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ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT ELECTIONS ABROAD IN 2022

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SPECIAL REPORT

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Moscow, 2023

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has been fostering the monitoring of elections and referenda in Russia and abroad since 2012. Within this decade, a unique institution of public monitoring has been created to ensure transparency and legitimacy of electoral procedures in Russia and a wealth of experience has been gained in monitoring elections and referenda abroad.

The present Report was prepared by the Civic Chamber representatives to sum up the results of 10 observation missions carried out in 2022. The Report provides a review and analysis of electoral standards and practices in Abkhazia, Angola, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Serbia, South Ossetia, and Tunisia.

The authors hope that the materials provided will encourage further discussion of monitoring electoral procedures in Russia and abroad among expert and academic communities, public authorities, Russian and foreign NGOs, as well as international and intergovernmental organizations that are engaged in monitoring elections.

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The members of the Civic Chamber Election Observation Missions are deeply grateful to the heads and diplomatic staff of Russian foreign missions in Abkhazia, Angola, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Serbia, South Ossetia, and Tunisia for their assistance and cooperation.

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The Civic Chamber
Observation Missions as a Soft Power Tool



Lydia Mikheeva,
President,
Civic Chamber
of the Russian Federation

Given the context of aggravating international relations, the deployment of observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to elections and referenda abroad served as one of the key tracks of public diplomacy and a broad space for intercountry contacts in 2022.

Having a decade-long background in public monitoring of electoral processes in Russia and abroad, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, initiated, back in 2021, the deployment of its own election observation missions, whose members would receive the status of international observers. In 2022 alone, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation succeeded in deploying 10 election observation missions to various foreign countries, thus gaining unique experience by analyzing a wide range of contemporary electoral

practices and methods used in different countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Considering the present geopolitical realities, the election observation model developed and applied by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation serves to facilitate and maintain effective cooperation and strengthens friendly relations between states. Overseas election observation missions, as an institution, provide ways to share practices based on a systematic approach and promote the Russian format of international election observation.

At the same time, the records and findings of the election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation provide convincing evidence for the fact that Russia uses cutting-edge technologies in the administration and public

monitoring of elections and that Russian electoral standards, in quite a few aspects, are far more advanced than the current international practices.

The deployment of the election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at elections of various levels in Abkhazia, Angola, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Serbia, South Ossetia, and Tunisia in 2022 clearly indicated that there is a demand for the Russian expertise among our peers abroad. The working meetings with foreign officials, representatives of government authorities, constituencies, political organizations and parties, civil society, as well as parliament members and experts, held as part of the election observation missions' agenda, demonstrated that the Russian electoral practices are relevant and in high demand in the host countries.

The key elements of the Russian electoral system today – clear and comprehensive legislation, a widespread system of public oversight that covers all types of elections, advanced technologies, as well as a comprehensive election monitoring system that is one of the most open in the world – are becoming one of the most effective tools for exercising soft power and promoting Russian social and humanitarian agenda abroad.

I may safely say that the election observation missions have become the new platform for dialogue with representatives of foreign state bodies and civil society, ensuring that the international cooperation of civil society institutions is not only maintained but advances further. Continuing activities of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on the international track, along with deploying new overseas election observation missions, shall include efforts to expand the interchange

of best practices and expertise in various areas of electoral monitoring as well as to promote the expert dialogue with all interested representatives of nonprofits and NGOs that focus on monitoring elections.

Some of the promising tracks for our further efforts may include international educational projects for committed individuals from other countries, as well as partnering with relevant organizations abroad to develop common approaches to managing and training independent international monitors, with consideration for the specifics of various regions or countries, in order to encourage multipolar dialogue on elections and broader related matters.

Publishing of this Special Report is an important step in gaining international recognition of the public monitoring center of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

**Sergey Lavrov,
Foreign Minister
of the Russian Federation**

Address



Dear friends,

We bring to your attention the Report of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation that presents the outcomes of election observation in various countries in 2022.

Russia's representatives make significant contribution to the work of international observation missions. Their activity is felt especially at the venues of the CIS, CSTO, and SCO. The monitoring of electoral processes is based on bilateral agreements, and it is hard to overestimate the efforts of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in this context.

During 2022, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation initiated

the deployment of its own election observation missions to Abkhazia, Angola, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Serbia, South Ossetia, and Tunisia. The inherent principle that guides Russian experts when analyzing electoral campaigns is unbiased approach to assessment coupled with consideration for the unique national specifics of each nation.

Without any doubt, the integrated data of the findings of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors will be of use for other agencies involved in election observation and for a wide range of experts and researchers in the relevant fields.

Sergey Lavrov

**Ella Pamfilova,
Chair, Central Election
Commission of the Russian
Federation**

Address



Dear readers,

International election monitoring is an integral part of the Russian electoral practices and is codified as such by the Russian legislation. From 1996 on, our country has welcomed foreign (international) observers at its elections. As a rule, these observers include our peers from foreign election management bodies, as well as representatives of international organizations that specialize in electoral legislation, electoral practices, and the protection of the electoral rights of citizens.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) of Russia representatives, in their turn, have been involved in monitoring elections abroad as members of delegations or international missions for more than 25 years of CEC international relations.

This experience of mutual observation and study of foreign practices of organizing elections and referenda, without any doubt, serves to further improvement of national electoral systems.

Besides, when participating in election observation missions and comparing their records with the accounts of certain Western international agencies that present themselves as an undisputed authority in the area of suffrage protection, one inevitably sees

the need for further fine-tuning of standards for international observation with the account of its core principles – objectivity, independence, and complete lack of any political or ideological bias.

In this context, public monitoring as an institution is of crucial importance. Since 2017, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, as well as regional civic chambers, have been legally empowered to deploy their representatives to monitor elections. Within the last 5 years, hundreds of thousands of qualified observers have been trained to monitor all the minute details of electoral procedures without any political bias.

Evidently this resource could be used not only for national needs but also for monitoring elections and referenda abroad. In 2022 alone, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation deployed 10 short-term observation missions overseas.

The CEC of Russia is quite optimistic about the first efforts of our colleagues in the realm of international election observation. Without any doubt, the work must be continued. I believe that the new international experience gained by our colleagues will serve to further improve comprehensive public monitoring of elections in Russia as well.

Ella Pamfilova

International Election Observation: Prospects for a New Activity Track for the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Alexander Shkolnik,
Vice President,
Civic Chamber
of the Russian Federation

Ever since the establishment of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation back in 2005, international cooperation has been one of its key priorities. Much has been done to foster dialogue between civil society institutions in various countries, encourage further international humanitarian and cultural cooperation, and promote Russian values abroad.

The international activity of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation includes various tracks and aims to maximize the inclusion of the organization, as the platform that coordinates the efforts of Russian civil society, into the work of influential international institutions.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has been quite effective in promoting the Russian agenda and perspective on relevant international issues by establishing bilateral partnerships with international institutions and engaging in multilateral interactions that cover a wide range of social and humanitarian issues.

However, in light of the complicated international situation and unprecedented pressure exercised on Russia by the West, many opportunities and channels of international cooperation have become unavailable for the Russian state and public institutions. Despite this fact, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, due to the previously established connections and respect it has earned among its foreign peers, continued its international cooperation in the fields of electoral and public diplomacy by deploying election observation missions abroad in 2022.

Active participation in international election observation has presented the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation with a new platform for international civil dialogue and networking, as well as granted it a unique opportunity to offer the rich electoral expertise of Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation members to partners abroad, and this expertise has proven to be in high demand. This was clearly demonstrated at many working meetings with the heads of election management bodies in the host countries, as well as when interacting with other observers at elections.

It is worth mentioning that the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation members often served as the first Russian representatives to monitor elections in certain countries, which made them something of pioneers. I am sure that this initiative benefits Russian bilateral relations and serves to promote Russian interests abroad.

The project of deploying election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation abroad and promotion of international election monitoring as an institution encourages us to consider possibilities of forming joint missions with partnering international civil society organizations.

I am confident that international observation of elections and referenda will not only enrich the electoral expertise of the members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation but will prove to be an effective tool for international cooperation in the field of civil society.

The Concept of Deployment of the Civic Chamber Observation Missions Abroad



Maxim Grigoriev,
Chair, Coordination Council
under the Civic Chamber of
the Russian Federation
for Public Oversight
over Voting

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was established in accordance with the Federal Law No. 32-FZ of April 4, 2005, "On the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation." The objective of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is to protect the interests, rights, and freedoms of the citizens, as well as exercise public monitoring over government bodies.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation together with the regional civic chambers has been engaged in public oversight to ensure the observance of the electoral rights of Russian citizens since 2012. This was also the starting point for the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to become involved in public monitoring of elections and referenda abroad.

In 2017, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, along with the regional civic chambers, was granted the right to appoint observers to electoral commissions during presidential election as well as regional and municipal elections. This innovation was aimed at empowering civil society institutions involved in public monitoring of the electoral process and it was reflected in laws and acts of all the constituent territories of the Russian Federation. Similar changes were seen in the procedure of appointing observers to the Russian polling station commissions working abroad.

In order to further improve and expand the efforts of public monitoring over the electoral process, the Coordination Council for Public Oversight over Voting was formed within the 7th composition of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation (2020–2023). The Council assumed the function of developing national

standards for public oversight, creating the corps of public observers, facilitating interaction between all participants of the electoral process during election oversight, as well as forming and deploying election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation during elections and referenda abroad.

Thus, within the last decade, a unique institution of public monitoring of electoral procedures was formed under the auspices of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, and it has become an integral part of the electoral process, securing its transparency and openness.

Within this timeframe, the international observers from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, acting as members of international missions, have gained extensive experience in monitoring elections and referenda in foreign countries and have developed their own methodology of monitoring.

Public monitoring encourages attention to, interest in, and trust for new information technologies employed during online electronic voting. Public observers actively confront infringements during elections, as well as falsification, mudslinging, release of unverified information, or other attempts to discredit the elections, and thus ensure the protection of electoral rights from any manipulations by unfriendly external forces.

Objectives of the Election Observation Missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, in deploying its observation missions, sets the following objectives:

- monitor independently and objectively the activities that would ensure integrity and transparency of electoral procedures in accordance with the basic democratic election standards, electoral rights, and freedoms;
- study electoral norms and practices used in organizing and conducting elections and referenda in order to identify and share best practices and draw recommendations for further improvement of electoral procedures to be passed on to the national bodies of the respective countries in charge of organizing and conducting elections;
- improve the level of public trust in democratic procedures in the countries where the observation missions are deployed.

Legal framework for election monitoring abroad

The observation activity of the members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at elections or referenda abroad is regulated by the following documents:

- Federal Law No. 32-FZ of April 4, 2005, "On the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation";
- Federal Law No. 212-FZ of July 21, 2014, "On the Foundations of the Public Oversight in the Russian Federation";
- Code of Ethics of a Public Observer of Electoral Procedures Abroad, of March 23, 2020;
- Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, of October 27, 2005, United Nations, New York;
- Declaration of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- Electoral legislation and regulatory acts of the host country.

Principles for organizing and conducting international election monitoring

The key principles for organizing and carrying out international election monitoring by members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation are the following:

- accessible, open, politically neutral, unbiased, and nonpartisan nature of monitoring;
- respect of the state sovereignty and refuse to use international monitoring to interfere in domestic affairs of the host state;
- inadmissibility of politicizing elections and referenda no using arbitrary criteria for their assessment;
- inappropriateness of double standards when assessing the national electoral legislation and practices used in organizing elections, of explicit or implicit pressure on the participants on the part of their states or international organizations;
- refuse to use false or unverified information;
- support to exercising suffrage by citizens;
- necessary expertise and training of the observers, including the study of electoral legislation and procedures of the host country;
- security of the observation mission members and conditions that make their work objective and unbiased;
- integrity and conscientiousness, respect for the legitimate interests of election process participants.

Specifics of Election Observation Missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at elections and referenda abroad

A standard observation mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is short-term, that is, it is deployed a few days prior to the voting day(s) and concludes its work a few days after the voting

day(s). The approximate duration of mission deployment in a host country is 4 to 5 days.

The short-term nature of such missions is offset by the following means:

- preliminary analysis of the electoral processes in the host state;
- preliminary analysis of publications discussing the electoral processes and political structure in the mass media of the host state;
- a detailed background report on the host state focusing on the specifics of its political situation and election system;
- interaction with other observation missions deployed to the same elections.

Election observation methodology

The high quality of public monitoring is ensured by the Gold Standard which serves as methodological guidelines for observation activities during elections and referenda in Russia and abroad. The Gold Standard is a set of criteria for assessing preparation, organization, conducting, and vote counting that is used by the observers at any given election to monitor the compliance of the electoral process to the relevant legal norms at all stages.

The methodology developed by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in collaboration with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation is in full accord with the international election standards that foster democratic development of states and ensure electoral rights and freedoms of citizens.

The activity of election observation mission abroad and monitoring prior to election day

Upon arrival, the members of the election observation mission, as a rule, meet with the representatives

The Gold Standard of public monitoring methodology



of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in order to discuss issues relevant to the work of the mission in the host country (current social and political situation, security and logistics, registration of their arrival, etc.) and receive necessary recommendations as to their work.

The mission members also meet with the representatives of the body (or, bodies) responsible for organizing and running elections in order to finalize the accreditation process (for instance, receive IDs or badges, if they were not procured beforehand), discuss the format of work at the polling stations, and exchange views on various aspects of the electoral agenda. When meeting with the body (or, bodies) responsible for organizing and running elections, the mission members should:

- get familiarized with the ballot papers and ways they are protected from possible counterfeit;
- get familiarized with the procedure how ballots are to be extracted from the ballot boxes and votes counted;
- analyze the process set for appealing the vote outcome and registration of complaints regarding infringements of voting and vote counting procedures;
- find out information about the availability of early voting, voting at home, postal or electronic voting and the norms and procedures pertaining to these;
- receive copies of documents and legal acts regulating the elections;
- learn about the registration process for voters and candidates;
- learn about the restrictions for election campaign funding;
- study the underlying principle of drawing electoral district/constituency boundaries;

- study methods used in selecting and training local observers (if any);
- learn about availability of educational or awareness events for voters.

The next step in the work of an election observation mission is establishing contacts with stakeholders. It is important to understand the role of the army, police, and other law enforcement agencies within the political framework of a given state and how these may potentially influence the outcome of the elections. Whenever possible, it is recommended to get in touch with other observation missions deployed to the same country in order to secure the exchange of relevant information.

In light of the mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation (its members being affiliated with the main institution of Russian civil society), networking and collaboration with representatives of nonprofit organizations and independent public observers becomes a priority.

Actions of election observation mission members on the voting day(s)

On the day(s) of voting, the mission members monitor various polling stations, arriving at the station prior to its opening and remaining there until it is closed and the vote counting is over, taking notes and registering in an unbiased manner any possible infringements of the electoral procedures. Their work at polling stations is to result in an objective and balanced assessment of the conducted elections.

Guided by the Gold Standard methodology, the mission members use the following

monitoring algorithm in their work at polling stations.

Upon their arrival at a polling station, mission members must introduce themselves to the polling station staff and other observers, and start taking observation notes thereafter. Besides, the observers must check whether the polling station is equipped with all the materials necessary for voting (ballots, ballot boxes, polling booths, etc.).

Before the voting starts, the ballot boxes must be inspected to ensure they are empty and to prevent ballot-stuffing, and the exact number of voters registered for the given polling station shall be clarified.

Once the voting starts, the mission members shall consider the following at the first or any other polling station during election day:

- how voting is organized and whether it is accessible for people with limited mobility or disabilities;
- presence of political party or candidate representatives at the polling station;
- work of the polling station committee staff;
- duration of the voting procedure;
- procedure of voter identification;
- voting procedure algorithm;
- confidentiality/secrecy of voting;
- denying eligible voters the opportunity to vote at the polling station;
- number of absentee registered voters;
- number of voters seeking assistance during voting;
- voter complaints and appeals;
- security of ballot boxes at the polling stations;
- level of stakeholder satisfaction (or the lack thereof) with the way voting is organized at the station (political parties, candidates, voters).

Voting completed and the polling stations closed, the mission members observe vote counting: they monitor the procedure of opening the ballot boxes and ballot paper counting and confirm the accuracy of the polling station commission minutes.

If the vote counting is performed at specialized tallying centers, rather than at polling stations, which implies the transportation of ballot papers, the mission members, if they have the appropriate mandate, shall monitor the transportation of ballot boxes and papers as well.

Actions of election observation mission members after the voting day

As soon as election day(s) is over, the election observation mission reviews possible cases for complaints regarding electoral procedure infringements, making detailed notes of each case in order to pass on the information to the relevant authorities. Should an official statement about an incident be made, the observer, as a rule, includes the following details:

- number of complaints/appeals;
- name and address of the claimant;
- date and place of the incident;
- substance of the complaint/appeal (illegal registration of voters, ballot-stuffing, registered voters being refused the right to vote at the polling station, etc.);
- incident summary (circumstances of the incident and witnesses);
- comments and actions taken by the observer.

Final Report of the Election Observation Mission

Upon their return to Russia, the election observation mission draws a Final Report on the elections observed that includes the following sections:

- Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates;
- Election Significance;
- Electoral System;
- Electoral Legislation;
- Election Administration and Election Management Bodies;
- Voter Registration, Numbers of Eligible Voters, and Turnout;
- Candidate Registration;
- List of Registered Candidates;
- Election Observation Institutions;
- Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate;
- Objectives of the Election Observation Mission;
- Legal Framework of the Election Observation Mission Deployment;
- Composition of Election Observation Mission;
- Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission;
- Election Observation Methodology;
- Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions;
- Observation Findings on Election Day;
- Complaints and Infringements;
- Election Observation Mission Conclusions;
- Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement;
- Annexes.

The Final Report is published on the website of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in Russian and English and is sent to:

- the national agencies of the host country responsible for organizing and running the elections;
- the diplomatic mission of the host country in Russia;
- international and national nonprofit organizations that focus on the electoral agenda;
- the relevant international and intergovernmental organizations (OSCE, IPA CIS, OIC, the African Union, the League of Arab States, etc.);
- the relevant Russian state agencies and research institutions.

Best Practices in Election Administration. Records of the Civic Chamber Observation Missions Abroad



Andrey Maximov,
Chair, Commission of the
Civic Chamber of the Russian
Federation on Territorial
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In process of organizing public life and the state it seems natural to look up to institutions that may serve as role models, institutions that have proven their resilience and ability to deliver on specific objectives. It is not by chance that we see 'similarities', for instance, in constitutional and territorial forms of government, government bodies, or control mechanisms. The same could be said of the electoral systems: one may notice similar methods used for voting, vote tallying, identification of winners (so-called quota), eligibility criteria for voters and candidates to participate in elections, or the formats of media coverage of elections. However, only certain states are given the privilege of being a role model, the states that are seen as developed and worthy to serve as beacons to others. We are used to the US, the UK, France, or Germany being referred to as paragons for setting the standards for organizing elections, and sometimes we may use neighboring countries as a frame of reference (for their experience is more relatable for us), yet we hardly ever hear of Asian, African, or Latin American countries mentioned as the source of best practices. The world, however, is much more varied than one individual perspective, and this applies to the electoral systems as well.

In deploying observation missions to elections and referenda in various countries, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation not only strives to ensure

compliance with the norms of international law and electoral legislation of the host countries, but it also promotes the best electoral practices generated in Russia and seeks to learn from its counterparts abroad. In 2021-2022, members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation participated in international election observation in 14 different states, including 8 Eurasian and 6 African countries. In so doing, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation members heavily relied on the experience gained through the decade-long work of the unique public monitoring institution established by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to ensure transparency and legitimacy of electoral procedures.

The analysis of electoral legislation, ways of preparing and conducting elections, and electoral procedures of the host countries provides valuable insights and a broader perspective on how the election process could be organized, and some of these insights could serve to further develop the electoral systems of the CIS countries.

While monitoring electoral systems and procedures, the observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation focused on 3 key aspects that could be potentially applicable: the representation level of elections, transparency of the electoral process, and feasibility (convenience) of the electoral procedures. Below we present details of the most interesting of the observed practices.

Representation level of elections

When discussing the representation level of elections, the expert community tends to focus on the comparison of various proportional and majoritarian systems, their pros and cons. The discussion on which election system is better is unlikely to have a clear-cut answer; however, some practical provisions that aim to secure a higher level of representation are quite noteworthy.

