall be entered into the automated information system accompanied by a qualified electronic signature of the responsible person determined by the decision of the commission no later than the next day from the day it was drawn up and immediately published on the official website of the Central Election Commission.

5. A local referendum is considered valid if at least 50 percent of voters from the number of voters included in the voter lists at the relevant local referendum took part in local referendum voting.

6. Decision on a local referendum is considered adopted if the option “yes” to it was expressed by the majority of voters from the number of voters who took part in the relevant local referendum.

Article 109. Official Promulgation of the Local Referendum Results

1. The Local Referendum Territorial Commission, not later than on the fifth day from the date of determination of the local referendum results, officially promulgates the local referendum results by publishing them in the relevant local print media, and also posting them on the official website of the commission or the relevant council (if any), regional , territorial representation of the Central Election Commission (if they are formed).

If local referendum decision on the issues provided for in Paragraphs 1, 2, 5, Part 1, Article 3 of this Law is considered adopted, the local referendum results are, respectively, published in the form of the decision on recognizing the regulatory legal act of the local self-government body, its individual provisions as invalid, the Charter the territorial community (amendments

to it), the development program of the territorial community (amendments to it), indicating the number of votes of voters who voted for such a decision of local referendum.

The decision of local referendum shall enter into force on the day following the day of its publication.

Approved at local referendum Charter of the territorial community (amendments to it), development program of the territorial community (amendments to it) enter into force ten days after their official promulgation, unless otherwise provided by the decision of the village, settlement, city council on the adoption of the Charter of the territorial communities (amendments to it), program of the territorial community development (amendments to it).

Not later than the next day from the day the results of the local referendum are determined, the Chairman of the territorial commission of local referendum draws up a decision on approving the Charter of the territorial community (amendments to it), development program of the territorial community (amendments to it), signs the Charter or the program, respectively, adds to the decision and sends it for signature to the relevant village, settlement or city mayor, that within two days from the date of receipt, shall sign the decision and notify the territorial commission of local referendum about it. If the decision is not signed by the village, settlement or city mayor, it shall be signed by the Chairman of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission and sent to the relevant local council.

2. If the actions of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission on drawing up a protocol about the referendum results are appealed in court in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine, then the official publication shall take place not later than on the fifth day from the date of entry into force of the court decision in the course of the corresponding appeal.

3. If the decision of local referendum on the early termination of powers of a village, settlement, mayor, village, settlement, city council is considered adopted, then the Local Referendum Territorial Commission shall send a copy of the protocol on the results of such a referendum to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and submit it to the Central Election Commission for the relevant early elections.

SECTION X LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF LOCAL REFERENDUM

Article 110. Consideration of the local referendum results at a meeting of the relevant local council

1. The respective village, settlement or city council of the territorial community where the local referendum was held shall consider at its meeting the local referendum results not later than the fifteenth day after their official publication.

2. At the meeting of the local council, provided for in Part 1 of this Article, the Chairman of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission or the person exercising his powers, announces the information of the protocol on the referendum results, individual opinions of the members of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission (if they have been submitted), and also provides a brief characterisation of the referendum process and compliance with legal requirements during its conduct.

3. Representatives of supporters and opponents of the referendum issue are invited to a meeting of the local council, provided for in Part 1 of this Article and have the right to speak in accordance with the procedure determined by the regulations of the relevant local council.

4. Village, settlement, city council shall take into account the results of the local referendum by making an appropriate decision.

Article 111. Implementation of the local referendum results

1. Officials and local self-government bodies, whose powers include the resolution of an issue that was submitted to a local referendum, are obliged, within a month after the official publication of the referendum results, to consider the local referendum results and take them into account when making a decision on the relevant issue.

2. In the event that the implementation of the referendum results requires the adoption by the local council of a regulatory legal act or other act, the executive committee of this local council prepares and submits for consideration a draft relevant decision not later than the thirtieth day from the day of the meeting provided for in Part 1, Article 110 of this Law.

3. Village, settlement, city mayor (in case of his refusal to sign the decision of the territorial community on the approval of the territorial community Charter – , the village village, city council) not later than the third day from the date of signing the decision of the territorial community (receipt of such a decision from the Local Referendum Territorial Commission) submits it together with the territorial community Charter to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. Within three days from the date of receipt of the decision of the territorial community on the approval of its charter, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine is obliged to enter such a Charter into the Register of Charters of Territorial Communities.

Article 112. Referendum Results on Early Termination of Powers of Local Self-Government Bodies and Officials

1. The powers of a village, settlement, city mayor are terminated early, and the person concerned is dismissed from office from the day of the official publication of the local referendum results in accordance with the procedure determined by this Law. The exercise of powers of the village, settlement, city Chairman is entrusted to the Secretary of the respective village, settlement, city council in accordance with the procedure determined by the Law of Ukraine “On Local Self-Governance in Ukraine”.

2. The powers of the village, settlement, city council shall be terminated early from the day of the official publication of the local referendum results in accordance with the procedure determined by this Law. The corresponding village, settlement, city council continues to exercise its powers within the limits and scope determined by the Law of Ukraine “On Local Self-Governance in Ukraine” until the opening of the first session of this council of a new convocation.

3. In case of early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, city mayor of the village, settlement, city council, early local elections are called by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine not later than ninety days from the date of early termination of the powers of the respective council.

Article 113. Implementation of the Local Referendum Results on the Loss of Force of a Local Self-Government Body Regulatory Legal Act or its Individual Provisions

1. A decision adopted at a local referendum on the initiative of voters on recognising a regulatory legal act of a local self-government body, its individual provisions as invalid, shall enter into force ten days after its official promulgation, unless otherwise provided by the decisions themselves, but not earlier than the day of its official publication.

Decision of a local referendum on the recognition of a regulatory legal act of a local self-government body, its individual provisions invalid, is final and does not require approval by the relevant local self-government body.