One of the main tools to secure the equal representation of men and women is gender quotas (a mandatory percentage for women candidates). Thus, according to the Gender Parity Law of the Republic of Senegal, of May 28, 2010, there are requirements for gender balance that ensure the alteration of male and female candidates in the candidate list. If the number of candidates is not even, the parity principle is followed by making sure the last candidate on the list is of the sex opposite to the proceeding one. In Armenia, candidates of the same gender must not comprise more than 70% of the electoral list, and this principle also applies to every 3 successive candidates on the list. In the Republic of the Congo, the number of female candidates must not be less than 30%, and in the Republic of Serbia, as of 2020, not less than 40% of the candidates on the list must be women. In the Republic of Kenya, there is an extensive system of quotas based on gender, social status, and age. For instance, 47 of 349 seats in the lower house of the Parliament, i.e., the National Assembly, are allocated specifically for women representing various regions of the country, and the legislature of all levels have

a certain number of seats allocated for party nominees from among the young and the disabled. Besides, the party lists should follow the same principles of gender equality, according to which members of the same sex cannot occupy more than 2/3 of seats in the elective government bodies.

In some of the countries that hosted the election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation (e.g., the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Kenya), there are provisions for nominating not only candidates but also their deputies. The availability of this alternates in the ballot not only allows to avoid by-elections in case of the withdrawal of an elected official; it also expands the pool of candidates and presents a more comprehensive picture of candidates and their teams and political entourage to the voter. As a rule, the alternate is required to be of the sex opposite to the main candidate; however, this type of gender quota can hardly be seen as sufficient or just, as the status of the main candidate is far from being equal to that of the deputy.

An interesting facet to ensuring equal representation could be seen in the requirements for securing fair ethnic representation in Serbia and Armenia, and the efforts to ensure equal denominational representation in Lebanon.

In Lebanon, as maintained by the National Reconciliation Accord of 1989, parliament seats are in proportion with the percentage of votes cast for candidate lists and the denominational quotas defined for each given constituency. While registering for elections, a candidate should state his/her denomination and the mandate

they seek in a given constituency. Candidates may choose a constituency where they will run for office, however, they should consider the denominational quota assigned to the constituency of their choice.

In Serbia, ethnic quota not only provides an opportunity for creating ethnic parties that may participate in elections; it also eliminates a 3% threshold to national parliament seat allocation for such parties and increases their electoral quotient by 35% in case an ethnic party receives less than 3% of votes.

We should note that, in Lebanon, the denominational approach was set from the very beginning due to the multid denominational nature of the country, while in Serbia it was partly caused by the ethnic clashes of the 1990s in former Yugoslavia, and the Armenian policy was devised within nearly a monoethnic environment. However, the decision to use ethnic or denominational quota could only be taken on board in light of specific/unique features of a given country and may hardly be seen as a universal solution applicable anywhere.

Voting and representation of citizens residing abroad, or, in a broader sense, a possibility to vote for those who reside outside of the constituency where they are registered, presents one of the challenges in securing equal representation at elections. Subject to Article 84 of the Electoral Law of the Lebanese Republic, the creation of large electoral centers and the introduction of magnetic cards were envisaged for the parliamentary elections of May 15, 2022, which would allow people to cast their votes anywhere in the country, and not

necessarily in the constituency where they were registered. Besides, according to Article 122 of the Electoral Law of the Lebanese Republic, a 16th constituency was to be created for the Lebanese expats with 6 additional seats that would represent nonresidents from the following denominations (3 for Christians and 3 for Muslims): Maronite Christians, the Greek Orthodox, the Melkites, the Sunni, the Shia, and the Druze, thus the overall number of parliament seats would increase from 128 to 134. However, these measures were postponed for the next parliamentary election by the amendment to the said Electoral Law of December 21, 2021, thus the nonresident votes were divided between the existing 15 constituencies within Lebanon.

In Senegal, at elections in July 2022, 8 out of 54 constituencies were allocated to the Senegalese diaspora for the first time ever. Within these constituencies, divided on the basis of geographic location (Africa, Asia and Middle East, Europe, America, and Oceania), the candidates run for 15 additional seats, divided between the constituencies in proportion to the number of the Senegalese citizens residing in each of them, from 1 to 3 seats for each respective constituency.

Transparency of elections

The issue of electoral procedures transparency has many facets, ranging from access to electoral information to the availability of election observation.

Some of the countries where the election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were deployed have

regulations that ensure maximum transparency of the voter register. For instance, in Angola and Lebanon, observers can access the electronic voter base from their mobile devices right at the polling stations in order to identify the voter that has come to the station; in these countries, as well as in Senegal, voter registers are posted at the entrance to the polling stations and the observers verify the voter's data in the printed register (as well as in the e-database available via a QR code). It is also customary to demonstrate the voter's passport or ID to the observers when the voter receives a ballot paper, and the observers are provided with special 'grid forms' to count the number of arriving voters. It should be said, however, that this approach presents a risk of compromising voters' personal data, although it curbs the possibility of unidentified people voting. In Nepal, for example, the opposite approach is implemented, with observers kept at a distance that makes it impossible to read a passport or ID data.

Marking the voters that have cast their ballots in order to prevent them from illegal double voting is a widely used practice. As a rule, one of the fingers on the left or right hand is marked with paint that fades away within a few days. Out of the countries observed, the election observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation registered this practice in Ethiopia, Serbia, Lebanon, Congo, Senegal, Kenya, Angola, Nepal, and Tunisia.

Access to information about the candidates is an important criterion for ensuring election transparency. The practices of making

information as accessible to voters as possible include, among others, not only the standard posting of comprehensive information about a party or a candidate at the polling station, but also candidates' photographs on ballot papers (Ethiopia, Lebanon, Congo, Angola, Tunisia), simplified description of candidates' occupation instead of listing their specific position (Serbia, Congo, Lebanon), or printing the full candidate list in the ballot paper (Senegal). Color-coding of a candidate or party on the ballot is an additional factor of transparency. This makes them more identifiable (in Lebanon, it is the color of the background field corresponding to the specific party, while in Senegal the ballot list of candidates is used, with each party having a different color of the ballot list of candidates and the voter casting the ballot list of a specific color that corresponds to the party of their choice in the ballot box instead of marking his/her choice in one ballot paper). Wherever this is practiced, the parties and candidates use their designated color throughout the election campaign or the same color is used to designate the observers of a specific party or candidate at the elections.

Nepal is an example of the dominating practice of symbolic designation of various participants of elections, where the ballot neither includes any information on the party nor even on the candidates for first-past-the-post constituencies aside from the corresponding symbol (animal, plant, object, sign, etc.). Even the name of the party or the candidate is available only on the official elections website upon identification of the corresponding symbol.

Another interesting practice to enhance the transparency of vote counting was observed in Lebanon, where special equipment was used to scan each ballot cast by the voter and to show it on the screen to all the observers present at the polling station.

Feasibility (convenience) of electoral procedures

Nowadays an effective organization of elections and electoral procedures relies on tested and optimized algorithms, as well as on a wide use of digital solutions that facilitate the participation of everyone involved in the electoral process and ensure proper administration of human, financial, and material resources.

Within this context, the experience of the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Kenya could prove very helpful. The voters whose names are already in the database may be identified at the entrance to the polling station by volunteers using tablets with access to the said database and receive an e-queue ticket with their data already confirmed (a special device is used for confirmation). This solution serves to save time not only for the voter but for the polling station staff as well.

In Angola, all polling stations (complexes) are divided into substations (election halls or 'desks' in literal translation), and each of them has all the attributes of a polling station – voting premises, voting booths and ballot boxes, the necessary equipment, its own polling station committee and a separate team of observers. Usually, a standard polling station of approximately 3,000 voters is divided into 5–6 election halls

(substations), with 500–600 voters designated for each of them. A similar approach to organizing the election procedure was used at the elections in Nepal on November 20, 2022.

The position of a logistics officer was introduced in Angola for more convenient navigation of voters inside the election complex, and each complex had a designated supervisor (a Central Election Commission representative) to provide methodological support and coordinate all the election committees within a given election complex. The staff roles can clearly be identified by voters thanks to vests of various colors with the indication of the position in the committee (president, secretary, committee member, logistic officer, supervisor, observer, etc.).

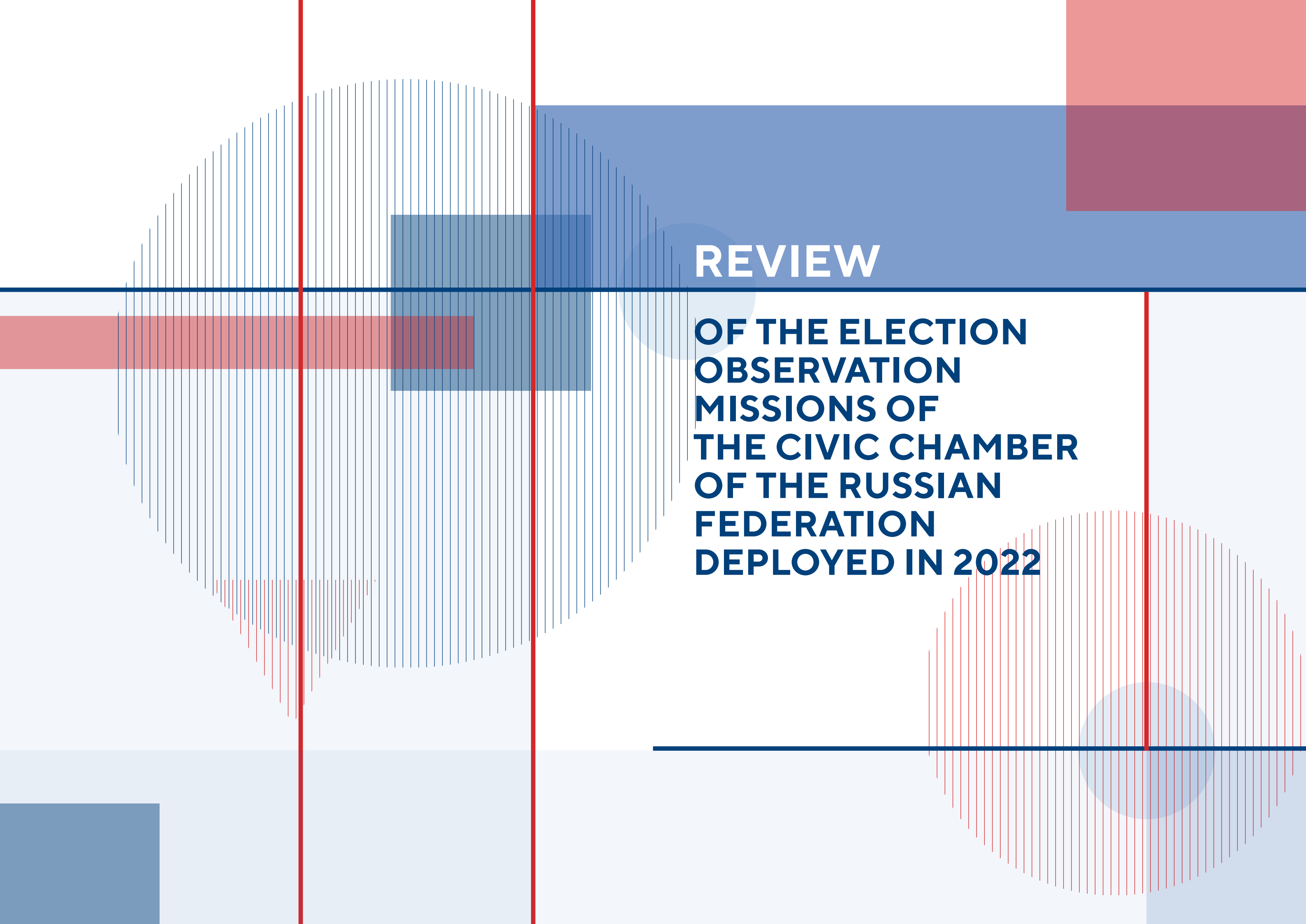
An interesting solution was used at the elections in Angola where 4-part (with 4 sections for 4 voters) dispensable easy-to-assemble cardboard booths ensured confidentiality during voting and proved to be both cost-efficient and eco-friendly. These booths help to speed up the voting procedure while making it comfortable and convenient for the voters.

Synchronization of different types of voting when different elections are held on the same day or various election systems are simultaneously used is another aspect of making the voting procedure feasible. The approaches and solutions vary from country to country. In one case, the voter receives different ballot papers at the same time and casts them all in the same ballot box. In other cases, the procedures are divided: in Kenya, the voter

must cast ballots in different boxes marked with diverse colors (one box for one type of ballot paper), while in Nepal, the voter must receive consecutively ballot papers from different members of the election commission (for federal and regional elections based both on proportional and majoritarian systems) and cast the marked ballot paper in the appropriate box before receiving the next ballot. This approach slows down the voting process but enhances the organizational aspect and excludes situations when voters leave the station with ballots.

In conclusion, we should say that the electoral process, while its procedures may seem universal, is deeply affected by the mentality and political traditions that have evolved within each given nation or state.

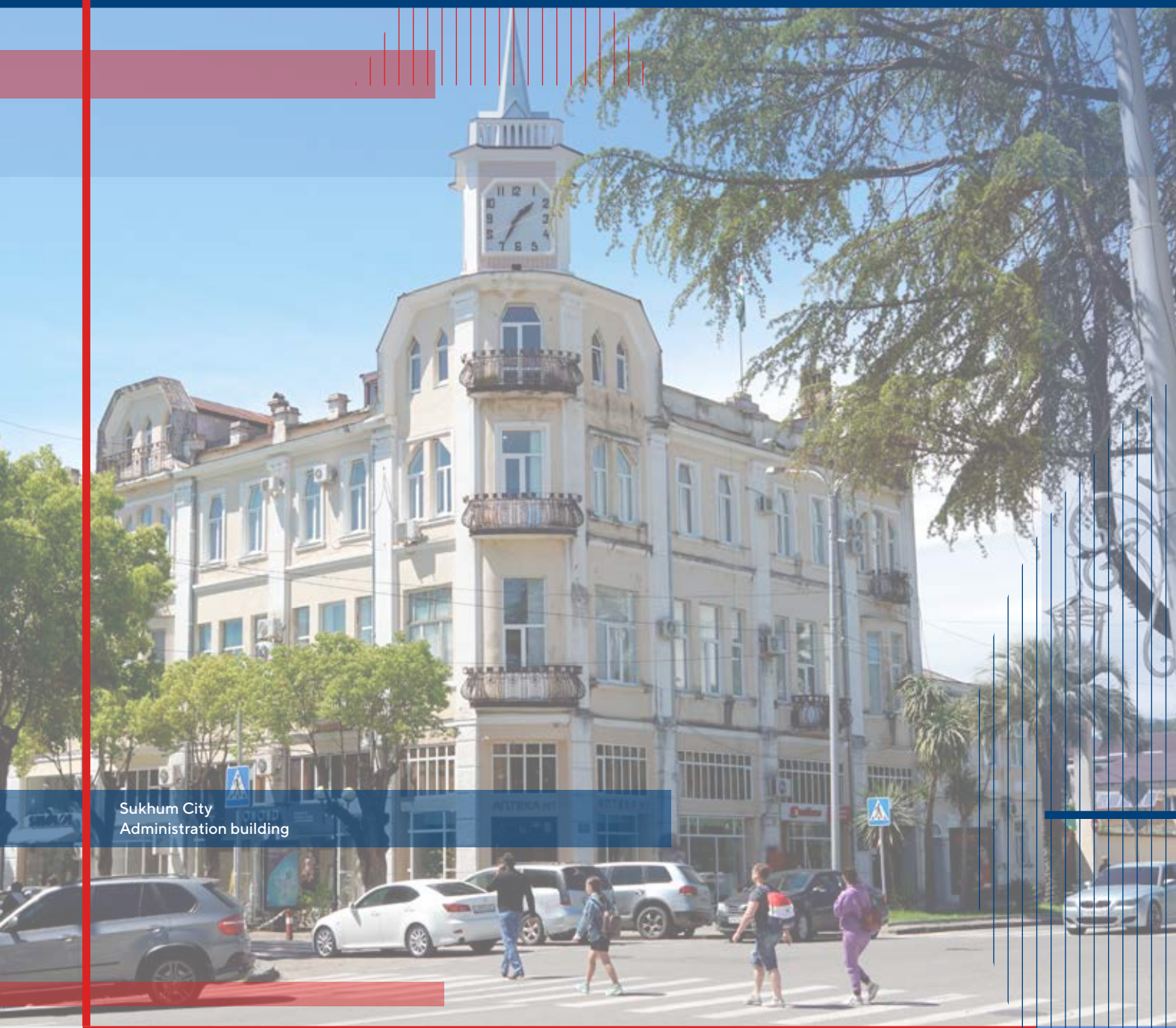
Therefore, learning from the experience of others is of crucial importance, especially when we seek to benefit from the best foreign practices to improve our own electoral procedures without losing sight of our national peculiarities, as well as the behavioral trends and customs of our voters. In today's world, this consideration is becoming a prerequisite for fair, just, and transparent elections.



REVIEW

**OF THE ELECTION
OBSERVATION
MISSIONS OF
THE CIVIC CHAMBER
OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
DEPLOYED IN 2022**

REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA



Sukhum City
Administration building

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
ELECTION
MARCH 12, 2022



The CCRF EOM members meet with Dmitry Marshan, Chair of the CEC of the Republic of Abkhazia, (2nd from the left), and the staff of the Commission

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

On April 12, 2022, the term of office of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia of the 6th convocation was scheduled to expire; therefore, on December 13, 2021, Abkhazia President Aslan Bzhania signed a Decree setting the next legislative elections date for March 12, 2022 – a month prior to the expiry of the MPs' powers. On January 17, 2022, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Abkhazia (CEC of Abkhazia) approved the plan for the preparations and conduct of elections.

Election Significance

The elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia of the 7th Convocation held on March 12 and 26, 2022 (the 1st and 2nd rounds respectively) were one of the key political and electoral events in the country's life. Despite the fact that, according

to the Constitution of the Republic of Abkhazia, it is the President who forms the government and defines the domestic and foreign policy framework, the Parliament has traditionally been the main platform for political opposition and, therefore, is being used as its means to influence the political course of the country.

Electoral System

The elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia, a unicameral parliament comprising 35 members (MPs) whose tenure is limited to 5 years, are held on a majoritarian basis in 35 single-member districts (SMDs), stipulating a two-round system (TRS). Thus, a candidate has to get an absolute majority (50% +1) of votes cast to win in the 1st round. Otherwise, a 2nd round is held between the 2 candidates who received the most votes.

In the 2nd round, a candidate has to receive a relative majority to win,

Election of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia

35
members

5-year
tenure

held under TRS
(50% + 1 vote)

35
SMDs

regardless of voters' turnout. A repeat ballot must be held within 2 weeks after the end of the 1st round of elections in the constituency.

If only 2 candidates were initially registered in a constituency and none of them managed to gain an absolute majority of votes in the 1st round, a repeat ballot is scheduled according to the abovementioned rules for the 2nd round.

If only 1 candidate was registered in a constituency, the election is held on a nonalternative basis.

At the People's Assembly elections for each constituency, a 25% turnout threshold is set for the 1st round. If the turnout of registered voters is less than the threshold, the elections are declared invalid. Elections are also declared invalid if both candidates in a constituency have the same number of votes. In this case, a repeat vote is held, which is considered the 1st round of elections, and thus is conducted under the respective regulations.

Such an electoral system results in the diminished importance of political parties, while electoral competition between candidates and political associations turns into a miniature presidential-election-like contest in each constituency.

Electoral Legislation

In the Republic of Abkhazia, electoral procedures during elections of the People's Assembly are regulated by the following laws, normative acts, and documents:

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Abkhazia of 1994;
2. Constitutional Law of the Republic of Abkhazia of March 31, 2004, "On the Election of MPs of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia";
3. Schedule of the main activities for the preparation and conduct of elections of MPs to the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia, scheduled for March 12, 2022;
4. Recommendations on the prevention of risks associated with the spread of coronavirus

infection (COVID-19) during the preparation and conduct of elections to the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia scheduled for March 12, 2022.

The current elections differed from all previous ones as they were held during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Abkhazia approved a list of recommendations for the precinct election commissions regulating the electoral process organization at the polling stations.

Active suffrage is exercised by legally capable citizens of Abkhazia over the age of 18 on Election Day.

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

A 3-tier system of election commissions is responsible for administering the elections of the People's Assembly:

1. Central Election Commission of the Republic of Abkhazia (CEC of Abkhazia);
2. 35 District Election Commissions (DECs);
3. 152 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).

Within the election administration system, the CEC of Abkhazia is a collegial state body vested with powers to organize the national-level parliamentary and presidential elections and oversee the conduct of municipal and local elections.

In accordance with the Constitutional Law "On Elections of MPs' to the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia," the CEC of Abkhazia is formed within 7 days after the national elections call.

The CEC of Abkhazia is composed of 15 members, 8 of them are elected by the People's Assembly, and 7 are appointed by the President. As soon as all members of the CEC of Abkhazia are designated, at the 1st session they elect from among themselves the Chair, Deputy Chair, and Secretary of the CEC of Abkhazia via open ballot.

Central Election Commission of the Republic of Abkhazia

15
members

8
elected by the People's Assembly

7
appointed by the President

On December 29, 2021, at the 1st session of the CEC of Abkhazia Dmitry Marshan was elected Chair, Vyacheslav Kvekveskiri was elected Deputy Chair, and Anush Khodzhikeyan was elected Secretary.

At the parliamentary elections, the composition of both DECs and PECs ranges from 5 to 15 members. DECs are appointed by the CEC of Abkhazia, which, in turn, appoint PECs. Yet political parties may submit candidates to fill the staff of both DECs and PECs. As in the case of the CEC of Abkhazia, the DECs and the PECs elect from among their numbers chairs, deputy chairs, and secretaries at their 1st working sessions.

It should be mentioned that the PECs operating at the polling stations established outside the Republic of Abkhazia are appointed by the CEC of Abkhazia following the candidacy nomination by the head of a diplomatic mission or a plenipotentiary representative office of the Republic of Abkhazia in a foreign state no later than 30 days prior to Election Day. However, during the parliamentary, overseas polling stations were not established.

The term of office of all election commissions is 5 years.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

By default, all Abkhaz citizens over 18 on election day permanently residing in the country are included in the voter lists. Citizens who have been recognized legally incapable by a court or are held in detention facilities by a court sentence do not have the right to vote.

There is no unified Voter Register in Abkhazia, thus, voter lists are compiled and updated by the PECs for each polling station based on data received from the head of the local administration.

Nonresident voter lists for out-of-country voting are compiled and updated by the Abkhazian diplomatic institutions located in the respective states.

Also, separate voter lists are compiled, and separate polling stations are established for servicemen in military units, nonconvicted by the court in places of compulsory detention, patients in hospitals and other stationary medical institutions, as well as passengers and crew on ships cruising on election day. Commanders of military units, heads of medical institutions, and ship captains are responsible for compiling the voter lists.

Unlike the standard voter lists, these lists are updated actively, i.e., eligible voters are included in these lists only once they submit written applications, consequently followed by exclusion from the respective polling stations' voter lists of their prior registration.

Final voter lists of the polling stations established in Abkhazia are completed 10 days before election day, whereas final voter lists of the polling stations established in hospitals and other stationary medical institutions, places of compulsory detention, military units, abroad, and on ships are completed 3 days before election day.

A total of 133,474 eligible voters were registered for the March 12, 2022 elections of the People's

Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia. Voter turnout in the 1st round nationwide was 51.2%, varying in each constituency from 28% to 79%.

Candidate Registration

The registration of political parties and initiative groups planning to participate in the elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia of the 7th convocation was open from January 21 to February 10, 2022. A total of 118 initiative groups and 5 political parties were registered during that period: Amsakhara, Apsny, the Party of Economic Development of Abkhazia, the People's Party of Abkhazia, and the People's Front of Abkhazia for Justice and Development.

Candidates' registration lasted from February 10 to March 2, 2022. During this period, citizens of Abkhazia who met the criteria set forth in the Constitutional Law "On the Election of MPs" to the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia" could submit documents to the CEC of Abkhazia for registration to stand as candidates in the legislative elections. Candidates could run only in 1 electoral constituency.

The following legal requirements are applied for standing candidates in the People's Assembly elections: only a citizen of Abkhazia over 25 years old can become an MP, he/she cannot have an outstanding conviction, be ill with alcoholism, suffer from drug addiction and substance abuse, and/or have any chronic and protracted mental disorders. Also, candidates cannot be members of any election commission.

List of Registered Candidates

After the deadline for submission and verification of documents, the CEC of Abkhazia registered the following 123 candidates in 35 SMDs to participate in the elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia:

- Constituency No. 1 (Novy Rayon)**
1. Inar Gitsba;

2. Ramaz Jopua;
3. Gunda Kvitsinia.

- Constituency No. 2 (Novy Rayon)**
1. Dmitry Khalbad;
 2. Astamur Gerhelia, Amsakhara;
 3. Beslan Avidzba;
 4. Elena Zhilinskaya.

- Constituency No. 3 (Stary Poselok)**
1. Narsou Salakaya;
 2. Khina Dumava;
 3. Beslan Torchua, Amsakhara;
 4. Said Dgebia;
 5. Gennady Ardzinba.

- Constituency No. 4 (Severny)**
1. Dmitry Zhiba;
 2. Batal Aiba;
 3. Shamil Adzynba;
 4. Eric Rshtuni;
 5. David Chkhaidze;
 6. Alyas Asabua.

- Constituency No. 5 (Sinopsky)**
1. Lasha Ashuba.

- Constituency No. 6 (Centralny)**
1. Erast Agumava;
 2. Raul Lolua;
 3. Dmitry Amichba;
 4. Dmitry Marshania;
 5. Konstantin Tujba;
 6. Alkhas Aslandzia.

A total of

133 474

registered voters

for the People's Assembly
of the Republic of Abkhazia
election

51.2%
turnout

in the 1st round nationwide

28 to 79%

turnout variation in distinct
constituencies



The CCRF EOM members at a polling station on Election Day

- Constituency No. 7 (Biblioteka)**
1. Amiran Kakalia;
 2. Adgur Lagvilava;
 3. Temur Rekvava;
 4. Alexei Archelia;
 5. Rashida Aiba;
 6. Ruslan Inapshba;
 7. Beslan Achba;
 8. Lasha Zukhba;
 9. Beslan Karchava.

- Constituency No. 8 (Mayaksky)**
1. Leon Gubaz;
 2. Irakli Chachkhalia;
 3. Astamur Kakalia, People's Party of Abkhazia;
 4. Anna Kalyagina, Party of Economic Development of Abkhazia;
 5. Vitaly Gabnia, Apsny;
 6. Naur Narmania;
 7. Anetta Bganba.

- Constituency No. 9 (Vostochny)**
1. Kan Kvarchiya;
 2. Alexander Basaria, Party of Economic Development of Abkhazia;
 3. David Piliya;
 4. Said Gezerdava;
 5. Shabat Dzhikirba.

- Constituency No. 10 (Pitsundsky)**
1. Daut Hutaba.

Electoral District No. 11 (Bzypsky)

1. Timur Beya;
2. Artur Ankvab;
3. Evgeny Kondjaria.

Constituency No. 12 (Gagrsky)

1. Samson Demerjiba;
2. Daut Agrba;
3. Astamur Arshba;
4. Ahra Abijba.

Constituency No. 13 (Gagrsky Gorodskoy)

1. Alexander Tsishba;
2. Isolda Hagba;
3. Revaz Benia;
4. Alkhas Bartsits.

Constituency No. 14 (Tsandrypshsky)

1. Galust Trapizonian, Amtsakhara.

Constituency No. 15 (Otharsky)

1. Almaskhan Bartsyz;
2. Ivan Tarba;
3. Badrik Piliya;
4. Valery Sichinava.

Constituency No. 16 (Duripshsky)

1. Beslan Khalvash;
2. Astamur Dzrugelia, Apsny.

Constituency No. 17 (Lykhynsky)

1. Aslan Lakoba;
2. Farid Kobakhia.

Constituency No. 18 (Gudaitsky Gorodskoy Pervy)

1. Leonid Lakerbaya;
2. Beslan Tarkil.

Constituency No. 19 (Gudaitsky Gorodskoy Vtoroy)

1. Astamyr Akhba;
2. Alkhas Khagba.

Constituency No. 20 (Aatsynsky)

1. Alias Avidzba;
2. Rustam Markholia;
3. Nonna Smyr;
4. Oleg Otyrba;
5. Alisa Gularia, Amtsakhara;
6. Ruslan Ladarja.

Constituency No. 21 (Novoafonsky)

1. Natalie Smyr;
2. Ahra Pachulia;
3. Madina Butba.

Constituency No. 22 (Eshersky)

1. Fazlibey Avidzba;
2. Almaskhan Ardzinba;
3. Ahra Smyr.

Constituency No. 23 (Gumistinsky)

1. Artur Ichmelyan;
2. Levon Galustyan.

Constituency No. 24 (Pshapsky)

1. Ashot Minosyan;
2. Ashot Oksuzyan;
3. Khachik Takmazyan.

Constituency No. 25 (Macharsky)

1. Said Kharazia;
2. Inar Sadzba.

Constituency No. 26 (Drandsky)

1. Adgur Kharazia;
2. Ilya Gunia;
3. Elena Chachkhalia.

Constituency No. 27 (Baslakhsky)

1. Venori Bebia;
2. Grigory Latsuzhba.

Constituency No. 28 (Gupsky)

1. Demur Gogia;
2. Erik Khashba;
3. Tengiz Kakubava, Amtsakhara;
4. Astamur Logua.

Constituency No. 29 (Chlousky)

1. Astanda Jopua;
2. Almas Akaba, Amtsakhara;
3. Astamur Tarba.

Constituency No. 30 (Kutolsky)

1. Vakhtang Golandzia;
2. Aslan Basaria.

Constituency No. 31 (Kyndygsy)

1. Rezo Zantaria;
2. Harry Kokaya.

Constituency No. 32 (Ochamchyrsky)

1. Batal Jopua;
2. Eshsou Kakalia;
3. Milana Tsvizhba;
4. Gunda Tsvizhba.

Constituency No. 33 (Tkuarchalsky Pervy)

1. Taifun Ardzinba;
2. Beslan Emurkhba, Amtsakhara;
3. Aslan Kmuzov;
4. Damir Gorzolia.

Constituency No. 34 (Tkuarchalsky Vtoroy)

1. Temur Tkebuchava;
2. Romeo Cherkeziya;
3. German Kacharava;
4. Abesalom Kvarchia.

Constituency No. 35 (Galsky)

1. Temur Shergelia;
2. Beslan Arshba, Amtsakhara;
3. Lasha Sakaniya, People's Front of Abkhazia for Justice and Development;
4. Anas Kishmaria;
5. Surya Chamagua.

Out of 123 officially registered candidates, 109 were nominated by initiative groups of voters (independent candidates) and 14 took part in the elections with the endorsement of the political parties of Abkhazia.

Concerning the political parties' candidates, it is worth noting that 9 of them represented pro-government forces (i.e., 8 candidates nominated by Amtsakhara and 1 by the Abkhazian Popular Front for Justice and Development) and 3 of them were set by the opposition (i.e., 2 candidates fielded by Apsny and 1 by the People's Party of Abkhazia). Also, 2 candidates from the politically neutral Party of Economic Development of Abkhazia ran for the mandate.

Out of all candidates registered for the elections, 19 were acting MPs of the People's Assembly. Candidates' gender composition-wise, there were 107 men and 16 women in total registered for the elections.

In addition, in 3 constituencies (i.e., Constituencies Nos. 5, 10, and 14), the elections were held unopposed since only 1 candidate per constituency contested mandates in the election districts.

Election Observation Institutions

According to the electoral legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia, national observers are appointed only by standing candidates. Each candidate has the right to appoint up to 2 observers per polling station, yet it is allowed to deploy 1 observer at a time only.

Candidates' proxies have the right to monitor voting in the whole constituency without the limitations of being assigned to particular polling stations. Each candidate can register up to 3 proxies in a constituency, regardless of its area and number of voters.

The institution of independent (public) observers, not affiliated with any political force, is not provided by the Abkhazian electoral legislation.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were accredited by the CEC of Abkhazia at the March 12, 2022 elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia as international observers to monitor the activities of the CEC of Abkhazia, as well as voting procedure and vote counting at the polling stations established in Abkhazia.

The mandate of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation extended only for the 1st round of the elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia, therefore the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not monitor the 2nd round of the parliamentary

elections held on March 26, 2022, as well as at the repeated elections in constituencies No. 8 and No. 18, held on May 28 and 14, 2022 respectively.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

1. Vladimir Zorin, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations, Head of the Election Observation Mission;
2. Mikhail Anichkin, First Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions;
3. Alena Bulgakova, Deputy Chair of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for Public Oversight over Voting;
4. Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present in Abkhazia from March 11 to 13, 2022. On March 11, 2022, 1 day prior to the elections, at 6 pm, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation had a working meeting with the CEC of Abkhazia representatives, headed by its Chair, Dmitry Marshan.

At the meeting, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the

123
registered
candidates

109
nominated by initiative
groups of voters
(independent candidates)

14
nominated by
the political parties
of Abkhazia

19
acting members of
the People's
Assembly

16
women

107
men

Russian Federation received the badges of international observers and discussed the issues related to the Abkhazia electoral legislation, specifics of voting procedure organization and observation at the polling stations, and other technical matters concerning ensuring transparency and fairness of the electoral process. In addition, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic

Chamber of the Russian Federation studied the layout and design of the ballots and examined the candidates' campaign materials.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also shared their experience in organizing national observation in Russia with the Abkhaz colleagues, including the public observation staged by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

On March 12, 2022, at 7 am on Election Day, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation set off to monitor the polling station at the opening stage in constituency No. 2 and proceeded with observation at the polling stations in constituencies Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 23 until 1 pm.

In the afternoon, from 2 pm to 4 pm, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observed the voting at the polling stations in constituencies Nos. 5 and 6, subsequently visiting the "Sputnik Abkhazia" studio and commenting on their preliminary findings during Election Day. Afterward, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation continued observation from 6 pm to 8 pm at the polling stations in constituency No. 7. Following the close of polls, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors observed the vote counting at the polling station in constituency No. 8 till 2 am the next day.

At 10 am on March 13, 2022, the day after the elections, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took part in the final press conference for the international observers at the press center of the CEC of Abkhazia, where they summed up the preliminary findings of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic

Chamber of the Russian Federation and shared their impressions about the organization and conduct of the electoral process in Abkhazia.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

In addition to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, several official state delegations, as well as representatives of interstate organizations, were deployed at the elections of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia on March 12, 2022, in the capacity of international observers: e.g., monitors from the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union, delegations of the CEC of the Russian Federation, Lugansk People's Republic, Republic of South Ossetia and Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic.

During its work in Abkhazia, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation occasionally interacted with monitors representing the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Observation Findings on Election Day

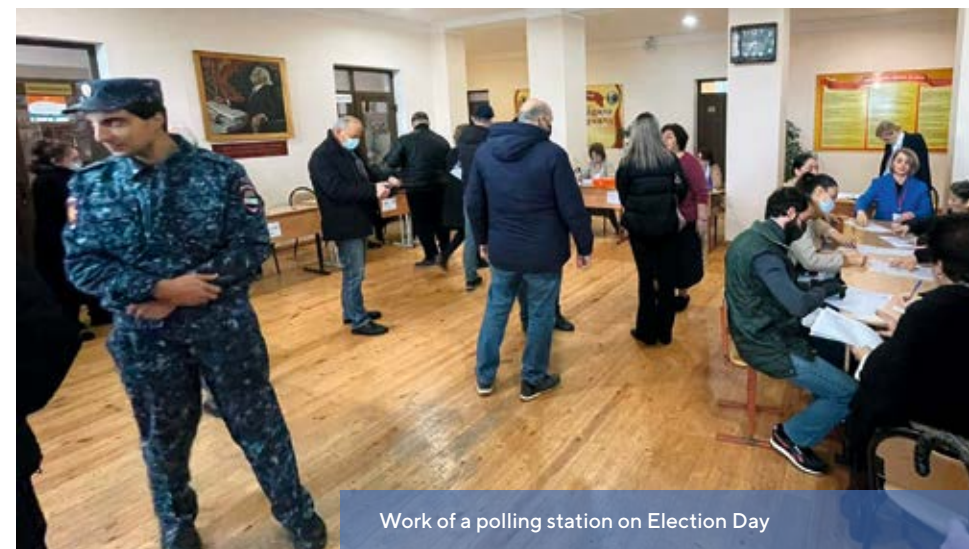
On Election Day, March 12, 2022, a total of 152 polling stations were open on the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia from 8 am to 8 pm. After the closure of polling stations, PEC members conducted the vote count in the presence of observers.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation underlined the strict observance of the polling stations' working schedule and regulations in the visited constituencies. Altogether, the members of the Election

Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively evaluated the thorough preparation of polling stations for opening and noticed the orderly and calm situation at the polling stations visited on Election Day. It was also noted that officers of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Abkhazia were on duty at the entrances of polling stations to protect law and order, prevent potential violations during the voting, and respond promptly to any illegal actions being taken.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation reported that most of the visited polling stations were not equipped with special infrastructure for people with limited mobility and disabilities and the elderly, thus aggravating their access to polls. Moreover, long queues of voters were witnessed by the monitors at the polling stations' entrances.

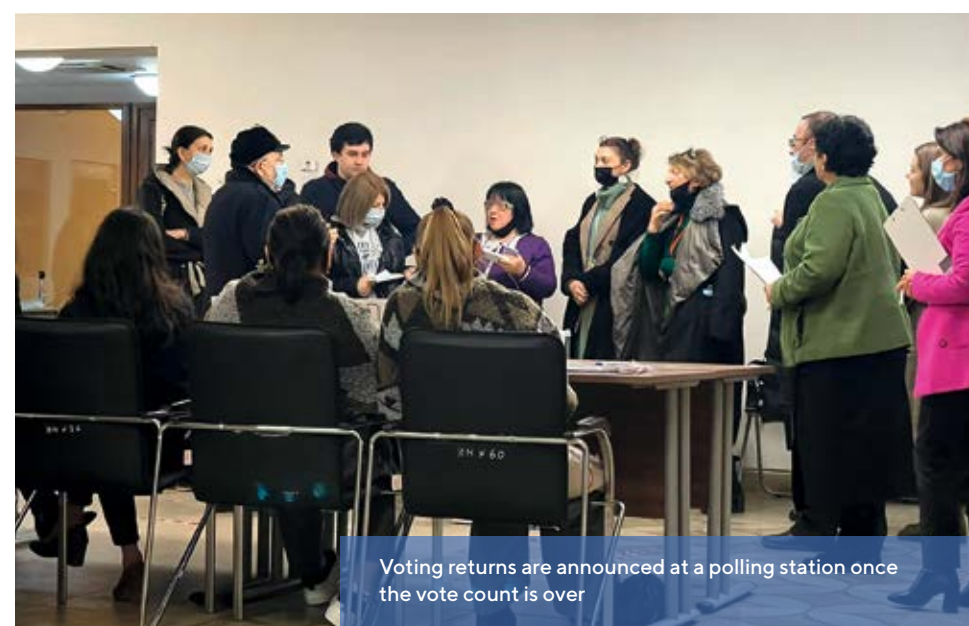
Yet the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation marked that most of the visited polling stations were satisfactorily equipped as per the sanitary and epidemiological recommendations of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Abkhazia to prevent the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19. In particular, polling stations were predominantly located in spacious and ventilated rooms, prophylactic safety stations providing hands disinfection and personal protective equipment were organized inside all polling stations, and movement direction was marked with arrows drawn on the floor in front of the entrances to prevent voter queues inside the polling stations. In the vast majority of cases, these measures made it possible to maintain a safe social distance of 1.5 – 2 meters at polling stations.



Work of a polling station on Election Day



Ballots are counted and sorted at a polling station when voting is over



Voting returns are announced at a polling station once the vote count is over

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation pointed out that national observers representing all competing political forces were present at all visited polling stations, indicating a high level of external multilateral control over electoral procedures.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also got acquainted with the methods of preventing electoral fraud and double voting: e.g., at each polling station, voter lists were hung on the walls and were publicly available to any visitor; additionally, upon handing in a ballot, a PEC member puts a special stamp on the last page of a voter's passport.

Each handed ballot is signed by 2 PEC members and verified by a special seal. Apart from it, as a measure of additional control, national observers at polling stations are allowed to put their signatures on the back side of ballots. Given the widespread presence of candidate proxies and observers representing competing political forces at polling stations, the possibility of ballot stuffing is virtually eliminated.

It was also highlighted that a ban on taking photos and videos of filled-in ballots was introduced at polling stations by PEC staff citing compliance with voting secrecy and prevention of any potential infringements.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation paid attention to the fact that on Election Day homebound voting was conducted for people with limited mobility and disabilities and the elderly. Homebound voting was also carried out according to the sanitary and epidemiological recommendations of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Abkhazia, therefore PEC members and accompanying observers were



The CCRF EOM members (right) meet with Dmitry Marshan, Chair of the CEC of the Republic of Abkhazia (2nd from the left)

equipped with personal protection means, i.e., masks, gowns, and protective screens, while the ballots were packed in special individual bags.

It was acknowledged that many voters, observers, and PEC staff faced

organizational and procedural issues during the voting. In particular, it was not always clear how observers and candidates' proxies had to interact with the PECs. Also, quite often, PEC members had to remind voters about the need to observe sanitary regulations.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also quoted difficulties with vote counting encountered at dusk and night after polling stations closure caused by problems with electricity outages.

Complaints and Infringements

On Election Day in the Republic of Abkhazia, neither voting and counting violations nor officially filed complaints regarding the final election results were registered by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the visited polling stations.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that the March 12, 2022 People's Assembly Elections were held without serious violations, in a peaceful atmosphere, and in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia.