2. Issue of a local referendum on recognising a regulatory legal act of a local self-government body or its individual provisions invalid, not supported by voters in a local referendum at the initiative of voters, can be re-submitted to a local referendum at the initiative of voters not earlier than one year after the official announcement of the local referendum results at the initiative of voters.

3. Regulatory legal act of a local self-government body or its individual provisions that have become invalid as a result of a local referendum cannot be adopted in the same edition by the local council of the current convocation.

SECTION XI

APPEALS AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF LOCAL REFERENDUM LEGISLATION

Article 114. General principles for appealing against violations of the local referendum process

1. Decisions, actions, or omissions related to the procedures for initiating a local referendum, referendum process may be appealed to the respective commission on local referendum or court.

2. Decisions, actions, or omissions related to the procedures for initiating a local referendum, referendum process shall be appealed in court and considered and resolved by the court in accordance with the procedure determined by the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Ukraine.

3. Decisions, actions, or omissions related to the procedures for initiating a local referendum, referendum process shall be appealed to the respective commission on local referendum and considered and resolved by it in accordance with the procedure determined by this Law.

4. Courts, commissions on local referendum, bodies of the State Voter List, law enforcement agencies shall arrange their operation during procedures for initiating a local referendum, local referendum process, including on weekends and on the voting day, so as to ensure the acceptance and consideration of complaints (claims) and petitions from commissions on local referendum within terms and under the procedure established by this Law.

5. Issues of complaint consideration by commissions on local referendum that are not regulated by this Law shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

Article 115. Appeal in Court

1. Decisions, actions, or omissions of the parties to the local referendum may be appealed in court in accordance with the procedure established by the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Ukraine.

2. The following shall exclusively be appealed in court by filing a claim:

1) decisions, actions, omissions of the Central Election Commission, actions or omissions of the Central Election Commission member;

2) decisions, actions, omissions of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, except for the cases established by this Law;

3) actions or omissions of a member of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission;

4) of precinct commissions on local referendum, formed in accordance with this Law;

5) decisions or actions of the initiative group, initiative group member;

- 6) decisions or actions of a local organisation of a political party, public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent; issues of a local referendum, local organisation of a political party, public organisation participating in the initiative campaigning;
 - 7) actions of authorised persons of the local referendum process subjects;
 - 8) actions of the official observer determined by Paragraph 7, Part 1, Article 22 of this Law;
 - 9) decisions, actions, or omissions of the public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities, enterprises, institutions, and organisations, their officials and officers;
 - 10) decisions, actions, or omissions of mass media, news agencies, their owners, officials and officers, creative professionals.
3. The court to which the statement of claim was filed shall immediately notify the respective commission on local referendum, the highest level commission, and the Central Election Commission, and according to the voter lists – also the body maintaining the State Voter List about the receipt of such a statement, initiation of proceedings or its dismissal, as well as the decision taken by the court.
4. If the court initiates proceedings on an administrative claim concerning the same issue and based on the same grounds as the complaint filed to the commission on local referendum, the latter shall dismiss such complaint without consideration specifying the reason for the same not later than the next day after receiving the court notice on active proceedings.
5. Should the court revert the decision of the respective commission on local referendum, including on the matter of finding voting at a certain polling station invalid, determining voting results and results of local referendum, the decision on this issue shall be made by the commission whose decision was reverted or the higher-level commission based on the court judgment. Herewith, if the decision was not reverted for formal reasons, the commission on local referendum cannot pass the decision that essentially repeats the reverted one.
6. Decisions, actions or omissions of local referendum commissions, their members, as defined in Article 116 of this Law, may also be appealed in court by filing a statement of claim.

Article 116. Local Referendum Commission Apealer and Appeal Subject. The entity adjudicating complaints

1. The apealer to the local referendum commission with a complaint concerning the procedures for initiating a local referendum, local referendum process, can be:
 - 1) voters whose rights or legally protected interests concerning the participation in local referendum process were violated by the decision, action, or omission of the entity adjudicating complaints;
 - 2) initiative group;
 - 3) local organisation of a political party, registered as a subject of the local referendum process, local organisation of a political party that participates in the initiative campaigning;
 - 4) public organisation registered as a subject of local referendum process, public organisation participating in the initiative campaigning;
 - 5) official observer outlined in Paragraph 7, Part 1, Article 22 of this Law.
2. The voter may appeal decisions, actions, or omissions specified in this Article to the respective commission on local referendum if such decisions, actions, or omissions violate his or her personal rights or legally protected interests concerning their participation in the local referendum process, including concerning the participation in the commission operation,

observation, presence during the commission session in cases specified in this Law, during voting under this Law, failure to provide statutory conditions for access of voters with disabilities to the local referendum process.

3. Complaint against the decision, action or omission of the territorial referendum commission, whose powers are limited to the territorial district, its members, precinct local referendum commission, its members may be filed to the commission that formed it.

4. Complaint against a decision to call a local referendum, or omission of a territorial commission that establishes the local referendum results may be submitted to the Central Election Commission.

Article 117. Peculiarities of Representing Parties to Local Referendum Process During the Appeal

1. The Head of a local organisation of a political party, public organisation registered as a supporter or opponent to the issue of a local referendum, local organisation of a political party, public organisation carrying out the initiative campaigning, shall act as a representative of the relevant local organisation of a political party, public organisation when appealing against violations of legislation on local referendum to the relevant local referendum commission without additional authority.

2. The individual who is registered as the authorised person of the initiative group, public organisation, local organisation of a political party registered as the supporter or opponent of local referendum issue under this Law, shall act as the representative of the respective party when appealing against violations of the legislation on local referendum to the commission on local referendum without requiring additional authorisation for it.

3. The document confirming the authorities of persons specified in Part 2 of this Article is a relevant identity card issued by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission in accordance with the procedure established by this Law.

Article 118. Period for Appeal

1. A complaint to the commission on local referendum may be submitted by the appellant within three days after the decision, action, or omission of the appeal subject, except for cases specified in Parts 2 - 4 of this Article.