Additionally, a high level of democracy and competitiveness of the election shall be noted, manifested in holding the 2nd round in 17 constituencies and the repeat elections in another one. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation stressed the absence of election process bureaucratization and the high level of conduct of the CEC of Abkhazia staff, as well as the efforts made to prepare the polling stations per the sanitary and epidemiological requirements of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Abkhazia. All election commissions operated in a fairly coordinated manner, also in force majeure situations such as electricity outages.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also confirmed that only a few

complaints against the misconduct of the CEC of Abkhazia and some DEC and PECs were reported following the voting results of several polling stations.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively assessed the procedures and mechanisms of preventing election results falsification, specifically taking into account the absence of more sophisticated digital solutions, as well as the inclusive institution of national observers.

In general, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Abkhazia successfully organized citizens' suffrage in tense epidemiological conditions with a relatively high voter turnout.

Nevertheless, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation identified a number of shortcomings in the electoral process organization:

- 1. Lack of independent public observers.
- 2. Insufficient level of barrier-free infrastructure development at polling stations facilitating accessibility for people with limited mobility and disabilities.
- 3. Low level of electoral process digitalization and lack of modern digital technologies utilized for vote processing and counting, electoral process protection from external influence and threats, and remote e-voting.
- 4. Insufficient awareness of observers, candidates' proxies, and PEC staff regarding the rules of interaction during Election Day.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation suggests paying attention to the above deficiencies identified by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors during the election day observation on March 12, 2022, and proposes the following recommendations for further development and improvement of the electoral system and electoral procedures in the Republic of Abkhazia.

Priority recommendations:

- 1. Consider amending the electoral legislation of the Republic of Abkhazia to include representatives of nonprofit organizations (NGOs) and nonpartisan structures in the system of election observation and electoral procedures control.
- 2. Promote holding a series of special briefings for observers, candidates' proxies, and PEC staff on the election day interaction regulations.

Other recommendations:

- 3. Explore the possibilities of introducing modern digital technologies for vote processing and counting, electoral process protection from external effects and threats, and the gradual introduction of remote e-voting.
- 4. Take measures to ensure more convenient access to polling stations for people with limited mobility and disabilities, including barrier-free environment creation.

ANNEX

Results of the People’s Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia Election,
March 12, 2022

Constituency No. 1 (Novy Rayon)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Inar Gitsba	Independent	930	45.56
Ramaz Dzhopua	Independent	485	23.68
Gunda Kvitsinia	Independent	630	30.76
Valid votes		2,048	96.56
Invalid/ blank votes		73	3.44
Total votes		2,121	100.00
Registered voters		5,234	
Turnout		40.52 %	

Constituency No. 2 (Novy Rayon)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Dmitry Khalbad	Independent	710	49.10
Astamur Gerhelia	Amtsakhara	614	42.46
Beslan Avidzba	Independent	66	4.56
Elena Zhilinskaya	Independent	56	3.87
Valid votes		1,446	95.76
Invalid/ blank votes		64	4.24
Total votes		1,510	100.00
Registered voters		5,237	
Turnout		28.83 %	

Constituency No. 3 (Stary Poselok)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Narsou Salakaya	Independent	755	42.82
Khina Dumava	Independent	447	25.35
Beslan Torchua	Amtsakhara	302	17.13
Said Dgebia	Independent	210	11.91
Gennady Ardzinba	Independent	49	2.78
Valid votes		1,763	95.14
Invalid/ blank votes		90	4.86
Total votes		1,853	100.00
Registered voters		5,051	
Turnout		36.69 %	

Constituency No. 4 (Severny)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Dmitry Zhiba	Independent	318	16.28
Batal Aiba	Independent	475	24.32
Shamil Adzynba	Independent	314	16.08
Eric Rshtuni	Independent	429	21.97
David Chkheidze	Independent	214	10.96
Alyas Asabua	Independent	203	10.39
Valid votes		1,953	97.41
Invalid/ blank votes		52	2.59
Total votes		2,005	100.00
Registered voters		3,849	
Turnout		52.09 %	

Constituency No. 5 (Sinopsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Lasha Ashuba	Independent	1,872	100.00
Valid votes		1,872	98.42
Invalid/ blank votes		30	1.58
Total votes		1,902	100.00
Registered voters		3,997	
Turnout		47.58 %	

Constituency No. 6 (Centralny)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Erast Agumava	Independent	38	16.67
Raul Lolua	Independent	487	18.54
Dmitry Amichba	Independent	295	11.23
Dmitry Marshania	Independent	1,096	41.72
Konstantin Tujba	Independent	56	2.13
Alkhas Aslandzia	Independent	255	9.71
Valid votes		2,627	97.40
Invalid/blank votes		70	2.60
Total votes		2,697	100.00
Registered voters		5,548	
Turnout		48.61 %	

Constituency No. 7 (Biblioteka)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Amiran Kakalia	Independent	487	19.06
Adgur Lagvilava	Independent	404	15.81
Temur Rekvava	Independent	279	10.92
Alexei Archelia	Independent	215	8.41
Rashida Aiba	Independent	574	22.47
Ruslan Inapshba	Independent	291	11.39
Beslan Achba	Independent	69	2.70
Lasha Zukhba	Independent	110	4.31
Beslan Karchava	Independent	126	4.93
Valid votes		2,555	99.07
Invalid/ blank votes		24	0.93
Total votes		2,579	100.00
Registered voters		5,419	
Turnout		47.59 %	

Constituency No. 8 (Mayaksky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Leon Gubaz	Independent	445	23.15
Irakli Chachkhalia	Independent	361	18.78
Astamur Kakalia	People’s Party of Abkhazia	229	11.91
Anna Kalyagina	Party of Economic Development of Abkhazia	91	4.73
Vitaly Gabnia	Apsny	235	12.23
Naur Narmania	Independent	516	26.85
Anetta Bganba	Independent	45	2.34
Valid votes		1,922	95.72
Invalid/ blank votes		86	4.28
Total votes		2,008	100.00
Registered voters		4,081	
Turnout		49.20 %	

Constituency No. 9 (Vostochny)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Kan Kvarchia	Independent	1,172	54.74
Alexander Basaria	Party of Economic Development of Abkhazia	38	1.77
David Pilija	Independent	766	35.78
Said Gezerdava	Independent	72	3.36
Shabat Dzhikirba	Independent	93	4.34
Valid votes		2,141	98.17
Invalid/ blank votes		40	1.83
Total votes		2,181	100.00
Registered voters		3,033	
Turnout		71.91 %	

Constituency No. 10 (Pitsundsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Daut Hutaba	Independent	1,306	100.00
Valid votes		1,306	98.26
Invalid/ blank votes		23	1.74
Total votes		1,329	100.00
Registered voters		4,364	
Turnout		30.45 %	

Constituency No. 11 (Bzypsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Timur Beya	Independent	1,628	82.60
Artur Ankvab	Independent	91	9.69
Evgeny Kondjaria	Independent	152	7.71
Valid votes		1,971	93.81
Invalid/ blank votes		130	6.19
Total votes		2,101	100.00
Registered voters		5,276	
Turnout		39.82 %	

Constituency No. 12 (Gagrsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Samson Demerjiba	Independent	86	3.67
Daut Agrba	Independent	760	32.44
Astamur Arshba	Independent	1,250	53.35
Ahra Abijba	Independent	247	10.54
Valid votes		2,343	95.91
Invalid/ blank votes		100	4.09
Total votes		2,443	100.00
Registered voters		4,542	
Turnout		53.79 %	

Constituency No. 13 (Gagrsky Gorodskoy)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Alexander Tsishba	Independent	632	21.42
Isolda Hagba	Independent	191	6.47
Revaz Benia	Independent	638	21.62
Alkhas Bartsits	Independent	1,490	50.49
Valid votes		2,951	96.63
Invalid/ blank votes		103	3.37
Total votes		3,054	100.00
Registered voters		6,984	
Turnout		43.73 %	

Constituency No. 14 (Tsandrypshsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Galust Trapizonian	Amtsakhara	1,819	100.00
Valid votes		1,819	96.65
Invalid/ blank votes		63	3.35
Total votes		1,882	100.00
Registered voters		5,353	
Turnout		35.16 %	

Constituency No. 15 (Otharsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Almaskhan Bartsyz	Independent	667	33.38
Ivan Tarba	Independent	133	6.66
Badrik Pilya	Independent	694	34.73
Valery Sichinava	Independent	504	25.23
Valid votes		1,998	97.08
Invalid/ blank votes		60	2.92
Total votes		2,058	100.00
Registered voters		2,967	
Turnout		69.36 %	

Constituency No. 16 (Duripshsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Beslan Khalvash	Independent	1,366	73.24
Astamur Dzhugelia	Apsny	499	26.76
Valid votes		1,865	95.69
Invalid/ blank votes		84	4.31
Total votes		1,949	100.00
Registered voters		4,055	
Turnout		48.06 %	

Constituency No. 17 (Lykhnynsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Aslan Lakoba	Independent	1,334	65.78
Farid Kobakhia	Independent	694	34.22
Valid votes		2,028	96.53
Invalid/ blank votes		73	3.47
Total votes		2,101	100.00
Registered voters		3,767	
Turnout		55.77 %	

Constituency No. 18 (Gudautsky Gorodskoy Pervy)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Leonid Lakerbaya	Independent	906	52.34
Beslan Tarkil	Independent	825	47.66
Valid votes		1,731	95.48
Invalid/ blank votes		82	4.52
Total votes		1,813	100.00
Registered voters		3,691	
Turnout		49.12 %	

Constituency No. 19 (Gudautsky Gorodskoy Vtoroy)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Astamyr Akhba	Independent	634	39.72
Alkhas Khagba	Independent	962	60.28
Valid votes		1,596	97.02
Invalid/ blank votes		49	2.98
Total votes		1,645	100.00
Registered voters		3,181	
Turnout		51.71 %	

Constituency No. 20 (Aatsynsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Alias Avidzba	Independent	211	8.37
Rustam Markholia	Independent	628	24.90
Nonna Smyr	Independent	121	4.80
Oleg Otyrba	Independent	500	19.83
Alisa Gularia	Amtsakhara	837	33.19
Ruslan Ladaria	Independent	225	8.92
Valid votes		2,522	95.06
Invalid/ blank votes		131	4.94
Total votes		2,653	100.00
Registered voters		3,797	
Turnout		69.87 %	

Constituency No. 21 (Novoafonsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Natalie Smyr	Independent	738	49.10
Ahra Pachulia	Independent	664	44.18
Madina Butba	Independent	101	6.72
Valid votes		1,503	96.22
Invalid/ blank votes		59	3.78
Total votes		1,562	100.00
Registered voters		2,607	
Turnout		59.92 %	

Constituency No. 22 (Eshersky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Fazlibey Avidzba	Independent	364	30.26
Almaskhan Ardzinba	Independent	538	44.72
Ahra Smyr	Independent	301	25.02
Valid votes		1,203	94.95
Invalid/ blank votes		64	5.05
Total votes		1,267	100.00
Registered voters		2,362	
Turnout		53.64 %	

Constituency No. 23 (Gumistinsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Artur Ichmelyan	Independent	864	45.86
Levon Galustyan	Independent	1,020	54.14
Valid votes		1,884	97.31
Invalid/ blank votes		52	2.69
Total votes		1,936	100.00
Registered voters		3,305	
Turnout		58.58 %	

Constituency No. 24 (Pshapsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Ashot Minosyan	Independent	1,057	67.93
Ashot Oksuzyan	Independent	405	26.03
Khachik Takmazyan	Independent	94	6.04
Valid votes		1,556	95.05
Invalid/ blank votes		81	4.95
Total votes		1,637	100.00
Registered voters		3,350	
Turnout		48.87 %	

Constituency No. 25 (Macharsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Said Kharazia	Independent	1,145	46.56
Inar Sadzba	Independent	1,314	53.44
Valid votes		2,459	95.24
Invalid/ blank votes		23	4.76
Total votes		2,582	100.00
Registered voters		5,199	
Turnout		49.66 %	

Constituency No. 26 (Drandsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Adgur Kharazia	Independent	1,158	53.51
Ilya Gunia	Independent	748	34.57
Elena Chachkhalia	Independent	258	11.92
Valid votes		2,164	93.96
Invalid/ blank votes		139	6.04
Total votes		2,303	100.00
Registered voters		3,950	
Turnout		58.30 %	

Constituency No. 27 (Baslakhusky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Venori Bebia	Independent	966	68.90
Grigory Latsuzhba	Independent	436	31.10
Valid votes		1,402	95.57
Invalid/ blank votes		65	4.43
Total votes		1,467	100.00
Registered voters		2,367	
Turnout		61.98 %	

Constituency No. 28 (Gupsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Demur Gogia	Independent	523	34.64
Erik Khashba	Independent	105	6.95
Tengiz Kakubava	Amtsakhara	464	30.73
Astamur Logua	Independent	418	27.68
Valid votes		1,510	94.43
Invalid/ blank votes		89	5.57
Total votes		1,599	100.00
Registered voters		2,170	
Turnout		73.69 %	

Constituency No. 29 (Chlousky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Astanda Jopua	Independent	316	18.61
Almas Akaba	Amtsakhara	789	46.47
Astamur Tarba	Independent	593	34.92
Valid votes		1,698	94.07
Invalid/ blank votes		107	5.93
Total votes		1,805	100.00
Registered voters		2,503	
Turnout		72.11 %	

Constituency No. 30 (Kutolsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Vakhtang Golandzija	Independent	1,006	60.17
Aslan Basaria	Independent	666	39.83
Valid votes		1,672	96.42
Invalid/ blank votes		62	3.58
Total votes		1,734	100.00
Registered voters		2,462	
Turnout		70.43 %	

Constituency No. 31 (Kyndygsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Rezo Zantaria	Independent	940	58.93
Harry Kokaya	Independent	655	41.07
Valid votes		1,595	95.68
Invalid/ blank votes		72	4.32
Total votes		1,667	100.00
Registered voters		2,354	
Turnout		70.82 %	

Constituency No. 32 (Ochamchyrsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Batal Jopua	Independent	871	43.59
Eshsou Kakalia	Independent	535	26.78
Milana Tsvizhba	Independent	524	26.23
Gunda Tsvizhba	Independent	68	3.40
Valid votes		1,998	96.43
Invalid/ blank votes		74	3.57
Total votes		2,072	100.00
Registered voters		4,098	
Turnout		50.56 %	

Constituency No. 33 (Tkuarchalsky Pervy)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Taifun Ardzinba	Independent	482	23.60
Beslan Emurkhba	Amtsakhara	913	44.71
Aslan Kmuzov	Independent	106	5.19
Damir Gorzolia	Independent	541	26.49
Valid votes		2,042	99.08
Invalid/ blank votes		19	0.92
Total votes		2,061	100.00
Registered voters		3,894	
Turnout		52.93 %	

Constituency No. 34 (Tkuarchalsky Vtoroy)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Temur Tkebuchava	Independent	402	29.80
Romeo Cherkezia	Independent	141	10.45
German Kacharava	Independent	626	46.40
Abesalom Kvarchia	Independent	180	13.34
Valid votes		1,349	94.67
Invalid/ blank votes		76	5.33
Total votes		1,425	100.00
Registered voters		1,982	
Turnout		71.90 %	

Constituency No. 35 (Galsky)

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Temur Shergelia	Independent	604	56.08
Beslan Arshba	Amtsakhara	224	20.80
Lasha Sakania	People’s Front of Abkhazia for Justice and Development	29	2.69
Anas Kishmaria	Independent	215	19.96
Surya Chamagua	Independent	5	0.46
Valid votes		1,077	93.82
Invalid/ blank votes		71	6.18
Total votes		1,148	100.00
Registered voters		1,445	
Turnout		79.45 %	

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

St. Sava Church
in Belgrade

GENERAL ELECTIONS
APRIL 3, 2022

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

In light of the expiry of Aleksandar Vučić's term of office as President of the Republic of Serbia on May 31, 2022, a presidential election was scheduled for April 3, 2022. Incumbent President Vučić, on February 15, 2022, also announced early election for the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, a unicameral parliament, to be held at the same time as the presidential election. On March 2, 2022, the Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić announced that municipal election would also be held in several of the country's regions on April 3, 2022.

Thus, general elections were scheduled for April 3, 2022, to elect 250 MPs for the next 4 years and the President of the Republic for the next 5 years. Local elections were held simultaneously in 12 municipalities and 2 cities – Bor and the Serbian capital Belgrade. In the latter, a unicameral 110-seat city parliament was elected.

Election Significance

The April 3, 2022 general elections in the Republic of Serbia were a key political and electoral event in the country's life as it resulted in the formation of a new government and parliament that would determine the course of Serbia's development for the next 4 years, until the next national electoral cycle.

Holding parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously provided an opportunity to synchronize their terms of office in order to consolidate power and society and ensure a stable political course.

The Belgrade parliamentary election had regional significance given that the city parliament elects the capital's mayor.

Electoral System

Election of the unicameral parliament is held under a proportional representation system with closed party lists in a single, nationwide constituency – 250 seats are distributed among the parties according to the D'Hondt (Jefferson) method.¹

However, parties must pass the electoral threshold of 3% of all votes cast in order to participate in the allocation of seats. At the same time, this threshold is lifted for parties with the official status of an ethnic minority political organization, thus letting them partake in the seat allocation even if they have fallen short of 3% of votes. Moreover, as per Article 140 of the 2022 Law "On the Election of Members of Parliament," in case an "ethnic" party or a coalition gets less than 3%, its resulting electoral quotient is increased by 35%. As a result of this provision, "ethnic" parties and coalitions ceteris paribus have better chances of winning seats in parliament than "regular" ones. The political party registry of the Serbian Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government includes a total of 74 ethnic minority political parties.

The presidential election, held in a single electoral district in 145 municipalities, uses the majoritarian system: i.e., if a candidate receives an absolute majority of votes (50% + 1), the election ends in the 1st round. Otherwise, a 2nd round takes place. The president is elected for a term of 5 years; one person cannot be in office for more than 2 terms irrespective of the order of service.

The election of the unicameral Belgrade City Parliament is also held under a proportional representation system with closed party lists in its 17 city districts and 7 rural districts. Members of the Belgrade City

National Assembly Election

250
seats

party-list proportional representation system

a single nationwide constituency

3%
electoral threshold for political parties

threshold for ethnic minority political parties lifted

in case an ethnic minority party gets less than 3%, its resulting electoral quotient is increased by 35%

4-year
tenure

Presidential Election

held under TRS (50% + 1 vote)

a single nationwide constituency

5-year
tenure



The CCRF EOM members meet with Marko Jankovic, Serbian REC Deputy Chair, (center), and Bojan Pudar, REC Deputy Speaker (1st from the left)

Parliament then elect the mayor of the Serbian capital among their ranks via indirect election.

Electoral Legislation

In the Republic of Serbia, electoral processes and procedures are regulated by the following laws, regulations, and documents:

1. Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, 2006;
2. Law "On the Election of the President of the Republic," 2022;
3. Law "On the Election of Members of Parliament," 2022;
4. Law "On Local Elections," 2022;
5. Law "On Broadcasting," 2002;
6. Law "On the Unified Electoral Roll," 2009;
7. Law "On Political Parties," 2009;
8. Law "On Financing Political Activities," 2011;
9. Law "On Meetings and Assemblies," 2016;
10. Law "On Gender Equality," 2021;
11. Law "On Referendum and Popular Initiatives," 2021;

12. National Strategy for Gender Equality, 2021;
13. Regulations of the Republic Electoral Commission, 2021.

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

In 2022, the Republic of Serbia switched from a 2-tier to a 3-tier system of election commissions:

1. The Republic Electoral Commission (REC);
2. 170 Local Election Commissions (LECs);
3. 8,255 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).

Thus, in accordance with the national electoral legislation, the Serbian REC is a permanent collegial state body that prepares and conducts the parliamentary and presidential elections. The term of office of the Serbian REC is 4 years.

In 2022, the Serbian REC is made up of 48 members: the Chairman, 22 members with the casting vote right, 22 deputy members, and 3

members in a consultative capacity: a Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, and a representative of the State Statistical Office of Serbia.

The REC members are appointed and approved by the national Parliament. The REC composition is formed under the principle of proportional representation of the political parties in the Parliament, along with representatives from opposition nonparliamentary parties. The political parties presented in the Parliament appoint 16 of their representatives to the Serbian REC consistent with the parliamentary mandates they won in the last parliamentary elections. Nonparliamentary opposition political parties appoint other 6 REC members.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

According to the Law "On the Unified Electoral Roll" adopted in 2009, all Serbian citizens over

¹ D'Hondt (Jefferson) method is a method for allocating seats in legislatures in party-list proportional representation systems, it is also called the greatest divisor method. A party winning a seat assigned to a constituency is determined consecutively in the case of each seat in the legislature as follows: the total number of votes cast for each party in the constituency is divided first by 1, then by 2, then by 3, and so on up to the number of total seats assigned to the constituency, plus the number of seats already received by the party (i.e., successive coefficients are calculated). In each case, the seat is allocated to the party whose coefficient exceeds the coefficients of the other parties.