2. A complaint regarding violations of the procedure for collecting signatures in support of the local referendum initiative may be filed not later than two days from the date of acceptance of the signature sheets by the Local Referendum Territorial Commission.

3. The complaint concerning the violation that occurred before the voting day may be filed within the term established by Part 1 of this Article but not later than at 22:00 of the day preceding the voting day.

4. A complaint concerning the violation that occurred on the voting day before the voting ended may be filed to the respective precinct commission on local referendum not later than by the time the voting ends. A complaint concerning decisions, actions, or omissions on the part of the commission on local referendum, member(s) of the precinct commission, that occurred on the voting day, as well as during vote count at the polling station of local referendum and/or during document transportation, may be filed to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission not later than on the day following the day of such decision, action, or omission, but before the respective commission on local referendum accepts documents from the precinct commission under this Law.

5. The last day of the term when the respective act provided for by the Law had to be taken shall be deemed the day of omission.

6. The calculation of the period for appeal shall start on the day following the day of the contested decision, action, or omission.
7. The day when the entity adjudicating complaints receives such complaint shall be deemed the date of complaint submission.
8. The period for appeal cannot be extended or renewed, except in case of repeated complaint upon the elimination of its shortcomings no later than the day following the day of its dismissal without consideration by the entity adjudicating complaints as provided for by Part 1, Article 120 of this Law.
9. The change or clarification of appellant's demands during complaint consideration by the entity adjudicating complaints caused by circumstances not previously known to the appellant shall not be deemed a new complaint and shall not be restricted by the established time limits.

Article 119. Complaint Form and Content

1. The complaint to the local referendum commission shall be submitted in writing. The complaint shall specify:
 - 1) name of the commission on local referendum that the complaint is submitted to;
 - 2) last name, first name, and patronymic (name) of the appellant, place of residence or official contact address (legal or postal address), as well as the communication means number, email, if any;
 - 3) last name, first name, patronymic (name) of the appeal subject, place of residence or official contact address (legal or postal address), as well as the communication means number, email, if known to the appellant;
 - 4) topic of the issue in question;
 - 5) description of circumstances and evidence used by the appellant to justify claims;
 - 6) clearly formulated requirements describing the decision that is demanded from the entity adjudicating complaints;
 - 7) a list of attached documents and resources.
 - 8) signature of the appellant or the person representing the appellant under Article 117 of this Law specifying the date of signing.
2. When appealing against the decision, action, or omission of the appeal subject, the voter must specify how such decision, action, or omission violate his or her personal rights with regards to participation in local referendum process.
3. The complaint may contain a list of stakeholders that the appellant deems appropriate to involve in complaint consideration.
4. The complaint shall contain its copies and copies of all documents attached thereto in the number equal to the number of appeal subjects and stakeholders specified in the complaint.
5. The Central Election Commission may introduce electronic services for submitting complaints to local referendum commissions.

Article 120. Complaint Dismissal Without Consideration

1. The complaint executed in violation of Article 119 of this Law shall be dismissed without consideration not later than on the day following the day of its receipt, and the complaint submitted the day before voting, on the voting day or the following day shall be dismissed immediately.

2. The complaint may be dismissed without consideration based on grounds specified in Part 1 of this Article by:

1) for complaints submitted to the Central Election Commission – the Chairman, Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission or another member thereof upon the Chairman's instruction;

2) for complaints submitted to another commission on local referendum – the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the respective commission on local referendum.

3. The complaint shall be dismissed by the letter signed by the individual specified in Part 2 of this Article specifying an exhaustive list of shortcomings preventing complaint consideration and the possibility of repeated appeal executed under Article 119 of this Law within terms stipulated by this Law.

4. If the complaint is re-submitted with the same or new shortcomings, the entity adjudicating complaints shall pass a decision on its dismissal without consideration on the merits.

Article 121. Time Limits for Complaint Consideration

1. A complaint executed in compliance with Article 119 of this Law shall be considered by the respective commission on local referendum during its session not later than on the third day following its receipt, save for cases stipulated by Parts 2 to 5 of this Article.

2. The complaint about violations of the procedure for collecting signatures in support of the local referendum initiative shall be considered by the local referendum commission within the period provided for in Part 1 of this Article, but not later than a decision on verification of signatures in support of the local referendum initiative, is made.

3. The complaint concerning violations that occurred before the voting day shall be considered by the commission on local referendum within the term provided for by Part 1 of this Article, but not later than by 24:00 of the day preceding the voting day.

4. The complaint concerning the violation that occurred on the voting day before the voting ended and was submitted to the precinct commission on local referendum and shall be considered by it immediately after the voting.

5. The complaint concerning the violation that occurred on the voting day, during vote count at the polling station and/or during transportation of local referendum documents which was submitted to the commission on local referendum shall be considered by the said commission within two days following its submission but not later than the time of acceptance of the protocol on vote count at the respective polling station.

Article 122. Complaint Consideration Procedure

1. The appellant, the appeal subject, and other stakeholders must be timely invited to attend complaint consideration by the commission on local referendum.

2. The commission on local referendum shall notify the appellant, the appeal subject, and other stakeholders of the venue, day and time of the local referendum commission session where the complaint will be considered and send the invitation to participate in such session using registered mail, fax, or email. It is possible to notify the appellant, the appeal subject, and other stakeholders of the venue, day, and time of complaint consideration via telephone which fact shall be recorded by the official of the entity adjudicating complaints by executing a written certificate to be later attached to the file (protocol).

3. Failure to arrive at the session of the commission on local referendum of individuals who were duly notified of the same shall not prevent such complaint consideration.

4. Copies of the complaint and documents attached thereto shall be issued to the appeal subject and other stakeholders in advance, and if this is impossible – not later than at the beginning of complaint consideration. The appeal subject is entitled to submit written explanations on the merits of the complaint which the commission on local referendum shall take into account.

5. If during complaint consideration, the commission on local referendum deems appropriate to have the law enforcement agencies verify circumstances specified in the complaint, upon the request from the commission on local referendum, respective authorities shall take relevant measures needed to stop violations of the legislation within three days following the request of the commission, and if such request was received less than three days before the voting day, on the voting day or the following day the above steps shall be taken immediately. Relevant authorities addressed by the commission shall notify it of verification results and measures taken.

6. The commission on local referendum makes a decision on complaint dismissal without consideration on the merits if such complaint was submitted by the undue appellant in violation of time limits for appeal established by Article 118 of this Law or if the appeal object is outside the scope of statutory authorities of the respective commission on local referendum.

7. Other issues related to the procedure for complaint consideration by commissions on local referendum shall be determined by the Central Election Commission under the requirements of this Law.

Article 123. Evidence

1. Evidence that the commission on local referendum uses to determine the presence or lack of circumstances justifying demands and objections of the appellant, appeal subject, or stakeholders, as well as other circumstances that are significant for proper complaint consideration, shall include:

1) written documents and materials (including electronic) containing data on circumstances that are significant for proper complaint consideration;

2) written explanations of participants in local referendum initiation procedures, subjects of the local referendum process, officials and officers of public authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government authorities, enterprises, institutions and organisations, relevant law enforcement authorities obtained upon the request of the entity adjudicating complaints, including members of the commission on local referendum needed to exercise the authorities of the said commission;

3) physical evidence;

4) expert opinions provided in writing upon the request from the commission on local referendum – the entity adjudicating complaints, appellant, and appeal subject;

5) audio and video materials.

2. Evidence shall be provided to the commission on local referendum by the appellant, appeal subject, or stakeholders. The commission on local referendum – entity adjudicating complaints – may request additional evidence at its own initiative or at the request from the appellant, appeal subject, or stakeholders.

3. If the appellant, the appeal subject or the person concerned does not provide evidence to confirm the circumstances to which he/she refers, the local referendum commission shall decide the case on the basis of the available evidence.

4. The commission on local referendum shall take into account only those evidence that is relevant to complaint consideration. The commission – entity adjudicating complaints – shall

specify in its decision the fact of dismissal of evidence that are irrelevant for complaint consideration and have no evidentiary force.

5. If there are circumstances (facts) for which the law provides established evidence sources, they cannot be proven using any other sources.

6. Written evidence shall be submitted in the original or in the form of a duly certified copy. If a copy of the written evidence was submitted, the commission on local referendum shall be entitled to request the submission of the original or obtain such original of the written evidence itself. After complaint consideration, the commission shall return the original document at the owner's request, and its certified copy shall stay in complaint files.

7. The commission on local referendum shall assess the adequacy, reliability of each evidence, as well as the sufficiency and correlation of evidence in aggregate as required by the Law. No evidence shall have the pre-determined force, save for circumstances, facts established by the court judgment that took effect.

Article 124. Decision of the Commission on local Referendum Based on Complaint Consideration on the Merits

1. The decision of the commission on local referendum – entity adjudicating complaints – must be legal and justified.

Before considering the complaint on the merits, the commission on local referendum shall study it to determine whether:

1) complaint was submitted by the qualified appellant determined by this Law;

2) this Law refers consideration of this complaint to the authorities of the commission on local referendum (qualified entity adjudicating complaints);

3) appellant submitted the complaint within time limits established by this Law.

3. The commission on local referendum shall make a decision to dismiss the complaint without consideration on the merits if such complaint was filed by the appellant improperly or if it was filed to the undue entity adjudicating complaints or in violation of time limits for appeal determined by this Law.

4. When considering the complaint on the merits concerning the appeal subject, the entity adjudicating complaints shall decide on the following:

1) whether the appeal subject made the contested decision;

2) whether the contested decision was made by the appeal subject based on legal grounds;

3) whether the contested decision was made within the authority and under the statutory procedure;

4) whether the requirements outlined in the complaint can be confirmed by the provided evidence;

5) what legal norms must be applied to these legal relations;

6) whether each of the appellant's requirements is to be satisfied or dismissed;

7) whether appellant's infringed rights or legal interests are to be restored otherwise;

8) what decisions shall be enforced or what steps shall be taken as a result of decision cancellation.

5. When considering the complaint on the merits concerning actions (omissions) on the part of the appeal subject, the entity adjudicating complaints shall decide on the following:

1) whether the contested act (omission) on the part of the appeal subject occurred;

- 2) whether the contested action (omission) was taken by the appeal subject based on legal grounds;
 - 3) what legal norms are to be applied to these legal relation and whether the law refers the consideration of this complaint to the authorities of the entity adjudicating complaints;
 - 4) whether each of the appellant's requirements is to be satisfied or dismissed;
 - 5) whether appellant's infringed rights or legal interests are to be restored otherwise;
 - 6) what decisions are to be enforced and what actions must be taken as a result of the fact of finding contested actions or omissions illegal.
6. When considering the complaint on the merits, the entity adjudicating complaints may satisfy such complaint in full or in part or dismiss it altogether.
7. If the complaint is satisfied, the entity adjudicating complaints may pass a decision to:
- 1) find the appeal subject's decision or its separate provisions, actions, or omission as such that do not meet the requirements of the legislation on local referendum (are illegal), violate citizen rights to participation in the local referendum process, rights and legal interests of the party to the local referendum;
 - 2) revert the contested decision;
 - 3) oblige the appeal subject to take actions stipulated by the legislation governing the organisation and procedure of local referendum;
 - 4) oblige the appeal subject to abstain from taking illegal steps;
 - 5) restore infringed citizen rights, rights and legal interests of the participant of the local referendum initiating procedures, local referendum process subject;
 - 6) oblige the appeal subject and/or another authority, other party to local referendum initiation procedures to take steps stipulated by the legislation regulating the organisation and the procedure of local referendum, acts resulting from the fact of decision cancellation, finding contested actions or omissions illegal.
8. Having determined that decisions, actions, or omissions do not meet the legislation on local referendum, the entity adjudicating complaints shall satisfy the complaint. If the entity adjudicating complaints decides to satisfy the complaint, it may do so for all or a part of appellant's requirements.
9. Based on complaint consideration results, court judgment, or on its own initiative, the higher-level commission on local referendum may revert the decision of the lower-level commission and pass a new decision on the merits.
10. The commission on local referendum shall dismiss the complaint if it determines that decisions, acts, or omissions on the part of the appeal subject were taken under the law and within its authorities stipulated by law and do not infringe voter rights, rights and legal interests of other participants in the local referendum initiation procedures, local referendum process subjects.
11. The copy of the decision of the entity adjudicating complaints shall be issued or sent to the appellant, appeal subject, stakeholder, respective commission on local referendum, other entity referred to in the decision not later than on the day following the day of decision, and should the decision be made the day before the voting day, on the voting day, or the following day, such copy shall be sent immediately.