Alexander Malkevich, the CCRF EOM member, at the box with votes cast for the President of Serbia at a polling station on Election Day

Republic Electoral Commission of Serbia

48 members

1 Chair

22 members in a consultative capacity

22 deputy members

3 members in a consultative capacity

formed in proportion to the number of party seats in the parliament

4-year tenure

To vote in places of detention, confined Serbian citizens must apply in advance to the management of the penitentiary for inclusion in a separate voter register.

Separate voter registers are also compiled for members of the Serbian Armed Forces.

The Serbian Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government maintains a voter registry that is continually updated using the following sources: voter applications, municipal civil status records, and personal information from the Serbian Ministry of the Interior and other state bodies.

All voters are allowed to vote only at the place of their official registration. Final voter registers are compiled 15 days before Election Day; however, no later than 5 days before Election Day, a voter has the right to apply to the municipality of his/her official residence for the opportunity to participate in voting where he/she actually resides.

A total of 6,502,307 voters were officially registered for the April 3, 2022, general election, with a national turnout of 58.6%. In the Belgrade City Parliament election, 1,600,462 voters were officially registered, with a turnout of 57.85%.

Candidate Registration

Registration of candidates for the National Assembly of Serbia started on the day the parliamentary election was set and ended 10 days prior to the election, i.e., from February 15 to March 24, 2022.

By March 19, 2022, parties, coalitions, political organizations, and initiative groups of citizens wishing to participate in the parliamentary elections had to form lists of candidates and by March 24, 2022, they had to submit the lists, all required documents and at least 10,000 officially registered voter signatures to the REC. For ethnic minorities, the number of required signatures is lowered to 5,000. A candidate list may not

A total of 6 502 307 registered voters for the general elections

58.6% turnout

A total of 1 600 462 registered voters for the Belgrade City Parliament Election

57.85% turnout

contain more than 250 candidates and since 2020 it must comprise at least 40% women.

Candidate registration for the presidential election began on the day the presidential election was set and ended 20 days prior to the election, i.e., from March 2 to March 14, 2022.

During this period, parties, coalitions, political organizations, and initiative groups of citizens had to nominate a presidential candidate and support the nomination by collecting at least 10,000 signatures from officially registered voters, consequently submitting them to the REC.

The electoral law of the Republic of Serbia does not set upper limits on collected signatures for either the parliamentary or presidential elections.

Candidates for the National Assembly of Serbia and the President of Serbia must meet

a number of unified legal requirements: only an able-bodied citizen of Serbia over 18 years old, who officially resides in the country can be a candidate; the candidate must not be a state councilor or a judge and must not be a member of the REC or its office employee.

List of Registered Candidates

The REC of Serbia registered 19 political parties and coalitions for the parliamentary elections (the list reflects the order in which the applications were received):

1. "Together We Can Do Everything" Coalition (Serbia's ruling coalition; includes the Serbian Progressive Party, Social Democratic Party of Serbia, Movement of Socialists, Party of United Pensioners of Serbia, Strength of Serbia Movement – BK, Serbian People's Party, Serbian Renewal Movement, People's Peasant Party, United Peasant Party, and Better Serbia Party; leader – Aleksandar Vučić, the incumbent President);
2. "Ivica Dačić – Prime Minister of Serbia" Coalition (coalition partners with Aleksandar Vučić; includes Socialist Party of Serbia, United Serbia, and Greens of Serbia; leader – Ivica Dačić);
3. Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (a Hungarian ethnic minority party; leader – Istvan Pasztor);
4. Serbian Radical Party (leader – Vojislav Sešelj);
5. "United for the Victory of Serbia" Coalition (Serbia's leading opposition coalition; includes the Party of Freedom and Justice, People's Party, Democratic Party, Movement of Free Citizens, Movement for Reversal, Democratic Fellowship of Vojvodina Hungarians, Civic Platform, People's Movement of Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija "Fatherland," and other parties and organizations; leader – Marinika Tepić);
6. "National Democratic Alternative" Coalition (includes the Democratic Party of Serbia, Movement for the Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia (POKS), and Bunjevci Citizens of Serbia Party; leaders – Vojislav Mihajlović, Milos Jovanović, Božidar Delić);
7. Serbian Party Oathkeepers (leader – Milica Đurđević Stamenkovski);
8. Justice and Reconciliation Party (a Bosniak ethnic minority party of the Sandžak region; leader – Usame Zukorlić);
9. "We Must" Coalition (a coalition of green parties; includes Do not let Belgrade drown political organization, "Together for Serbia" party, Ecological Uprising political movement, Solidarity Platform, and Assembly of Free Serbia; leaders – Nebojsa Zelenović, Aleksandar Jovanović);
10. "Sovereignists" Coalition (includes the "Enough is Enough," "Healthy Serbia," and "I live for Serbia" parties; leaders – Saša Radulović, Milan Stamatović, Jovana Stojković);
11. "Serbian Movement 'Dveri' – Movement for the Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia (POKS)" Coalition; (leaders – Zika Gojkovic, Miloš Parandilović, Boško Obradović);
12. "Together for Vojvodina – Vojvodinians" Coalition (a coalition of Croat ethnic minority parties in the Vojvodina region; includes the Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina and Together for Vojvodina; leader – Tomislav Žigmanov);
13. Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak (a Bosniak ethnic minority party of the Sandžak region; leaders – Enis Imamović, Sulejman Ugljanin);
14. The coalition of the Social Democratic Party, New Party, Come on People Movement, 1 of 5 Million Movement, Tolerance of Serbia Party, United Green Movement of Serbia, Bosniak Civic

In the parliamentary election participated

19 political parties and coalitions

In the presidential election took part

8 candidates

- Party, Party of Montenegrins (a coalition of social-liberal parties and movements; leaders – Boris Tadić, Goran Radosavljević);
15. Alternative for Change – Albanian Democratic Alternative Party (an Albanian ethnic minority party; leader – Shqiprim Arifi);
 16. Albanian Coalition of Preševo Valley (a coalition formed around the ethnic Albanian Democratic Action Party; leader – Shaip Kamberi);
 17. Stolen Babies Movement (a movement against human trafficking; leader – Ana Pejić);
 18. Roma Party (a Roma ethnic minority party; leaders – Srđan Šajn, Sacip Sacipović);
 19. "Russian Minority Alliance" Coalition (a coalition without official ethnic minority status and not affiliated with the Russians living in Serbia; includes the Serbo-Russian Movement, Serbo-Russian Party Wolves, Movement of Greeks Srbiza; leaders – Milena Pavlović, Pavle Bihali Gavrin).

The REC registered the following 8 candidates to run in the presidential election (the list reflects the order of candidates on the ballot established by drawing lots):

1. Miša Vacić, Serbian Right Party;
2. Biljana Stojković, We Must Coalition;



The CCRF EOM members (left) meet with the REC of Serbia representatives (right)

3. Branka Stamenković, Sovereignists Coalition;
4. Zdravko Ponoš, United for the Victory of Serbia Coalition;
5. Milica Djurdjević Stamenkovski, Serbian Party Oathkeepers;
6. Aleksandar Vučić, Serbian Progressive Party;
7. Miloš Jovanović, National Democratic Alternative Coalition;
8. Boško Obradović, Serbian Movement "Dveri" – Movement for the Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia (POKS).
4. "United for the Victory of Belgrade" Coalition (leader of the list – Vladeta Janković, independent politician);
5. "National Democratic Alternative" Coalition (leader of the list – Vojislav Mihailović);
6. "Serbian Party Oathkeepers (leader of the list – Mladen Kocica);
7. "We Must" Coalition (leader of the list – Dobrica Veselinović);
8. "For the Whole Normal World" Coalition (leader of the list – Nemanja Šarović);
9. "Sovereignists" Coalition (leader of the list – Voyin Bilić);
10. "Serbian Movement 'Dveri' – Bloc for the Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia (POKS)" Coalition (leader of the list – Radmila Vasić);
11. Coalition of the Social Democratic Party of Serbia, New Party, Come on People Movement, 1 of 5 Million Movement, Tolerance of Serbia, United Green Movement of Serbia, Bosniak Civic Party, Party of Montenegrins (leader of the list – Duško Vujosević);
12. "Russian Minority Alliance" Coalition (leader of the list – Pavle Bihali Gavrin).

The following 12 party lists with their leaders were registered by the Belgrade City Election Commission (CEC) for the Belgrade City Parliament elections:

1. "Together We Can Do Everything" Coalition (leader of the list – Aleksandar Šapić, Vice-President of the Serbian Progressive Party);
2. "Ivica Dačić – Prime Minister of Serbia" Coalition (leader of the list – Toma Fila, member of the Socialist Party of Serbia);
3. Serbian Radical Party (leader of the list – Miljko Ristić);

Election Observation Institutions

According to Serbian legislation, only representatives of parliamentary political parties may be national observers at elections. Thus, at the general elections of April 3, 2022, 18 parliamentary parties nominated 2 observers per polling station.

The legislation also provides for the participation of international observers in monitoring electoral procedures. The REC reviews each application submitted from international and intergovernmental organizations, foreign national legislatures, national election management bodies, and foreign nongovernmental organizations in accordance with the established procedure and then makes its decision on granting accreditation.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was accredited by the REC of Serbia for April 3, 2022, general elections in the Republic of Serbia as international observers to monitor the work of the REC of Serbia, as well as the voting and counting procedures at polling stations located in the Belgrade city municipalities of Stari Grad, Savski Venac and Vračar.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were also granted a special accreditation by the REC of Serbia to observe the work of LECs and the voting and vote-counting procedures at polling stations in 4 Serbian municipalities near the de facto border with the partially recognized Republic of Kosovo – Bujanovac, Raška, Tutin, and Kuršumlija – where polling stations for Serbian citizens living in Kosovo and Metohija were set up as authorities of the partially

recognized Republic of Kosovo did not allow the Republic of Serbia to deploy polling stations in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija under their control.²

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

1. Mikhail Anichkin, First Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions – Head of the Election Observation Mission;
2. Ivan Abazher, member of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions;
3. Alena Bulgakova, Deputy Chair of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for Public Oversight over Voting;
4. Alexander Malkevich, First Deputy Chair of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for Public Oversight over Voting;
5. Andrey Maximov, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government;
6. Nikita Volkov, international relations officer of the Executive Office of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present

in Serbia from April 1 to 5, 2022. Prior to Election Day, from April 1 to April 2, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored a 3-day silence period during which campaigning, campaign rallies in public places, and publication of election result estimates were prohibited.

On April 3, 2022, on Election Day morning, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation set off to observe the opening of polling stations in the Vračar municipality of Belgrade. From 7 am to 10 am, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited 5 polling stations in this area:

1. Polling Station No. 3, 15 Resavska St., Belgrade;
2. Polling Station No. 4, 15 Njegoševa St., Belgrade;
3. Polling Station Nos. 10–11, 10 Kralja Milutina St., Belgrade;
4. Polling station No. 36, 1 Vojvoda Dragomir St., Belgrade;
5. Polling Station No. 44, 8 Maruliceva St., Belgrade.

Then, from 10 am to 1 pm, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the voting procedures at polling stations in the Stari Grad municipality of Belgrade. During this time the observers visited a total of 5 polling stations:

1. Polling Station No. 3, 13 Tzar Dusan St., Belgrade;
2. Polling Station No. 11, 37 Stefan Vysokogo St., Belgrade;
3. Polling Station No. 21, 23–25 Gundulićev Venac St., Belgrade;
4. Polling Station No. 36, 31 Queen Natalia St., Belgrade;

5. Polling Station No. 47, 12 Student Square, Belgrade.

Later this day, at 2 pm, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors arrived at the REC Headquarters for a meeting with Marko Jankovic, Deputy Chair of the REC, and Bojan Pudar, Deputy Speaker of the REC. During the meeting, they discussed issues related to the electoral legislation of Serbia, specifics of the voting organization and observation procedures at polling stations, as well as several other technical topics related to ensuring the transparency and fairness of the electoral process.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation shared with the Serbian colleagues their experience of running the Situation Center for Public Oversight over Voting under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation during the 2021 Russian parliamentary elections and also spoke about the practice of organizing regional public observation headquarters and the Election Night media project. At the end of the meeting, the Election Observation Mission members learned about the work of the REC staff during election day.

After the working meeting at the REC of Serbia, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation continued their observation at the polling stations in the Savski Venac municipality of Belgrade. From 4 pm to 8 pm, Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors visited 7 polling stations:

1. Polling Station No. 2, 22 Gavrilica Principa St., Belgrade;

2. Polling Station No. 26, 37 Voevoda Misic Blvd., Belgrade;
3. Polling Station No. 23, 1 Jovan Ristica St., Belgrade;
4. Polling Station No. 30, 6 Boška Petrovića St., Belgrade;
5. Polling Station Nos. 33–34, 3 Krupanjska St., Belgrade;
6. Polling Station No. 35, Belgrade, 29 Knez Aleksandar Karadjordjević Blvd., Belgrade;
7. Polling Station No. 12, 82 Kneza Miloša St., Belgrade.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation remained at the last polling station after its closure at 8 pm to observe the vote counting process. Until 11:30 pm, the monitors observed the opening of ballot boxes and counting of ballots cast for presidential candidates, candidate lists for the National Assembly, and candidate lists for the Belgrade City Parliament.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

Apart from the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the general elections in the Republic of Serbia on April 3, 2022, were deployed election observation missions of several international and intergovernmental organizations, as well as official observer delegations from several countries.

During its work in Serbia, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation interacted with observers from the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

In addition, on election day, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation tried to establish contact with representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission; however, the OSCE/ODIHR monitors refused to cooperate in any way.

Observation Findings on Election Day

A total of 8,255 polling stations opened in Serbia and out-of-country on April 3, 2022, including 2 polling stations in the Russian Federation. On Election Day, polling stations were open from 7 am to 8 pm, and then, after the polling stations closure, members of the PECs counted the votes. Altogether, about 400,000 employees were working in the 3-tier election commission system during the elections.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted a high level of means used to prevent electoral fraud. For example, at the polling stations opening, empty ballot boxes were presented to the 1st voter arriving at the polling station. The voter had to sign a control sheet, confirming that the ballot boxes were empty before the start of voting. After this was done, the ballot boxes were sealed by PEC staff. Also, when a voter received a ballot, his/her index finger was marked with a special colorless solution, i.e., election ink, seen only under an ultraviolet lamp. Then the voter had to go to another PEC member to be identified and only after that receive ballots from the 3rd PEC member.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation confirmed that the polling stations they monitored opened and closed strictly according to the schedule.

During the observation, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation had some questions regarding the regulations and procedures for taking photographs and videos at polling stations. According to the legislation of the Republic of Serbia, any form of photography and video recording is prohibited as a means to protect voting secrecy; however,

de facto permission to film at each polling station was negotiated with the PEC head. Due to this legal prohibition, there were no surveillance cameras at the polling stations to record possible violations.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noticed the specifics of the national election observation system at the polling stations. Since most of the polling stations were quite small, national observers made informal agreements among themselves so that most often only 3 out of the 36 officially assigned agents of parliamentary parties were present at polling stations at a time, while the rest observed homebound voting for people with limited mobility and disabilities and the elderly.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted that Serbia does not have an absentee voting system and, as a result, voters residing or staying in a place that is different from their registered address have no opportunity to vote. The REC of Serbia did, however, organize voting in places of detention, thus ensuring that this category of citizens could enjoy their constitutional rights.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors had several concerns regarding the extent of the electoral process digitalization. The REC of Serbia practically does not use digital technologies and infrastructure for processing and counting votes, safeguarding the electoral process from external interference, or for electronic voting.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the peculiar features of the polling stations arrangement. In particular, there were no law enforcement officers and/or private security companies at the polling stations. According to the Deputy Chair of the REC

² The Russian Federation officially recognizes the territorial integrity of the sovereign Republic of Serbia and considers the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija as its integral part, and therefore does not recognize the self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo. Obstructing the participation of Kosovo Serbs in the general election of the Republic of Serbia on April 3, 2022, by the authorities of the partially recognized Republic of Kosovo is a serious violation of the fundamental rights of the Serbian population of Kosovo and Metohija.

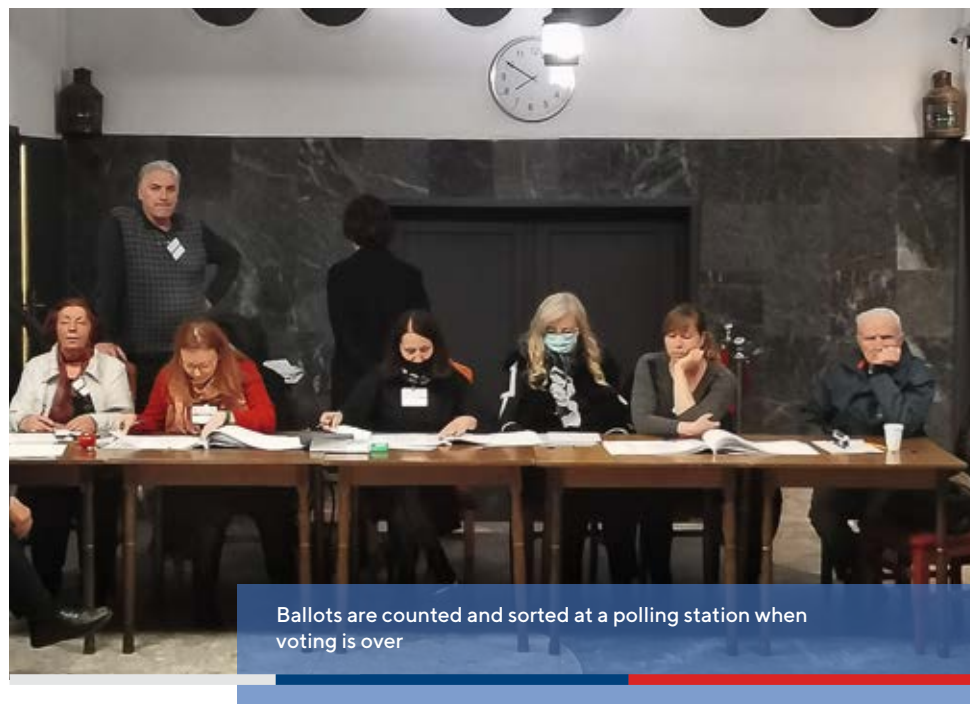
of Serbia, if there is a violation of law and order at the polling station, the PEC staff calls the police to resolve the situation promptly. This solution did not seem quite sufficient in light of the incidents recorded at some polling stations.

Also, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors reported that most of the polling stations visited were not equipped with special infrastructure for people with limited mobility and disabilities and the elderly, thus hampering their access to polling stations.

In several cases, significant lines at polling stations were observed, yet they were caused not so much by the relatively high turnout as by the small size of the premises where the polling stations were located.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the design principle for the ballots: for the convenience of voters, the information on the ballots was presented in a simplified form. As such, instead of placing a full list of the candidates' achievements and positions, only their profession and party affiliation were indicated. The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took interest in the rules for establishing candidates and parties order on the ballots for both the presidential and legislative elections: i.e., the presidential candidates were assigned an ordinal number on the ballot by drawing lots, while the parties were assigned an ordinal number based on the order in which their documents were submitted.

During the observation of vote counting at polling station No. 12 in the Belgrade municipality of Savski Venac, 82 Kneza Miloša St., the Civic Chamber of the Russian



Federation monitors noted that opening the ballot boxes, handling the ballots, and ballot counting was carried out in compliance with the established requirements. During the vote counting, a local election ballot (of a different color) was found in the ballot box designated for the parliamentary election. The ballot paper was "canceled," and the incident was correctly recorded in the final minutes.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation specifically noted the considerable effort made by the REC of Serbia to organize voting for Serbian citizens living in the territories of Kosovo and Metohija, which allowed tens of thousands of Serbs to exercise their voting rights in the southern Serbian de-facto-border regions of Bujanovac, Raška, Tutin, and Kuršumljija, despite obstruction from the authorities of the partially recognized Republic of Kosovo.

Complaints and Infringements

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian

Federation did not record any irregularities during the voting and counting process or any formal complaints regarding the final election results at the polling stations they visited throughout Election Day in the Republic of Serbia.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that elections were held without serious infringements and in a peaceful atmosphere. They especially noted the absence of bureaucratic red tape in the electoral process and the professionalism of the staff of the REC, LECs, and PECs.

In general, the electoral administration of the Republic of Serbia succeeded in tackling the electoral process organization despite facing relatively high voter turnout. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation gave a fairly high assessment of the procedures and mechanisms employed to prevent electoral fraud and vote rigging.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation had a positive impression of the electoral system of the Republic of Serbia, which strives for inclusiveness and gender equality by lifting the electoral threshold for ethnic minority parties and introducing special quotas for women on candidate lists.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also positively assessed the efforts made and the quality of elections organization in the southern Serbian border region for the residents of Kosovo and Metohija despite the traffic jams and lines at the border checkpoints.

Nevertheless, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors noted several shortcomings that could be improved considering Russian and international experience:

1. The formal ban on photo and video recording at polling stations and the consequent lack of video cameras to record violations;
2. The absence of law enforcement officers at polling stations to promptly prevent violations and protect public order;
3. Lack of opportunity to vote outside the voter's official registration area;
4. Inability for civil society activists to obtain the status of national observer and absence of an independent public observation system;
5. Lack of barrier-free infrastructure at polling station premises to facilitate accessibility for people with limited mobility and disabilities;

6. The small size of some polling station premises resulting in lines on the adjacent streets;
7. Low extent of electoral process digitalization and lack of modern digital technologies for vote processing and counting, protecting the electoral process from external interference and threats, and e-voting. This observation is of special importance, considering the problem of organizing voting for Serbian citizens residing in the territories of Kosovo and Metohija. The introduction of digital technologies would allow e-voting for this group of voters, which would be a more convenient solution.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation suggests paying attention to the abovementioned deficiencies identified by the Election Observation Mission members during Election Day on April 12, 2022, and proposes the following recommendations for further developing and improving the electoral system and electoral procedures in the Republic of Serbia.

Priority recommendations:

1. Consider supplementing the electoral regulations concerning photo and video recording at polling stations and introducing a video recording system to monitor the voting process at polling stations;

2. Consider creating conditions for establishing constant policing at the polling stations and the surrounding area;
3. Consider amending the electoral legislation to include representatives of civil society organizations and nonpartisan institutions in the system of national election observers at polling stations to exercise oversight over electoral procedures;

Other recommendations:

4. Explore the possibilities of introducing modern digital technologies for vote processing and counting, protecting the electoral process from external interference and threats, and the gradual introduction of e-voting;
5. Take measures to ensure more convenient access to polling stations for people with limited mobility and disabilities, including barrier-free environment construction;
6. Take measures to reduce the waiting time for voters in lines at several polling stations (e.g., increase the size of the polling station premises and the number of voting booths, optimize the identification procedure at polling stations, etc.);
7. Study the options of amending the electoral law to introduce a procedure allowing voters to vote outside the constituency and/or precinct of permanent official registration.

ANNEX

Results of the Presidential Election in the Republic of Serbia, April 3,2022

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Miša Vacić	Serbian Right	32,943	0.89
Biljana Stojković	We Must	122,368	3.30
Branka Stamenković	Sovereignists	77,027	2.08
Zdravko Ponoš	United for the Victory of Serbia	698,497	18.84
Milica Djurdjević Stamenkovski	Serbian Party Oathkeepers	160,545	4.33
Aleksandar Vučić	Serbian Progressive Party	2,224,555	60.01
Miloš Jovanović	National Democratic Alternative	226,118	6.10
Boško Obradović	Serbian Movement “Dveri” – Movement for the Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia	165,167	4.46
Valid votes		3,707,220	97.63
Invalid/blank votes		89,926	2.37
Total votes		3,797,146	100.00
Registered voters		6,502,307	
Turnout		58.63 %	

Source: Republic Electoral Commission of Serbia.

Results of the Belgrade City Parliament Election, April 3, 2022

Party /Coalition	Leader of the list	Votes cast		Number of seats
		Votes	%	
Together We Can Do Everything	Aleksandar Šapić	348,345	38.83	48
Ivica Dačić – Prime Minister of Serbia	Toma Fila	64,050	7.14	8
Serbian Radical Party	Miljko Ristić	14,674	1.64	0
United for the Victory of Belgrade	Vladeta Janković	195,335	21.78	26
National Democratic Alternative	Vojislav Mihailović	57,760	6.44	7
Serbian Party Oathkeepers	Mladen Kocica	32,029	3.57	4
We Must	Dobrica Veselinović	99,078	11.04	13
For the Whole Normal World	Nemanja Šarović	5,239	0.58	0
Sovereignists	Voyin Bilić	19,544	2.18	0
Serbian Movement “Dveri”– Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia (POKS)	Radmila Vasić	30,898	3.44	4
Social Democratic Party of Serbia – New Party	Dusko Vujosević	26,219	2.92	0
Russian Minority Alliance	Pavle Bihali Gavrin	3,879	0.43	0
Valid votes		897,050	97,91	110
Invalid/blank votes		19,155	2.09	
Total votes		916,205	100.00	
Registered voters		1,600,462		
Turnout		57.85 %		

Source: Belgrade City Election Commission.

Results of the Parliamentary Election in the Republic of Serbia, April 3, 2022

Party /Coalition	Votes cast		Number of seats
	Votes	%	
Together We Can Do Everything	1,635,101	44.27	120
Ivica Dačić–Prime Minister of Serbia	435,266	11.79	31
Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians	60,313	1.63	5
Serbian Radical Party	82,066	2.22	0
United for the Victory of Serbia	520,469	14.09	38
National Democratic Alternative	204,443	5.54	15
Serbian Party Oathkeepers	141,227	3.82	10
The Justice and Reconciliation Party	35,850	0.97	3
We Must	178,733	4.84	13
Sovereignists	86,362	2.34	0
Serbian Movement “Dveri” – Movement for the Restoration of the Kingdom of Serbia (POKS)	144,762	3.92	10
Together for Vojvodina – Vojvodinians	24,024	0.65	2
Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak	20,553	0.56	2
Social Democratic Party of Serbia – New Party	63,560	1.72	0
Alternative for Change	3,265	0.09	0
Albanian Coalition of Preševo Valley	10,144	0.27	1
Stolen Babies	31,196	0.84	0
Roma Party	6,393	0.17	0
Russian Minority Alliance	9,569	0.26	0
Valid votes	3,693,296	97.04	250
Invalid/blank votes	112,740	2.96	
Total votes	3,806,036	100.00	
Registered voters	6,502,307		
Turnout	58.60 %		

Source: Republic Electoral Commission of Serbia.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH OSSETIA

South Ossetian State Drama Theater named
after Kosta Khetagurov in Tskhinval

PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION
APRIL 10 AND MAY 8,
2022



The CCRF EOM members meet with Anatoly Bibilov (4th from the right), RSO presidential candidate, during the 1st round of election

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

On January 21, 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of South Ossetia issued a decree to hold presidential elections on April 10, 2022, in anticipation of President Anatoly Bibilov's scheduled expiration of his term of office on May 24, 2022.

On that day, none of the candidates for the post of President obtained an absolute majority of votes, and therefore, on April 25, 2022, the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of South Ossetia issued Decree No. 42/1, which set the 2nd round of the presidential election for May 8, 2022. The 2 candidates proceeding to the 2nd round were: the aforementioned Anatoly Bibilov and Alan Gagloyev.

Election Significance

The presidential elections held on April 10, 2022, and May 24, 2022, in the Republic of South Ossetia were crucial for the country. According to the Constitution, South Ossetia is a presidential republic with considerable powers in the hands of the president, who holds authority over a full range of domestic and foreign policy issues. Thus, the outcome of the election directly determines the course of the republic's domestic and foreign policy for the next 5 years.

Electoral System

Presidential elections in the Republic of South Ossetia are conducted on a majoritarian basis

Presidential Election held under TRS

50% + 1 vote
to win in the 1st round

50%
turnout threshold in the 1st round

Plurality of votes
to win in the 2nd round

30%
turnout threshold in the 2nd round

and are held in a single national constituency using an absolute majority vote system.

To win the election in the 1st round, a candidate must get an absolute majority of votes (50% + 1 vote). Otherwise, a 2nd round of voting takes place between the 2 candidates who received the most votes in the 1st round.

In the 2nd round, a candidate has to receive a plurality of votes to win, but the total number of votes received by a candidate must be greater than the number of votes cast against him/her for a candidate to be declared a winner. A runoff must be held within 15 days after the results of the 1st round of voting are announced.

Also, in presidential election, a 50% turnout threshold is set for the 1st round and 30% for the 2nd round. If the turnout of registered voters is less than the threshold, the elections are declared invalid. Repeat elections must be held in 6 months starting from the date of the 1st round.

Electoral Legislation

In the Republic of South Ossetia, electoral procedures during presidential elections are regulated by the following laws, regulations, and documents:

1. Constitution of the Republic of South Ossetia, 2001;
2. Constitutional Law of the Republic of South Ossetia "On the Elections of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia," 2001;
3. Constitutional Law of the Republic of South Ossetia "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Republic of South Ossetia to Participate in Referenda," 2008;
4. Regulations of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia, 2016;
5. Directive of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 28 of February 12, 2022,

"On the Working Group for Verification of Documents Submitted to the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia for Registration of Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia in the Election of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022";

6. Directive of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 34 of February 17, 2022, "On Changes in the Members of the Working Group for Verification of Documents Submitted to the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia for Registration of Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia in the Election of President of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022, approved by Directive of the Chairman of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 28 of February 12, 2022";
7. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 4/1 of January 22, 2022 "On Labor Regulations for Members of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia, Excluding Persons Occupying Public Posts in the Republic of South Ossetia";
8. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 4/2 of January 22, 2022, "On Instructions for Nominating a Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia by a Political Party and the Registration Procedure for Authorized Representatives";
9. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 4/3 of January 22, 2022, "On Instructions for Nominating a Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia by an Initiative Group of Voters and the Registration Procedure for Authorized Representatives";
10. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 5/1 of January 25, 2022,

"On the Distribution of Duties of the Members of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of South Ossetia According to Its Areas of Activities";

11. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 5/2 of January 25, 2022, "On Approval of a Standard Form for Information about the Expenditures of the Candidate, His/Her Spouse and Minor Children on Each Acquisition Transaction of Land Located Outside the Territory of the Republic of South Ossetia, Other Real Estate, Vehicles, Securities, Shares (Stakes, Shareholdings in the Charter Capital of Companies) and the Sources of Financing for Such Transactions";
12. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 6/1 of January 31, 2022, "On Instructions for the Formation and Appointment of Members of Territorial Election Commissions during the Election of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022";
13. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 6/2 of January 31, 2022, "On Instructions for the Creation, Formation and Appointment of the Members of Precinct Election Commissions during the Election of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022";
14. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 7/2 of February 2, 2022, "On Approval of Forms of Identification Cards of Authorized Representatives of Political Parties and Initiative Groups of Voters, Who Are Simultaneously Authorized Representatives of the Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
15. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 7/3 of February

- 2, 2022, "On Approval of a Form of Written Notification of Acceptance of Documents from Authorized Representatives of Political Parties and Initiative Groups of Voters, Who Are Simultaneously Authorized Representatives of the Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
16. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 8/1 February 8, 2022, "On Formation of Territorial Election Commissions for the Presidential Elections of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022";
17. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 9/1 of February 11, 2022, "On Establishment of a Supervisory and Audit Service under the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia";
18. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 9/2 of February 11, 2022, "On Regulations about the Supervisory and Audit Service under the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia";
19. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 9/3 of February 11, 2022, "On Approval of Regulations on the Working Group for Verification of Documents Submitted to the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia for Registration of Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
20. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 11/1 of February 15, 2022, "On Instructions for the Procedure and Forms of Accounting and Reporting by the Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia on the Receipt and Spending of Election Funds for Presidential Elections in the Republic of South Ossetia";
21. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 11/2 of February 15, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Geno Kadjaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
22. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 12/1 of February 16, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Dmitry Tasev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
23. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 13/2 of February 17, 2022 "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Ibrahim Gasseev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
24. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 14/1 February 18, 2022, "On Amendments to the Instructions for the Procedure and Forms of Accounting and Reporting by the Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia on the Receipt and Spending of Election Funds for Presidential Elections in the Republic of South Ossetia";
25. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 14/2 of February 18, 2022, "On Approval of the Amount of Information about the Registered Candidate for the President of the Republic of South Ossetia to Be Published in Mass Media";
26. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 14/3 of February 18, 2022, "On Approval of a Standard Form for the Final Report on the Collection of Signatures in Support of the Nomination of a Candidate for the President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
27. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 14/4 February 18, 2022 of "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating David Sanakoev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
28. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/1 of February 19, 2022, "On Formation of the Territorial Election Commission of the City of Tskhinvali";
29. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/2 of February 19, 2022, "On Formation of the Territorial Election Commission of the Tskhinvali District";
30. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/3 of February 19, 2022, "On Formation of the Territorial Election Commission of Dzau District";
31. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/4 of February 19, 2022, "On Formation of the Territorial Election Commission of the Znaur District";
32. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/5 of February 19, 2022, "On Formation of the Territorial Election Commission of the Leningori District";
33. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/6 of February 19, 2022, "On Formation of the Territorial Election Commission of the City of Kvaisa";
34. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/7 of February 19, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Zelim Kaziev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
35. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/8 of February 19, 2022, "On the Registration of Authorized Representatives of the Political Party of Alexander Pliev, Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
36. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/9 of February 19, 2022,





37. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 16/1 of February 20, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Alan Kozonov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

38. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 17/1 of February 21, 2022, "On the Registration of Authorized Representatives of the Communist Party of the Republic of South Ossetia, Which Nominated Taimuraz Tadtaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

39. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 17/2 of February 21, 2022, "On the
- Registration of Authorized Representatives of the Unity of the People Socialist Party, Which Nominated Vladimir Kelekhsaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

40. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 17/3 of February 21, 2022, "On the Registration of Authorized Representatives of the United Ossetia Republican Political Party, which Nominated Anatoly Bibilov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

41. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 17/4 of February 21, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Vladimir Pukhaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

42. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia
- No. 17/5 of February 21, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Alan Gagloyev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

43. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 17/6 of February 22, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Eduard Kokoity as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

44. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 18/1 of February 23, 2022, "On Polling Stations Outside the Territory of the Republic of South Ossetia Established for Voting in the Presidential Elections of the Republic of South Ossetia Scheduled for April 10, 2022";

45. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 18/2 of February 23, 2022,

- "On Amendments to the Composition of the Territorial Election Commission of Tskhinval City";

46. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 18/3 of February 23, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Garry Muldarov as Candidate to President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

47. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 18/4 of February 23, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Albert Valiev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

48. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 18/5 of February 23, 2022, "On an Amendment to the Resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 15/7 of February 19, 2022, 'On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Zelim Kaziev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia'";

49. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 19/1 of February 24, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Aslan Kutarov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

50. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 19/2 of February 24, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Rustam Dzagoev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

51. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 19/3 of February 24, 2022, "On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Alimbeg Pliev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

52. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 19/4 of February 24, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of
- the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Boris Tasoiev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

53. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 20/1 of February 27, 2022, "On Amendments to the Composition of the Territorial Election Commission of Tskhinval City";

54. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 20/2 of February 27, 2022, "On Amendments to Instructions for the Creation, Formation and Appointment of Members of Precinct Election Commissions during the Election of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022";

55. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 20/4 of February 27, 2022, "On Polling Stations on the Territory of the Republic of South Ossetia Established for Voting in the Presidential Elections of the Republic of South Ossetia Scheduled for April 10, 2022";

56. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 21/1 of March 1, 2022, "On Clarification of the Rules Procedure for Foreign (International) Observers during the Presidential Elections in the Republic of South Ossetia";

57. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 21/2 of March 1, 2022, "On Amendments to the Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia of 17.02.2022 No. 13/2 'On the Initiative Group of Voters Nominating Ibrahim Gasseev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia'";

58. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 21/4 of March 1, 2022 "On the Establishment of Precinct Election Commission No. 1";

59. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 21/5 of March 1, 2022, "On the Establishment of Precinct Election Commission No. 2";
60. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 21/6 of March 1, 2022, "On the Establishment of Precinct Election Commission No. 3";

61. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 21/7 of March 1, 2022, "On the Establishment of Precinct Election Commission No. 4";

62. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 22/1 of March 6, 2022, "On the Schedule of Proficiency Tests for State Languages of the Republic of South Ossetia by Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

63. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/1 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Vladimir Pukhaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

64. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/2 of March 15, 2022, "On Registration of Anatoly Bibilov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

65. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/3 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Ibragim Gasseev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

66. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/4 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Geno Kadjaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

67. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/5 of March 15, 2022, "On Registration of Alan Gagloyev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

68. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/6 of March 15, 2022, "On Registration of Dmitry Tasoiev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";

69. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/7 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of David Sanakoev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
70. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/8 of March 15, 2022, "On Registration of Alexander Pliev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
71. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/9 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Zelim Kaziev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
72. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/10 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Vladimir Kelekhsaev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
73. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/11 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Aslan Kutarov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
74. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/12 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Taimuraz Tadtaev as a Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
75. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/13 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Albert Valiev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
76. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/14 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Rustam Dzagoev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
77. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/15 of March 15, 2022, "On Registration of Garry Muldarov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
78. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/16 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Alimbeg Pliev as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
79. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/17 of March 15, 2022, "On Denial of Registration of Alan Kozonov as Candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
80. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 24/18 of March 15, 2022, "On Approval of the Text of the Ballot for the Presidential Elections of the Republic of South Ossetia Scheduled for April 10, 2022";
81. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 25/2 of March 16, 2022, "On the Voter Information Sheet";
82. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 25/3 of March 16, 2022, "On the Procedure for Appointing a Member of the Commission with the Right of a Deliberative Vote";
83. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 25/4 of March 16, 2022, "On the Procedure for Registration of the Proxies of Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
84. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 25/6 of March 16, 2022, "On Amendments to Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 12/5 of March 8, 2017, 'On the Rules for Distribution of Campaign Materials'";
85. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 12/5 "On the Rules for Distribution of Campaign Materials," amended by Resolution No. 25/6 of March 16, 2022,
86. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 27/1 of March 22, 2022, "On Approval of the Schedule for Joint Campaign Events on Workdays, within the Scope of the Free Airtime on State TV and Radio Company "IR" Channels Provided to Registered Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
87. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 27/2 of March 22, 2022, "On Determining the Total Amount of Paid and Free Print Space Provided in the State Periodicals 'South Ossetia' and 'Khurzarin'";
88. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 27/3 of March 22, 2022, "On Registration of Proxies";
89. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 29/1 of March 25, 2022, "On the Procedure for Allocating Premises for Meetings with Voters during Presidential Elections in the Republic of South Ossetia";
90. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 30/1 of March 26, 2022, "On Amending Point 1 of the Resolution No. 12/5 of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia, dated March 8, 2017, "On the Rules for Distribution of Campaign Materials";
91. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 34/1 of March 31, 2022, "On Changes to the Composition of Precinct Election Commission No. 1";
92. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 34/2 of March 31, 2022, "On Changes to the Composition of Precinct Election Commission No. 2";
93. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 35/1 of April 1, 2022, "On Clarifications of the Procedure for the Appointment and Exercise of the Powers of Representatives of Registered Candidates with the Right to Sign the Back of the Ballot during Presidential Elections in the Republic of South Ossetia";
94. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 37/1 of April 4, 2022, "On Clarifications of the Procedure for the Appointment and Exercise of the Powers of Representatives of Registered Candidates with the Right to Sign the Back of Ballots during Presidential Elections in the Republic of South Ossetia";
95. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 37/2 of April 4, 2022, "On Entering Marks in the Passport of a Citizen of the Republic of South Ossetia";
96. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 37/3 of 4 April, 2022, "On the Voting Procedure for Observers, Representatives of Registered Candidates with the Right to Sign the Back of Ballots, Representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies and Members of Precinct Election Commissions";
97. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 37/4 of April 4, 2022, "On Assigning the Polling Stations Established Outside the Territory of the Republic of South Ossetia for the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022, to the Unified Electoral District of the Republic of South Ossetia";
98. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 38/2 of April 6, 2022, "On Changes to the Composition of Precinct Election Commission No. 1";
99. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 38/3 of April 6, 2022, "On Changes to the Composition of Precinct Election Commission No. 2";
100. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia of No. 38/4 April 6, 2022, "On Changes to the Composition of Precinct Election Commission No. 4";
101. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 39/1 of April 14, 2022 "On the Results of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022";
102. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 41/1 of April 19, 2022, "On the Results of Drawing Lots to Establish the Sequence of Free and Paid Airtime and Free and Paid Print Space to Registered Candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia";
103. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 41/2 of April 19, 2022, "On Determining the Total Amount of Paid and Free Print Space Provided in the State Periodicals 'South Ossetia,' 'Khurzarin' and 'Republic'";
104. Resolution No. 41/3 of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia "On Determining the Total Amount of Paid and Free Airtime Provided on the Channels of IR State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company," dated April 19, 2022
105. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 42/1 of April 25, 2022 "On Setting the Date for the 2nd Round of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia";
106. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 43/1 of April 29, 2022, "On the Ballots for the 2nd Round of the Presidential Election Scheduled for April 28, 2022, in the Republic of South Ossetia";
107. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 43/2 of April 29, 2022, "On Approval of the Text of the Ballot for the 2nd Round of the Presidential Election Scheduled for May 8, 2022, in the Republic of South Ossetia";
108. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 43/3 of April 29, 2022, "On Putting a Mark (Stamp) on the Back Cover of the Passport of a Citizen of the Republic of South Ossetia";
109. Decree of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 43/4 of April 29, 2022, "On the Voting Procedure for Members of Precinct Election Commissions, Observers, Representatives of Registered Candidates with the Right to Sign the Back of Ballots and Representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies at the 2nd Round of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia on May 8, 2022";
110. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 43/5 of April 29, 2022, "On Sending an Inquiry to the Parliament of the Republic of South Ossetia";
111. Resolution of the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia No. 46/1 of May 12, 2022, "On the Results of the 2nd Round of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia on May 8, 2022, and on the Results of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia".