SECTION XII FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. This Law shall enter into force on the day following the day of its publication, except:

1) Parts 6, 9 of Article 45, Part 4 of Article 108, on entering copies of acts, protocols, resolutions, protocol on local referendum results into the automated information system, Part 18 of Article 31, Part 2 of Article 32 on the obligation of the initiative group to submit electronic signature data to the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, Part 3 of Article 33, which come into force from the day following the day the Central Election Commission makes a decision to put an automated information system into operation.

Before deciding on the putting of an automated information system into operation:

a) copies of acts, protocols, resolutions, and protocol on the local referendum results shall be sent to the Central Election Commission by e-mail;

b) in order to ensure the verification of signatures in support of the local referendum initiative: by the decision of the Local Referendum Territorial Commission, which determines the referendum results in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Part 4, Article 46 of this Law, the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary or other commission members (in total more than nine people), during the entire period of verification of signatures, they can exercise their powers in the local referendum commission with payment for their work in accordance with this Law;

work of local referendum commissions members and persons involved in ensuring their work is carried out on terms and is paid in accordance with Article 60 of this Law according to the rules on the conditions and remuneration for their work in the preparation and conduct of a local referendum;

Within two months from the date of publication of this Law, the Central Election Commission shall approve the average expenditure rates for the financial support of the verification of signatures and the procedure for such a verification financial support planning;

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions, which determine the referendum results, in accordance with the average expenditure rates and the procedure for financial support planning for the verification of signatures, shall determine the amount of funds required for the specified financial support for 2022 and provide relevant information to the rural, settlement, city councils to include the corresponding expenses in the local budget if the commission receives signature lists.

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions that determine the referendum results shall draw up an estimate of the costs of financial support for verification of signatures not later than the next day from the date of receipt of signature lists within the average norms approved by the Central Election Commission.

Local Referendum Territorial Commissions that determine the referendum results shall return the [budget](#) funds unused by them for verification of signatures; they shall draw up and submit to the relevant local council financial reports on the receipt and use of funds from the relevant local budget in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of Article 58 of this Law in accordance with the rules established to return unused funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of a local referendum, drawing up and submitting financial reports on the use of such funds.

2. The following legislative acts of Ukraine must be amended:

1) in the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Ukraine (Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2017, No. 48, p. 436):

Article 122 shall be supplemented with Part 6 of the following content: “6. A fifteen-day period from the date of decision official promulgation shall be set for appealing to the court in cases of appeal against the decision of the territorial community adopted at the local referendum.”

Part 4 of Article 151:

after the word “continuity” shall be supplemented with the words “referendum initiation procedures”;

after the words “all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be supplemented with the words “local referendum”;

in Article 273:

in the first part, the words “as well as the referendum initiative group, other referendum initiation subjects” shall be replaced by the words “referendum process subjects (except for the referendum commission), as well as participants in referendum initiation procedures (except for the referendum commission)”;

in the Part 4, the words “regional referendum commissions and commission of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on the all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be replaced by the words “district commissions on the all-Ukrainian referendum, territorial commissions on the local referendum”;

in Article 275:

in the first part, the words “other subjects of referendum initiation” shall be replaced by the words “party, local party organisation, public organisation, which are participants in referendum initiation procedures, referendum process subjects”;

in Part 2, the words “participant in the all-Ukrainian referendum” should be deleted;

Part 6:

after the words “election dispute” the words “referendum dispute” shall be added;

after the words “Law On Elections” the words “Law On Referendum” shall be added;

after the words “territorial (district) election commission” the words “territorial referendum commission” shall be added.

in Article 276:

name after the words “official observer – the referendum process subject” shall be supplement with the words “party, local party organisation, public organisation carrying out initiative campaigning”;

Part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

“1. Candidate, political party (block), local organisation of a political party, which are subjects of the relevant election process, referendum initiative group, political party, local party organisation, public organisation – referendum process subjects, party, local party organisation, public organisation carrying out initiative campaigning have the right to appeal against the actions or omissions of candidates, their proxies, political party (bloc), local organisation of political party, their officials and authorised persons, official observers of electoral subjects, referendum initiative group, initiative group member, political party, public organisations – referendum process subjects, their authorised persons, official observer – referendum process subject, party, local party organisation, public organisation campaigning for initiatives that violate the law on elections or referendums.

in Part 2, the words “participant in the all-Ukrainian referendum” should be deleted;

in Part 3, all words “all-Ukrainian” should be deleted;

in the title of Article 278 after the word “referendum” the words “referendum initiation procedures” shall be added;

in Article 279, Part 2 after the words “party (bloc)” shall be supplemented with the words “public organisation”;

2) in the Law of Ukraine “On Local Self-Government in Ukraine” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1997, No. 24, p.170):

Article 7 shall be amended to read as follows:

“Article 7 Local Referendum

1. A local referendum is a form of independent decision of local issues by direct voting of a territorial community.

2. The legal basis for the exercise of the people's will through a local referendum, its organisation and procedure are determined by the Law On Local Referendum.”;

in Article 19:

in Part 1, after the words “implementation of local self-government”, the words “territorial community by a referendum” shall be added;

the words “may accept” shall be replaced by the words “may approve”;

Part 4 shall be added as follows:

“4. The territorial community may approve the Charter of the territorial community at a local referendum. The Charter of a territorial community, approved at a local referendum, is subject to entry by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine into the Register of Charters of Territorial Communities. Refusal to enter such a Charter into the Register of Charters of Territorial Communities is not allowed.”

in Article 78:

Part 2 shall be amended to read as follows:

“2. The powers of a village, settlement, city council may be terminated ahead of schedule by a local referendum decision, if there are grounds provided for by paragraphs 1, 2 of Part 1 of this Article, and in other cases. The local referendum procedure on the early termination of the powers of a village, settlement, city council is determined by the Law On Local Referendum.”;

Part 3 shall be removed;

in Article 79:

in Part 3, the words “On Local Referendums” shall be replaced by the words “On Local Referendum”.

Part 3 shall be amended to read as follows:

“3. The powers of a village, settlement, city mayor, if there are grounds provided for in Paragraph 1, Part 2 of this Article, may be terminated early by the local referendum decision or by the relevant council decision, adopted by secret ballot by at least two-thirds of the votes of deputies of the total council composition. The local referendum procedure on the early

termination of the powers of a village, settlement or city mayor shall be determined by the Law On Local Referendum.”;

Part 4 shall be removed;

Paragraph 3 of Part 11 shall be worded as follows:

“3) on the grounds specified in Paragraph 1, Part 2 of this Article – from the date of the official publication of the local referendum results or adoption of a decision by the relevant council on the early termination of powers”;

3) in Part 2, Article 7 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Capital of Ukraine – Hero City Kyiv” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1999, No. 11, p. 79):

in Paragraph 1, the words “of the territorial community of the city of Kyiv, adopted by a local referendum, or by a decision” shall be removed;

in the Paragraph 2, the words “territorial community of the city of Kyiv or” shall be removed;

4) in Clause 15, Part 4 of Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Status of a Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2007, No. 14, p. 168) the words “or for a republican (local) referendum” shall be removed;

5) in Article 5 of the Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Names” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2005, No. 27, p.360):

in Part 6, the words “opinions of the majority of the population living in the territory where these facilities are located. The opinion of the majority of population shall be taken into account in accordance with the Law on Referendums” shall be replaced by the words “the local referendum decision on these issues in the territorial community where such facilities are located”;

in Part 12, the words “the opinion of the majority of population living in the territory where these facilities are located, in accordance with the Law On Referendums” shall be replaced by the words “local referendum decision on these issues in the territorial community where such facilities are located”;

6) in the Paragraph 4, Part 1 of Article 5 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Decision-Making Procedure on Placement, Design, Construction of Nuclear Installations and Facilities Intended for Treatment of Radioactive Waste that are of National Importance” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2005, No. 51, p. 555):

the words “consultative referendum results” shall be replaced by the words “report on the public consultations results”;

the words “if it was carried out in administrative-territorial units” shall be removed;

7) in Part 2, Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1998, No. 29, p. 191), Paragraph 3 shall be removed;

8) in the Law of Ukraine “On Voluntary Association of Territorial Communities” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2015, No. 13, p. 91):

in Article 7:

in Part 5, the words “or on holding of a local referendum to support the unification of territorial communities” shall be removed;

in Part 7, the words “and also in the case of support for the voluntary unification of territorial communities at a local referendum” shall be removed;

in Part 1 of Article 8, the words “or from the moment the decision to support the voluntary unification of territorial communities at a local referendum comes into force” shall be removed;
9) in the Law of Ukraine “On the State Register of Voters” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2011, No. 5, p. 34; 2014, No. 20–21, p. 731; 2020, Nos 7–9 , p. 48):

Part 3 of Article 7 after the words “at all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be supplemented with the words “or at local referendum”;

Part 1 of Article 21 shall be supplemented with Paragraph 3 as follows:

“3) whether his/her personal data was used to support the local referendum initiative at the initiative of voters”;

in Article 26:

in Part 1:

Clause 1 shall be supplemented with the words “polling stations of the all-Ukrainian referendum, local referendum”;

Clause 2 shall be supplemented with the words “of local referendum”;

in Part 2:

after the words “all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be supplemented with the words “local referendum”;

after the words “candidates for the election commission members”, the words “referendum commissions” shall be added;

10) Clause 4, Part 11 of Article 14 of the Law of Ukraine “On Political Parties in Ukraine” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,

2001, No. 23, p. 118; 2015, Nos. 49-50, p. 449; 2020, No. 35, p. 254), the words “of the fund for campaigning on the local referendum initiative, of referendum fund”;

11) Clauses 8-1, Part 1, Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On Preventing Corruption” (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2014, No. 49, p. 2056; 2015, Nos. 49-50, p. 449) after the words “reports on the receipt and use of funds from the All-Ukrainian Referendum Fund”, the words “reports on the receipt and use of funds from the fund campaigning the local referendum initiative, reports on the receipt and use of funds from the local referendum fund” shall be added;

12) In the Law of Ukraine “On the All-Ukrainian Referendum” of 26 January 2021 No. 1135-IX:

the words “automated information and telecommunication system” in all cases shall be replaced by the words “automated information system” in the corresponding cases;

in Article 23:

Part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

“1. To organise and conduct an all-Ukrainian referendum, an automated information system for organising referendums is used, which is a separate component of the Unified automated information and analytical system of the Central Election Commission (hereinafter referred to as the automated information system).”