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

The electoral process in South Ossetia is administered by a 3-tier system of election commissions:

1. Central Election Commission of the Republic of South Ossetia (CEC of the RSO);
2. 6 District Election Commissions (DECs);
3. 76 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).

The CEC of the RSO is a permanent collegial state body that is independent of other branches of power and financed from the state budget. Its functions

include organizing and conducting parliamentary and presidential elections and referenda on the territory of South Ossetia and out-of-country, as well as overseeing compliance with South Ossetia's electoral legislation when holding elections and referenda.

In accordance with the Constitutional Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Republic of South Ossetia to Participate in Referenda," the CEC of the RSO is established by decree of the RSO's Parliament no later than 3 days before the end of the term of its previous composition. The CEC's term of office is 5 years.

The CEC of the RSO has 15 members: a CEC Chair, a CEC Deputy Chair, a CEC Secretary, and 12 members. The members of the CEC of the RSO are appointed as follows: the CEC Chair is appointed by the Parliament upon the President's nomination (a candidate cannot be nominated more than twice); 7 CEC members are appointed by the Parliament from the candidates nominated by members of Parliament (MPs) and parliamentary groups; the other 7 CEC members are appointed by the President from the candidates nominated by political parties and voter assemblies. An MP, parliamentary group, political party, and voter assembly may not nominate more than 1 candidate. Within 10 days after a new composition of the CEC of the RSO is established, the CEC of the RSO must hold its 1st meeting, where the CEC members elect the CEC Deputy Chair and the CEC Secretary from among themselves by using a secret ballot.

On August 4, 2021, Emilia Gagieva was appointed CEC Chair by the parliamentary decree. On August 24, 2021, Gultamze Gogicheva was elected Deputy Chair at the 1st session of the new CEC of the RSO; Kristina Avlokhova was elected CEC Secretary.

According to the Constitutional Law "On the Election of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia," the DEC's are formed by the CEC of the RSO within 30 days following the day the Parliament's decision on setting Election Day is published. The DEC consists of 7 members appointed by the CEC of the RSO from the nominees of initiative groups of voters, political parties, and electoral blocs. The DEC Chair, Deputy Chair, and Secretary are elected at the 1st meeting from the ranks of the DEC members.

The PECs for the elections of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia are then formed by their respective DEC's no later than 30 days before Election Day. The PEC comprises from 5 to 9 members chosen from the candidates nominated by election blocs, political parties, and voter assemblies. However, the PECs operating at the overseas polling stations established for out-of-country voting are formed by the CEC of the RSO.

The term of office of the DEC's expires once the election results are officially published, while the PEC's' term of office expires 10 days afterward, provided that no complaints or objections have been filed with the superior election commission regarding the PEC's' (in)activities that violate the voting and vote counting procedure, and that no legal proceedings regarding these facts are pending before courts. If there is an appeal against the voting results, the PEC's' powers are terminated as soon as a final decision on the complaint is made by a superior election commission or a court.

Polling stations are established by the CEC of the RSO at least 40 days before Election Day; each polling station shall have at least 20 and no more than 2,000 registered voters. This rule though does not apply to overseas polling stations.

In the presidential elections, military personnel, like other voters, cast a ballot at regular polling stations, but as an exception, it is possible to establish polling stations on the territory of military units.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

Active suffrage in the Republic of South Ossetia is granted to all its citizens who have reached 18 years old on Election Day and permanently or primarily reside in South Ossetia. Citizens who have been recognized legally incapable by a court or are held in detention facilities by a court sentence do not have the right to vote.

Central Election Commission of the Republic of South Ossetia

15
members

1
Chair
appointed by the Parliament upon the President's nomination

7
members
appointed by the Parliament from the candidates nominated by MPs

7
members
appointed by the President from the candidates nominated by political parties and voter assemblies



A PEC member of puts a vote stamp on the voter's passport



A voter drops his ballot paper into the ballot box at a polling station on Election Day

There is no unified voter register in South Ossetia: voter lists are compiled and updated by the PECs for each polling station based on data received from the head of the local administration. Final lists are formed no later than 15 days before Election Day (no later than 10 days in inaccessible and/or remote areas) in 2 copies: 1 copy is posted at the polling station in a designated place, the 2nd is kept at the DEC, then, 3 days before Election Day, is sent to the CEC of the RSO to ensure integrity. Both copies must be signed by the PEC chair and secretary and certified by the seal of the respective DEC.

A voter can be included in a voter list at only 1 polling station; inclusion in the voter list of a particular polling station takes place automatically based on the voter's permanent or primary residence in the territory assigned to the polling station. Also, in practice, this procedure can be supplemented by the PEC members doing door-to-door.

If on Election Day a voter is in a hospital, detention facility for suspects and accused persons, or in any other place of temporary stay, he/she has the right to be included in a separate voter list of the polling station assigned to the institution of the voter's temporary stay. To do this, the voter should first request removal from the voter list of the polling station where he/she is assigned and join another polling station at his/her current location, providing official documents that indicate the reasons and date of removal from the list and signed by the PEC chair and secretary. These lists are compiled by the relevant PECs no later than the day before Election Day, based on information submitted by the institution head of the voter's temporary stay.

If a polling station is established on the territory of a military unit, the military personnel and their family members stationed there

are included in its voter list based on information submitted by the commanding officer of the military unit no later than 15 days before the elections.

Yet no information could be found regarding the method of compiling voter lists at out-of-country polling stations or other issues related to this process.

A total of 39,282 voters were registered for April 10, 2022, presidential election; in the 2nd round, the number of officially registered voters increased by 516 to 39,798. Voter turnout in the 1st round was 73.97% nationwide, and 73.93% in the 2nd round.

Candidate Registration

The registration of candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia lasted 30 days since the decree announcing the presidential election was published, i.e., from January 22 to February 20, 2022.

During this period, political parties officially registered for at least 1 year prior to Election Day, electoral blocs (2 or more parties united to participate in elections), and initiative groups of voters officially registered by the CEC of the RSO have the right to nominate 1 candidate for the presidential election at their official congress, conference and/or meeting.

When political parties and electoral blocs nominate a candidate, at least 100 delegates must attend the congress or conference where the nomination takes place; also, the candidate need not be a member of the nominating party/parties.

The CEC of the RSO must be notified of the place and time of the congress 5 days in advance after which authorized representatives of the political party and/or electoral bloc chosen at the congress must submit to the CEC of the RSO the congress minutes, decision on the appointment of authorized representatives and other necessary documents.

An initiative group of voters nominating a candidate must convene a meeting of at least 100 people and notify the CEC of the RSO of the place and time of the meeting 5 days in advance. Then the initiative group's authorized representatives must submit an application to the CEC of the RSO to register the group, together with the minutes of the meeting and a decision on the appointment of authorized representatives.

After receiving registration certificates from the CEC of the RSO, authorized representatives of electoral associations are required to gather 3,500 voter signatures in support of the candidate's nomination for president; in every administrative entity of South Ossetia, at least 150 signatures of voters officially residing in the region must be gathered. There is also a legal upper limit of collected signatures: the number of signatures submitted to the CEC of the RSO must not exceed the required number of signatures for registration of a candidate by more than 15%, i.e., not more than 4,025 signatures.

Once the authorized representatives of electoral associations submitted signature lists and other documents

required for registering candidates to the CEC of the RSO, the CEC members reviewed all submitted signatures and documents within 5 days and then made an official decision on whether to register a candidate for presidential elections.

There is also a legal requirement for presidential candidates: a candidate must be at least 35 years old, know the state languages of the country (Russian and Ossetian), and have been a permanent resident of the Republic of South Ossetia at least for the 10 years preceding the day of registration as a candidate for President of the Republic of South Ossetia.³

39 282

registered voters for the 1st round

73.97%

turnout in the 1st round

39 798

registered voters for the 2nd round

73.93%

turnout in the 2nd round

³ According to Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of South Ossetia "On the Election of President of the Republic of South Ossetia," a candidate's command of the state languages of the Republic, Russian and Ossetian, is verified by a special Linguistic Commission of the Republic of South Ossetia established by the CEC of the RSO at the time of the elections. According to Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of South Ossetia "On the Election of President of the Republic of South Ossetia," "the period of residence on the territory of the Republic of South Ossetia is considered permanent if a person has left the Republic of South Ossetia for a total of not more than 93 working days within a year without a valid excuse. Absence from the territory of the Republic of South Ossetia shall be considered valid in the case of annual paid leave, business trips, illness, and study if the person was sent on a business trip, for medical treatment or to study by state authorities of the Republic of South Ossetia."



The CCRF EOM members at a press conference at the Information Center of the CEC of RSO

Also, a candidate must not be a citizen of any other foreign country (except for the Russian Federation), must not be recognized by a court as legally incapable, must not be serving a prison term by a court sentence, and must not have a court sentence depriving him of the right to hold public office that has come into legal force and is valid on Election Day.

List of Registered Candidates

During the registration period, a total of 19 candidate applications were submitted, of which 14 were rejected by the CEC of the RSO. Thus, after the deadline for submission of documents and their verification, the CEC of the RSO officially registered the following 5 candidates for presidential elections:

1. Anatoly Bibilov, incumbent President of the Republic of South Ossetia, the United Ossetia Party;

2. Alan Gagloev, head of the Nykhas Party;
3. Garry Muldarov, MP of the Republic of South Ossetia, independent;
4. Alexander Pliev, Deputy Chair of the Parliament of the Republic of South Ossetia, head of the People's Party of South Ossetia;
5. Dmitry Tasoev, MP of the Republic of South Ossetia, independent.

Election Observation Institutions

National observers are appointed only by standing candidates for President of the Republic of South Ossetia and electoral associations, i.e., political parties, electoral blocs, and initiative groups of voters, that have nominated candidates for presidential elections.

According to Article 14, paragraph 5 of the Constitutional Law "On the Election of the President of the Republic of

South Ossetia," on Election Day and the early voting days (3 days before Election Day in the PECs and 5 days in the DEC's) each standing candidate and/or election association that nominated a standing candidate may deploy an observer per each polling station, who is allowed to monitor the PEC activities starting from the polling station opening until the end of vote counting and filling in the voting result documents.

In order to register an observer, candidates and electoral associations must draw up a document confirming that the person representing their interests has the powers of an observer, specifying his/her personal data and the number of the polling station where he/she will perform his/her functions.

An observer has the right to:

1. familiarize him/herself with the voter register at the polling station where he/she is conducting observation;

2. remain in the polling stations premises and accompany the PEC staff during the homebound voting;
3. monitor the counting of the number of people added to the voter lists, the number of ballots issued to voters, and the number of canceled ballots;
4. monitor the counting of votes cast by voters;
5. protest the (in)actions of the PEC to the DEC and the CEC of the RSO in accordance with the national legislation.

In addition, the electoral legislation of the Republic of South Ossetia provides for the possibility of appointing official representatives of standing presidential candidates bestowed with the same rights as observers plus the right to sign on the back of the ballot paper, which serves as an additional verification mechanism and a means of external control over the voting at polling stations.

Each standing candidate has the right to appoint up to 2 official representatives; only 1 official representative of a standing candidate may be present at a polling station at a time.

19

candidates' applications

to participate in the presidential election submitted to the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia

14

rejected

5

approved

Representatives of mass media and international observers are also entitled to observe election procedures at polling stations. The institution of independent public observers is not envisaged by the electoral legislation of the Republic of South Ossetia.

International observers can be invited by the President, the Parliament, the Government, and the CEC of the Republic of South Ossetia after the official publication of the decision on setting the date of the election of the President of the Republic of South Ossetia. After an international or foreign election observation mission submits all necessary documents to the CEC of the RSO, the CEC members decide whether to accredit the members of the election observation mission as international monitors.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was accredited by the CEC of the RSO for the presidential elections of April 10 and May 8, 2022, as an international observer to monitor the preparation for the elections, the work of the CEC of the RSO, and the voting and vote counting procedure at polling stations in South Ossetia.

Since the initially given mandate of the international observer covered only the 1st round of presidential elections, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation reapplied to the CEC of the RSO for new accreditation as the international observer to monitor the 2nd round of presidential elections as well.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

In the 1st round of presidential elections of the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10, 2022, the

Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was composed of the following representatives of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation:

1. Vladimir Zorin, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations – Head of the Election Observation Mission;
2. Ivan Abazher, member of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions;
3. Alena Bulgakova, Deputy Chair of the Coordinating Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for Public Oversight over Voting;
4. Rostik Khugaev, member of the Civic Chamber of the Samara Region;
5. Vladimir Lagkuyev, First Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations;
6. Maria Medusheva, Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations of the Executive Office of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

In the 2nd round of presidential elections of the Republic of South Ossetia on May 8, 2022, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was composed of the following representatives of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation:

1. Vladimir Lagkuyev, First Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations, Head of the Election Observation Mission;



Journalists at the Information Center of the CEC of the RSO follow the vote count in real-time

2. Maria Medusheva, Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations of the Executive Office of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation;
3. Magomed Shamilov, member of the Civic Chamber of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania;
4. Yevgeny Zabrodin, member of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Development of Information Society, Mass Media, and Communications.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present in South Ossetia from April 8 to 11, 2022, to observe the 1st round of the presidential election, and from

May 6 to 9, 2022, for the 2nd round of the presidential election.

In both the 1st and 2nd rounds, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observers monitored the observance of the days of silence on April 9 and May 7, 2022, on the eve of election days. Also, on the eve of the election days, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation met with Emilia Gagiyeva, the Chair of CEC of the RSO, and other CEC members. At the meeting, they received international observer badges and discussed issues related to the electoral legislation of South Ossetia, specifics of the organization of voting and monitoring procedures at polling stations, and some other technical matters related to ensuring transparency and fairness of the electoral process. In addition, the members of the

Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation examined the ballot papers and got acquainted with the campaign materials of the standing candidates.

On April 10, 2022, on Election Day of the 1st round of presidential elections, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors set off to observe the opening of polling stations Nos. 64 and 62 of Tskhinval district at 7:00 am and then throughout the day visited polling station No. 8 located in Tskhinval city, polling stations Nos. 24 and 28 of Dzausky district, polling station No. 14 located in Tskhinval city and polling station No. 34 of Dzausky district. After the polling stations closed at 8:00 pm, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited the Information Center of the CEC of the RSO, located at 51 I. Kharebova St., Tskhinval, where

observers followed real-time updates on turnout, registered violations, complaints filed, and votes counted.

Overall, on April 10, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited the following polling stations in South Ossetia:

Tskhinval District

1. Polling station No. 64, rural administration building, Zar village;
2. Polling Station No. 62, rural administration building, Khetagurovo village;

Tskhinval City

3. Polling Station No. 8, 8 Pushkina St., Palace of Children's Creativity, Tskhinval;
4. Polling Station No. 14, 122 A. Dzhioyev Ave., School No. 5, Tskhinval;

Dzausky District

5. Polling Station No. 24, school building, 27 Kochieva St., Dzau;
6. Polling Station No. 28, communal farm building, 6 Stalin St., Dzau;
7. Polling Station No. 34, high school building, Gufta village;

On the morning of April 11, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation participated in the briefing of the international observers at the Information Center of CEC of the RSO, where they commented on the 1st round of the presidential election and shared their opinion on the administration of the electoral process in South Ossetia.

On May 8, 2022, on the day of the runoff election for the President of the Republic of South Ossetia, the members of the Election

Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the preparation and opening of polling station No. 8 located in the Tskhinval city from 7:00 am, then, throughout the Election Day, they observed voting at polling stations Nos. 9, 14, 6, and 21 located in Tskhinval, and later on, monitored polling station No. 51 in Leningor district and polling stations Nos. 66 and 64 in Tskhinval district.

After polling stations closure at 8:00 pm, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived at the Information Center of the CEC of the RSO, where they followed a rundown of the preliminary results of the 2nd round of presidential elections.

On Election Day, May 8, 2022, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited the following polling stations:

Tskhinval City

1. Polling Station No. 8, 8 Pushkina St., Palace of Children's Creativity, Tskhinval;
2. Polling station No. 9, 32 A. Dzhioyev Ave., School No. 2, Tskhinval;
3. Polling station No. 14, 122 A. Dzhioyev Ave., School No. 5, Tskhinval;
4. Polling Station No. 6, 18 8th June St., Medical College, Tskhinval;
5. Polling Station No. 21, 39 Gorky St., Sanitary and Epidemiological Station, Tskhinval;

Leningor District

6. Polling Station No. 51, school building, Leningor;

Tskhinval District

7. Polling Station No. 66, rural administration building, 101 Stalin St., Tskhinval;

8. Polling Station No. 64, rural administration building, Zar village;

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

At the 1st round of presidential elections on April 10, 2022, in addition to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, observers from the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the parliamentary delegation of the State Duma and the Federation Council Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the official delegation of the Republic of Abkhazia comprising representatives of the Civic Chamber, People's Assembly and Cabinet of Ministers of Abkhazia, and official representatives of the Donetsk People's Republic were deployed in the Republic of South Ossetia. Observers from Austria, Venezuela, Nagorno-Karabakh, Nicaragua, Italy, and Turkey were also accredited. Overall, 65 international observers arrived at the 1st round of presidential elections in South Ossetia.

At the 2nd round of presidential elections on May 8, 2022, apart from the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, a parliamentary delegation of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the official delegation of the Republic of Abkhazia, consisting of representatives of the Civic Chamber, the National Assembly and the Cabinet of Ministers of Abkhazia, and official representatives of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics were present in the Republic of South Ossetia.

At both rounds of the presidential elections, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation productively cooperated with all international observers accredited by the CEC of the RSO.

Observation Findings on Election Day

On April 10 and May 8, 2022, a total of 72 polling stations were opened in the Republic of South Ossetia, as well as 4 overseas polling stations for out-of-country voting: 3 polling stations in the Russian Federation (1 in Moscow and 2 in Vladikavkaz) and 1 in Sukhum, Republic of Abkhazia.

On Election Days, in both rounds of presidential election, the polling stations were open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; after the closing of the polling stations, the PECs counted the votes in the presence of observers.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the strict observance of the polling stations' working schedule and regulations in the constituencies visited. Polling stations opened as usual: i.e., at 8:00 am, the PEC chair presented an empty ballot box to the other PEC members and present voters and observers and then sealed it with special locks.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively assessed the thorough preparation of the polling stations for the opening and also stressed that the atmosphere at the polling stations they visited on Election Day was calm and peaceful. It was separately noted that servicemen of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia were stationed at the polling station entrances to maintain public order at the polling stations. Also, the duties of law enforcement officers were to prevent violations during the voting and to respond promptly to any illegal actions taken.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian

Federation reported that observers deployed by all standing candidates were present at the polling stations they visited, which greatly increased the transparency of the electoral process and demonstrated a high level of external multilateral oversight over electoral procedures. The lists of observers present at the polling stations were compiled by the members of the relevant PECs following the order in which they were presented with the required observer documents.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors reported that most premises of the visited polling stations lacked the special infrastructure for people with limited mobility and disabilities and the elderly, which aggravated their access to polling stations. Yet it was noted that during Election Days, homebound voting was conducted for people with limited mobility and disabilities and the elderly, who were listed in a special register in advance.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also got acquainted with the methods used for preventing electoral fraud and vote rigging, including double voting. For instance, at each polling station, there were publicly available lists of registered voters, and while giving a ballot to the voter, the PEC member puts a special stamp on his/her passport.

In addition, each voter signed a special register upon receipt of the ballot, and then he/she had to get signatures of official representatives of standing candidates present at the polling station on the back of his/her ballot.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted that the names of candidates on the ballots were arranged in alphabetical

order, and information about the candidates was compactly placed to the left of their names and the marking section for the voters' convenience. All inscriptions on the ballots were duplicated in Russian and Ossetian.