Paragraphs shall be added to read as follows:

“The Central Election Commission, district and precinct election commissions (upon the decision of the Central Election Commission if technically possible) shall ensure interaction with the initiative group, parties (party organisations), and other subjects of the all-Ukrainian referendum process by electronic services in accordance with this Law. The procedure for using electronic services is established by the Central Election Commission.

In case of submission of documents provided by this Law to election commissions using electronic services, such documents must meet the requirements of the Laws of Ukraine [“On Electronic Documents and Electronic Document Management”](#) and [“On Electronic Trust Services”](#). The person who certifies the document with his/her qualified electronic signature shall be responsible for the authenticity of copies of documents submitted to election commissions in electronic form.”

in Article 24:

in the title before the words “subjects of the all-Ukrainian referendum process”, the words “Participants in the referendum initiation procedures” shall be added;

Part 2 shall be added as follows:

“2. The participants in the procedures for creating an all-Ukrainian referendum initiative group, its registration, collection of signatures in support of the all-Ukrainian referendum initiative, initiative campaigning, counting and verifying signatures, proclaiming an all-Ukrainian referendum on a popular initiative (hereinafter referred to as the participants in the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation procedure) are:

- 1) voter;
- 2) Central Election Commission;
- 3) all-Ukrainian referendum initiative group, set up under this Law;
- 6) initiative group member;
- 5) political party, public organisation campaigning for the initiative;
- 6) official observer from the initiative group for all-Ukrainian referendums, public organisations if their statutory activities include matters related to the election process and the all-Ukrainian and/or local referendum or ensuring the electoral rights of citizens of Ukraine, registered following the requirements of this Law.

in Article 30:

in Paragraph 2, Part 10, the words “application for appointment” shall be replaced by the words “decision on election”;

Part 14 shall be amended to read as follows:

“14. Within ten days from the date of meeting, the authorised representative of the initiative group shall submit to the Central Election Commission the meeting minutes (with annexes), decisions of the meeting on election of the authorised representative of the initiative group, and written statements of each member of the initiative group on the consent to be a member of the initiative group, a written statement of the person on the consent to be an authorised representative of the initiative group.

These documents may be submitted using electronic services in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Election Commission.

The list of participants and the list of members of the initiative group shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission in compliance with the requirements of the Law On Personal Data Protection in electronic form in the form of open data using electronic services or by sending them to the official e-mail of the Central Election Commission.

Part 10 of Article 32 shall be amended to read as follows:

“10. The initiative group member, who collected signatures, shall transmit to the Central Election Commission the data of voters collected on the signature sheets in support of the all-Ukrainian referendum using electronic services, in electronic form, organised in a format that allows its automated processing by electronic means (machine reading) for the purpose of re-use (hereinafter referred to as the subscription electronic data), according to the form approved by the Central Election Commission. The accuracy of the specified data presented in electronic form shall be confirmed by the initiative group member that collected signatures, by affixing his/her own qualified electronic signature”.

Paragraph 2, Part 1 of Article 35 after the words “Central Election Commission” shall be supplemented with the words “in accordance with the procedure prescribed by it”;

Part 4 of Article 45 shall be supplemented with paragraph to read as follows:

“Submissions for candidacies to the district election commissions for the all-Ukrainian referendum may be submitted to the Central Election Commission by means of electronic services in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.”

Part 4 of Article 47 shall be supplemented with paragraph to read as follows:

“Submissions for candidacies to the precinct election commissions for the all-Ukrainian referendum may be submitted to the Central Election Commission by means of electronic services in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.”

in Part 9 of Article 51, the words “commission on the all-Ukrainian referendum drawn up by district commission and commission on the all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be removed;

in Part 18 of Article 57, the words “automated information and telecommunication system” shall be replaced by the words “State Register of Voters”;

Part 7 of Article 72 shall be removed;

Part 1 of Article 75 shall be supplemented with paragraph to read as follows:

“An application for registration may be submitted by means of electronic services in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.”

Part 5 of Article 83 shall be supplemented with paragraph to read as follows:

“The documents for registration of an official observer can be submitted to the Central Election Commission by means of electronic services in accordance with the procedure determined by the Central Election Commission.”

Paragraph 4, Part 2 of Article 93 shall be removed

in Article 109:

Part 1 shall be supplemented with new sentences to read as follows:

“The protocol of a precinct commission on the all-Ukrainian referendum on counting votes at the all-Ukrainian referendum precinct may be prepared using technical means. The procedure for the preparation and requirements for the protocols of the precinct commission on the all-Ukrainian referendum on counting votes at the the all-Ukrainian referendum precinct shall be established by the Central Election Commission.”

Part 8 shall be amended to read as follows:

“8. In the case of using an automated information system by a precinct election commission, the Secretary of the commission or a responsible person determined by the decision of the precinct election commission shall enter the information required for drawing up a protocol on the votes counting into the automated information system and check them by means of this system.

If the protocol is filled in correctly, the Commission Secretary or the person in charge shall:

1) make four copies of the protocol on counting votes at the polling station and hand them over to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and other members of the precinct election commission for signing and affixing a seal of the precinct election commission. Printed protocol copies shall have a unique security digital element (for example, QR code) that identifies and links the specified protocol with the record entered in the automated information system containing the protocol information.

2) after signing the printed copies of the protocol on counting votes by all members of the commission present at the meeting, put his/her own qualified electronic signature on the protocol sheet and send them to the automated information system.”

in Article 112:

Part 8 shall be amended to read as follows:

“8. From the moment of the voting end and the beginning of the adoption by the district commission for the all-Ukrainian referendum of the protocols on the counting of votes at the precincts of the all-Ukrainian referendum, the district commission for the all-Ukrainian referendum shall enter operational information on the counting of votes at the precincts of the all-Ukrainian referendum into the automated information system (hereinafter referred to as the information on the votes counting).”

Part 9 shall be amended to read as follows:

“9. Immediately after the Chairman of the district commission on the all-Ukrainian referendum (presiding at the commission meeting) has announced the content of the protocol of precinct commission for the all-Ukrainian referendum, the Chairman (presiding at the meeting) shall announce the protocol information and, if there are relevant acts, transfer it to the system administrator in order to enter the relevant information into the automated information system to check its completeness and correctness.

In case of use of the automated information system by the precinct election commission and availability of information on counting of votes in the automated information system, the system administrator shall check the compliance of the content of the protocol of precinct commission with the information entered into the system by the precinct commission.

When entering or verifying such information, the system administrator shall check the correctness of filling in the protocol by means of an automated information system and confirm this information by applying his/her own qualified electronic signature.

The system administrator, automated information system operators, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the district commission on the all-Ukrainian referendum (presiding at the meeting), commission members, authorised persons of the subjects of the all-Ukrainian referendum process, official observers have the right to be present in the premises where the protocol information is entered and verified.

Part 10 shall be supplemented with Clause 3 as follows:

“3) printed information shall have a unique security digital element (for example, a QR code) that identifies and links this information with the record made in the automated information system containing the protocol information.”

Part 11 of Article 114 shall be amended to read as follows:

“11. Information on the voting results in territorial district of the all-Ukrainian referendum is collected and entered into the automated information system only after entering information on counting of votes in all precincts from the all-Ukrainian referendum of such a territorial district to this system.”

in Article 123:

Part 2 after the words “Appealing decisions, actions or omissions related to“ shall be supplemented with the words “procedures for the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation”;

Part 3, after the words “Appeals against decisions, actions or omissions related to” shall be supplemented with the words “procedures for the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation”;

Part 4, after the words “law enforcement agencies organise their work during the“ shall be supplemented with the words ”procedures for the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation”;

Clause 4, Part 2 of Article 124 after the words “opponent to the issue of the all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be supplemented with the words “a political party, public organisation participating in initiative campaigning”;

in Part 1 of Article 125:

the first paragraph after the words “with a complaint about“ shall be supplemented with the words “procedures for the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation”;

Clause 3 after the words “subject of the all-Ukrainian referendum process” shall be supplemented with the words “a political party participating in the initiative campaigning”;

Clause 4 after the words “subject of the all-Ukrainian referendum process” shall be supplemented with the words “public organisation participating in the initiative campaigning”;

Part 1 of Article 126 after the words “opponent to the issue of the all-Ukrainian referendum” shall be supplemented with the words “a political party, public organisation, carrying out initiative campaigning”;

Article 128 shall be supplemented with part five to read as follows:

“5. The Central Election Commission may introduce electronic services for submitting complaints to the All-Ukrainian Referendum Commission.”

Clause 2, Part 1 of Article 132, after the words “written explanations”, shall be supplemented with the words “participants in the referendum initiation procedures”;

in Article 133:

in Part 7:

Clause 1 after the words “rights and legitimate interests” shall be supplemented with the words and “participant in the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation procedures”;

Clause 5 after the words “rights and legitimate interests” shall be supplemented with the words and “participant in the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation procedures”;

Part 10 after the words “rights and legitimate interests of other” shall be supplemented with the words “participants in the all-Ukrainian referendum initiation procedures”;

13) In the Electoral Code of Ukraine (The Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020, Nos. 7 to 9, p. 48):

Article 38 shall be supplemented with new Part 9 to read as follows:

“9. A member of the city, city district, settlement, village territorial election commission in the local referendum initiation procedures, in organising and holding a local referendum has the status of a member of Local Referendum Territorial Commission, provided for by the Law On Local Referendum.”

in Article 208:

Part 2 shall be supplemented with a new Paragraph 2 as follows: “The powers of the entire composition of the city, city district, settlement, village territorial election commission may be terminated ahead of schedule on the grounds and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Law On Local Referendum.”

shall be supplemented with new Part 10 to be read as follows:

“10. The powers of a member of a city, city district, settlement, village territorial election commission shall also be terminated ahead of schedule on the grounds and in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Law On Local Referendum.”

3. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall:

1) within two months from the date of entry into force of this Law, prepare and submit to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine proposals for bringing the laws of Ukraine into conformity with this Law;

2) within three months from the date when this Law enters into force:

ensure the adoption of regulatory legal acts stipulated by this Law;

bring its regulatory legal acts in line with this Law;

ensure reconsideration and reversion by ministries and other central executive authorities of their regulatory legislative acts that are contrary to this Law;

4. The Central Election Commission shall:

1) within three months from the date when this Law enters into force:

ensure the adoption of acts stipulated by this Law;

bring its regulatory legal acts in line with this Law;

2) not later than nine months from the day following the day after the entry into force of the Law On State Budget, which provides for funds for the creation of an automated information system, ensure the creation of such a system and its commissioning.

5. Within two months from the date of entry into force of this Law the National Bank of Ukraine shall:

in agreement with the Central Election Commission, determine the procedure for opening and closing accounts of local referendum funds;

bring its regulatory legal acts in line with this Law;

6. Arranging a local referendum in villages, settlements and cities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, within the city of Sevastopol, in villages, settlements and cities of certain districts of Donetsk and Lugansk regions is possible three years after the return of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions under the general jurisdiction of Ukraine. The return of the above-mentioned territories under the general jurisdiction of Ukraine means the termination of the temporary occupation and armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, namely: withdrawal of all illegal armed formations managed, controlled and financed by the Russian Federation, Russian occupation forces and their military equipment from the territory of Ukraine; restoration of full control of Ukraine along the state border of Ukraine; disarmament of all illegal armed groups and mercenaries operating in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine; restoration of the constitutional and legal order in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine; ensuring the security of Ukrainian citizens living in the respective territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the city of Sevastopol, after the full completion of the disarmament, demilitarisation and reintegration procedures in the respective territories in accordance with the standards of the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

7. Members of city, city district, settlement, village territorial election commissions who took the oath before the entry into force of this Law shall also acquire the status of members of the respective territorial referendum commissions from the date of entry into force of this Law.