Despite the voter registers being compiled in advance, they did not include actual personal data of voters (i.e., passport series and number), which demanded considerable time spent by the PECs on entering this information into the register, which resulted in increased voting time and sometimes led to voter lines at the polling stations. Considering the significant turnout, nonetheless, due to their professionalism, the PECs managed to quite effectively cope with administrating voter flows.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors positively assessed an online video surveillance system deployed at the polling stations to prevent any possible violations and monitor the ongoing situation in real-time. As such, each polling station was equipped with cameras, which broadcast live to the Information Center of the CEC of the RSO

Complaints and Infringements

Throughout Election Day on April 10, 2022, and the runoff on May 8, 2022, neither voting and vote counting violations nor officially filed complaints regarding the election results were noted by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the visited polling stations in the Republic of South Ossetia.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that the presidential elections in the Republic of South Ossetia on April 10 and

May 8, 2022, were held without infringements in a peaceful atmosphere and in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of South Ossetia and international standards.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation emphasized the overall professionalism and high level of work of the election commissions at all levels, as well as the efforts of the CEC of the RSO dedicated to organizing and holding both rounds of presidential elections.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively assessed the procedures and mechanisms employed to prevent electoral fraud, specifically noting the innovative system of online video surveillance used at polling stations.

In general, the election administration of the Republic of South Ossetia managed to effectively hold presidential election notwithstanding high voter turnout. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted the high competitiveness of presidential elections, marked by the number of registered candidates.

Nevertheless, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation suggest drawing attention to several shortcomings

in the electoral process organization:

1. Lack of independent public observers;
2. Undeveloped barrier-free infrastructure at polling station premises aimed at facilitating polling stations accessibility for people with limited mobility and disabilities;
3. Lack of the possibility of remote electronic voting for voters;
4. Lack of a unified national register of voters, automatically updated based on information verified by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia and/or other authorized state bodies.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation proposes to pay attention to the abovementioned peculiarities, which were identified by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors on Election Days on April 10 and May 8, 2022, and to take into consideration the following recommendations for further development and improvement of the electoral system and electoral procedures of the Republic of South Ossetia.

Priority recommendations:

1. Consider establishing, under the auspices of the CEC of the RSO, a unified register of voters

with up-to-date personal data, updated annually based on data received from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia and/or other authorized government agencies;

2. Consider amending the electoral legislation of the Republic of South Ossetia to include representatives of civil society nonpartisan structures in the system of observation at polling stations and control of electoral procedures, as well as expanding the powers of national observers to exercise external control over homebound voting;

Other recommendations:

3. Explore the possibilities of introducing modern digital technologies for vote processing and counting, electoral process protection from external effects and threats, and the gradual introduction of remote e-voting;
4. Continue taking measures to ensure more convenient access to polling stations for people with limited mobility and disabilities, including barrier-free environment development.
5. Promote the introduction of additional inclusive measures aimed at facilitating the participation in the electoral process of persons with visual impairments, including persons with disabilities (for example, duplication of information on the ballot in Braille, etc.).

ANNEX

Results of the 1st Round of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia, April 10, 2022

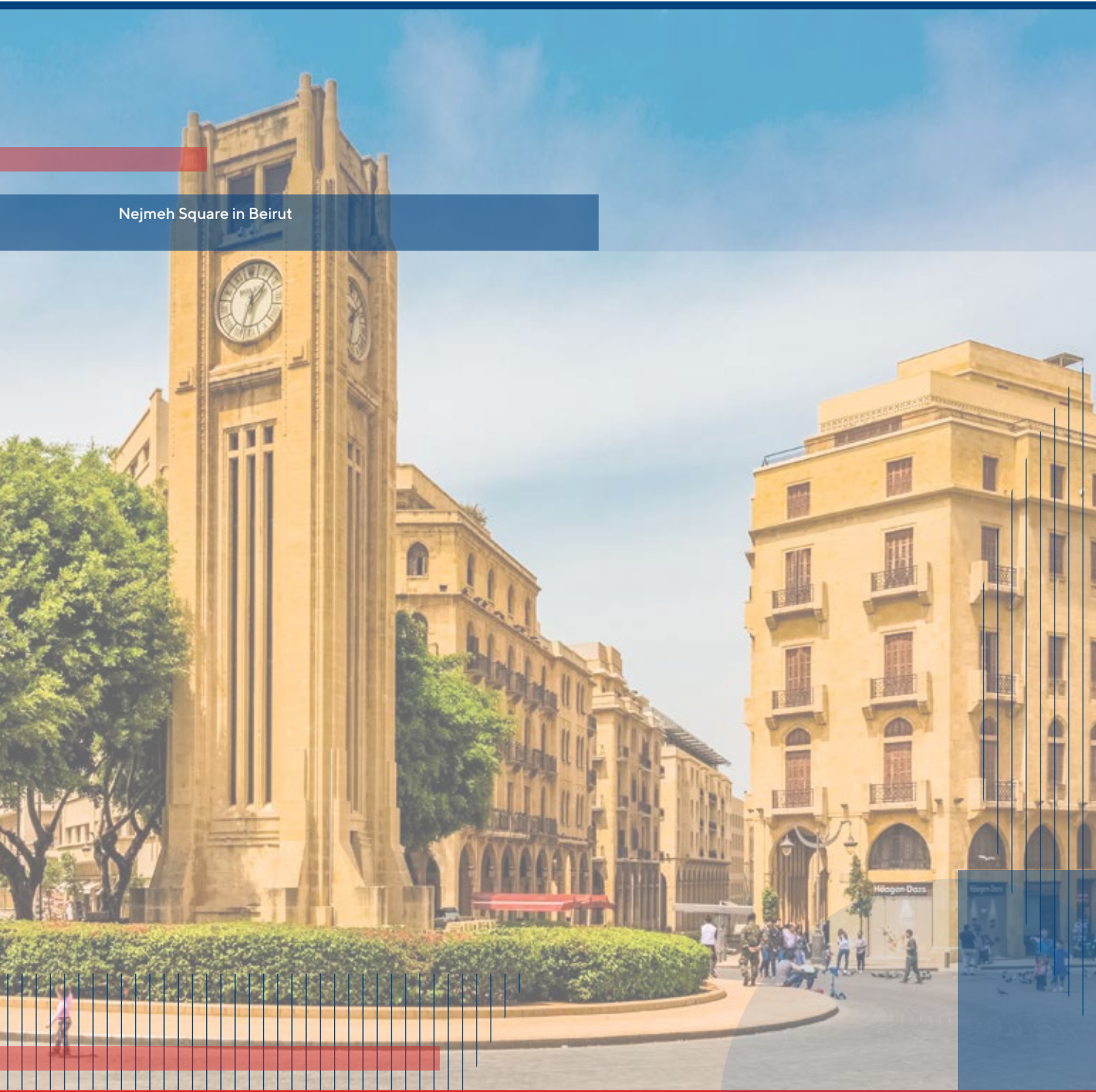
Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Anatoly Bibilov	United Ossetia	9,706	34.95%
Alan Gagloev	Nykhas	10,707	38.55%
Garry Muldarov	Independent	2,592	9.33%
Alexander Pliev	People’s Party of South Ossetia	3,434	12.37%
Dmitry Tasoev	Independent	822	2.96%
Against all candidates		510	1.84%
Valid votes		27,771	95.57
Invalid/blank votes		1,286	4.43
Total votes		29,057	100.00
Registered voters		39,282	
Turnout		73.97%	

Results of the 2nd Round of the Presidential Election in the Republic of South Ossetia, May 8, 2022

Candidate	Party	Votes cast	
		Votes	%
Anatoly Bibilov	United Ossetia	11,767	40.90%
Alan Gagloev	Nykhas	16,134	56.09%
Against all candidates		867	3.01%
Valid votes		28,768	97.77%
Invalid/blank votes		655	2.23%
Total votes		29,423	100%
Registered voters		39,798	
Turnout		73.93%	

LEBANESE REPUBLIC

Nejmeh Square in Beirut



PARLIAMENT OF
LEBANON ELECTION
MAY 15, 2022

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

On May 15, 2022, a parliamentary election was held in the Republic of Lebanon that determined the new composition of the 128-member unicameral legislative body, the Parliament of Lebanon. It was the country's 7th parliamentary election since the end of the Lebanese Civil War (1975 – 1990) and 2nd since the 2017 electoral reform.

The election was originally set for May 8, 2022, however, on October 19, 2021, the Parliament of Lebanon voted to reschedule the election to an earlier date, March 27, 2022. Nevertheless, the President of Lebanon, Michel Aoun, refused to sign a decree postponing the election date for several reasons. First, it would have shortened the time required for election preparation; second, it would have shrunk the standing candidates' campaign period and made it much more difficult to campaign; third, an earlier election date would have extended the duration of the transfer of powers to the new composition of the Parliament, as the term of office of the old one would have expired 1.5 months afterward the earlier election date; fourth, at that time, members of Parliament had yet to agree on electoral regulations for the upcoming election prescribed by the new 2017 electoral law.

After lasting debate, litigation, and negotiations, it was decided to hold elections in mid-May 2022 under the same electoral regulations as the 2018 parliamentary election, therefore, the Electoral Law was amended accordingly.

Thus, on December 27, 2021, Bassam Mawlawi, Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon, issued a decree setting the parliamentary election for May 15, 2022.

The major news on the eve of the elections was the decision of some of the most prominent Lebanese

Sunni politicians in January 2022 to refuse to participate in the upcoming election of the Parliament of Lebanon.

Election Significance

The May 15, 2022, parliamentary election in the Lebanese Republic was extremely important for several reasons.

First, holding every parliamentary election in Lebanon has historically been a result of an intricate consensus among the country's multi-denominational political establishment, since the absence of such consensus leads to the extension of the incumbent Parliament's mandate.

Second, the new composition of Lebanese MPs is also supposed to elect a new President of Lebanon, one of the most significant figures in the national political system, for the next 6-year term in the fall of 2022 (the current President's powers expire on October 30, 2022).

Third, the elections have become a crucial element in the struggle between internal and external forces to determine Lebanon's foreign policy since various Lebanese parties, in one way or another, promote the interests of Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, EU states (especially France), and the United States.

Electoral System

Electoral reform has long been on the agenda of Lebanese politicians and has been repeatedly discussed at the highest level, but the first attempt to introduce one was made only after the resolution of the 2008 political crisis. The National Commission established under the Parliament of Lebanon prepared a draft electoral law that proposed introducing a mixed electoral system, reducing the number of electoral districts by enlarging them and lowering the age limit for voters from 21 to 18 years; however, in the end,

Parliament of Lebanon

128 seats

64 Muslims

27 Sunni

27 Shia

8 Druze

2 Alawite

64 Christians

34 Maronite

14 Greek Orthodox

8 Melkite

5 Armenian Orthodox

1 Armenian Catholic

1 Evangelical

1 Christian minorities

Lebanese MPs passed a truncated version of the electoral law (Law No. 25 of October 9, 2008), which introduced changes only in the campaign spending regulation and restored the 1960 constituency borders.

The issue of full-fledged electoral reform was revisited 9 years later in 2017. After deliberation of a number of draft projects of electoral reform and protracted negotiations among political actors, the Parliament of Lebanon adopted Law No. 44 of June 17, 2017, "On Election of Members of Parliament," which was then approved in October by the Cabinet of Ministers and the President of Lebanon.

The 2017 Electoral Law envisaged a transition from a majoritarian electoral system with multi-member districts (MMDs), where the winning candidate list (also known as the qualifying list) received all the parliamentary seats assigned to the constituency, to an open list proportional representation electoral system with a reduced number of enlarged MMDs.

Despite the change in the institutional design of the electoral system, it is still based on the fundamental principle of Lebanese politics, i.e., the confessional distribution of political power in general, and also manifested in parliamentary seat allocation, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Lebanese Republic following the 1989 National Reconciliation Accord.⁴ Under new electoral regulations, qualifying lists get seats in the Parliament according to the percentage of votes received and the confessional quotas assigned to a particular constituency.

The electoral reform reduced the number of electoral districts from 26 to 15, 7 of which are divided into 26 smaller electoral subdistricts (from 2 to 4 electoral subdistricts within an electoral district), whose borders coincide with the administrative units of Lebanon. Thus, 128 seats of the unicameral Parliament and corresponding confessional quotas are allocated to 15 constituencies based on the confessional composition of the population as per the 1932 census (see Annex).⁵

The Parliament of Lebanon Election

Proportional representation system

15 electoral districts

26 electoral subdistricts

Confessional quotas allocated based on the confessional composition of the population

In each constituency, according to a decree issued by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, polling stations were established with an average of 100–400 people assigned (up to a maximum of 600 people per polling station). Nevertheless, current constituencies' border delimitation in terms of voter-per-seat ratio (i.e., the ratio between the number of voters registered in a constituency and the number of seats allocated to a constituency) is uneven; thus, the voting power differs from one constituency to another. In particular, across the nation, the



The CCRF EOM members at a polling station on Election Day

average voter-per-seat ratio is about 31,000, whereas, between some constituencies, this value may vary by 3 times.⁶

Lebanese electoral system uses an open list voting system: specifically, a voter casts a vote for a qualifying list of candidates and also casts a preferential vote for one of the candidates on the list, which is optional.

⁴ In 1989, at the end of the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990), the National Reconciliation Accord (also known as the "Taif Agreement") was signed by the belligerents in Taif, Saudi Arabia, which, inter alia, established an equal division of seats in the Parliament of Lebanon between Christians and Muslims in a 1:1 ratio. Before the Lebanese Civil War, according to the 1943 unwritten "National Pact," seats in the Parliament of Lebanon between Christians and Muslims were apportioned in a 6:5 ratio.

⁵ An official census has not been conducted in Lebanon since 1932 for fear of upsetting the delicate confessional balance and provoking a new civil war, so all voters are strictly assigned to constituencies according to their paternal ancestor's place of registration in the 1932 Lebanese census. The legislation provides for the re-registration of a citizen in another administrative (and therefore electoral) district, but this procedure is extremely complicated, making it very rare for Lebanese citizens to undergo it.

⁶ The fewer voters are registered in a constituency, the fewer votes a qualified list of candidates needs to win, the greater the weight of one vote, and vice versa. For example, in the Beirut-1 electoral district, the voter-per-seat ratio is almost 17,000, while in the South-2 electoral district, it is almost 47,000. In general, neither the Electoral Law nor any other legislative act prescribes clear principles for the seat distribution between the constituencies, and the traditional mechanism based on the number of voters registered in a constituency is not observed. As such, the North-1 electoral district with 317,416 officially registered voters elects 7 MPs, while the Mount Lebanon-4 electoral district with 367,538 officially registered voters elects 13 MPs.



Representatives of candidates observe voting and vote counting at a polling station on Election Day

First, the vote counting procedure determines the number of seats received by each qualifying list. The mandate distribution between the standing qualifying lists is done by using the method of the largest remainder, yet to participate in the seat allocation, a qualifying list must overcome an electoral quotient or threshold that varies among constituencies.⁷ After eliminating the candidate lists who failed to pass the constituency electoral threshold, the seats allotted to the constituency are distributed by using a modified Hare method.⁸

In the next step, all candidates on the lists that passed the constituency electoral threshold are included in a unified candidate list and ranked according to the percentage of preferential votes received.⁹ Since each candidate indicates his/her confession, the candidates on the unified list compete with each other for the seats allotted to their denomination in the constituency.

As soon as the candidates with the highest number of preferential votes win all seats corresponding to their religious quota within the number of seats received by their qualifying

lists, all other candidates contesting the same confessional seats are eliminated from the seat allocation process.

One of the key innovations introduced by the electoral reform was out-of-country voting for Lebanese living abroad. Moreover, according to the Electoral Law, the May 15, 2022, parliamentary election, being the 2nd electoral cycle under the new electoral rules, was supposed to be the first election held while implementing all innovations envisaged by the electoral reform.

In particular, according to Article 84 of Law No. 44, "On Election of Members of Parliament," large voting centers, also known as megacenters, were supposed to be established, and a magnetic card system introduced that would allow voters to cast ballots for their electoral districts not only at polling stations located in their respective constituencies but anywhere in the country. Also, according to Article 122 of the Electoral Law, a 16th constituency for Lebanese living abroad was to be created, with 6 additional MPs to represent nonresidents of the following denominations (3 Christian and 3 Muslim MPs): Maronites, Greek Orthodox, Melkites, Sunnis, Shiites, and Druze, thereby increasing the total number of MPs from 128 to 134. In addition, after another electoral cycle (in the 2026 prospective parliamentary election), the number of seats in the Parliament was to be reduced to 128 by eliminating 6 confessional seats of the same denominations

represented by nonresident MPs in the 16th constituency across the remaining 15 constituencies in Lebanon proper.

However, the introduction of these measures was postponed until the next parliamentary election by the Amendment of December 21, 2021, to Law No. 44, "On Election of Members of Parliament," whereby the nonresident votes were distributed among the 15 constituencies established on the territory of Lebanon.

Electoral Legislation

In the Lebanese Republic, the parliamentary election on May 15, 2022, was regulated by the following laws, rules, and legal documents:

1. The Constitution of the Lebanese Republic of 1926;
2. Law No. 44 of June 17, 2017, "On Election of Members of Parliament";
3. Law No. 250/1993 "On Establishment of the Constitutional Council";
4. Law No. 243/2000 "On Regulations of the Constitutional Council";
5. Presidential Decree No. 9128 of May 12, 2022, "On Extension of Passport for Voting in Parliamentary Election";
6. Decree No. 8954 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of March 22, 2022, "On Abolishing the Organization of Polling Stations for Nonresidents on the Territory of Ukraine";
7. Decree No. 859 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of December 30, 2021, "On Invitation to Participate in Election Authorities";
8. Circular No. 1 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of January 5, 2022, "On the Beginning of Applications for Nominations for the Lebanese Elections of 2022";

⁷ The electoral threshold in each constituency in Lebanon is calculated by dividing the total number of all votes cast by the number of seats in the Parliament of Lebanon assigned to that district.

⁸ Hare method is a type of method for allocating seats in legislatures among party lists or candidate lists in proportional representation systems. This method implies that the number of votes received by each list of candidates in the constituency is divided by the so-called Hare quota, i.e., the ratio of the total number of votes cast in a constituency to the number of seats in the legislature assigned to the constituency. The integer part of the resulting number determines the number of seats allocated to each list. Each next unallocated mandate goes to the list with the highest fractional remainder. In the case of Lebanon, the Hare quota is calculated slightly differently: i.e., the number of votes cast for lists that did not pass the constituency electoral threshold is subtracted from the total number of votes cast in the constituency, and then the resulting number is divided by the number of seats assigned to the constituency.

⁹ The percentage of preferential votes received by each candidate is established by the ratio of the number of preferential votes cast for the candidate to the total number of preferential votes cast for all candidates in the constituency.

9. Decision No. 4 of the Election Oversight Commission under the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of January 25, 2022;

10. Decision No. 5 of the Election Observation Commission of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of January 25, 2022;

11. Directive No. 60 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Regulating the Order of Passage to Polling Stations";

12. Directive No. 61 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Putting the Red Cross on High Alert During the Election";

13. Directive No. 62 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Putting Civil Defense Authorities on High Alert during the Election";

14. Directive No. 63 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Instructing the Prosecutor's Office to Combat Any Evidence of Corruption during the Election";

15. Directive No. 64 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On the Status of Needed Security Forces from the Army Ranks at the Disposal of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities";

16. Directive No. 65 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Measures for Holding Parliamentary Election on the School Premises";

17. Directive No. 66 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Prohibiting Plainclothes Law Enforcement Officers to Enter Polling Stations and Voting Centers";

18. Directive No. 67 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Prohibiting Armed Ministerial Escorts,
- Members of Parliament and their Representatives to Enter Polling Stations";

19. Decision No. 375 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Prohibiting Motorcades throughout Lebanon during the Parliamentary Election";

20. Decision No. 376 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On the Suspension of Motorcycle Traffic in All Regions of Lebanon";

21. Circular No. 5 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On the Closure of Cafes and Restaurants during Election";

22. Circular No. 6 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Approved Procedures for Holders of Identity Cards without Photos during the Election";

23. Circular No. 7 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On the Recording of Ballots during the Vote Counting";

24. Circular No. 8 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Simplifying Organizational Procedures for the Receipt of Election Materials by Polling Station Heads";

25. Circular No. 9 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On the Conditions for Obtaining Permission to Enter Polling Stations";

26. Circular No. 10 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Giving General Guidelines for Border Delimitation of Voting Centers";

27. Circular No. 11 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On the Text of Article 77 of Law 44 'Election of Members of Parliament";

28. Circular No. 12 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 26, 2022, "On Providing for the Needs of
- People with Disabilities in the Course of the Electoral Process Organization";

29. Circular No. 14 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 28, 2022, "On Determining the Number of Candidate Agents at Polling Stations and Primary Registration Committees (for the Vote Counting Observation after 7 pm)";

30. Circular No. 15 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 29, 2022, "On Determining the Work Places of Polling Staff in the Constituencies";

31. Circular No. 16 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of May 6, 2022, "On the Use of Mobile Phones at Polling Stations";

32. Circular No. 17 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of May 10, 2022, "On Amending Circular No. 5 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon 'On the Closure of Cafes and Restaurants during Election";

33. Decision No. 280 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of April 28, 2022, "On the Allocation of Voting Centers and Polling Staff and the Identification Procedure for Voting Centers and Polling Staff";

34. Decision No. 455 of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of May 10, 2022, "On the Suspension of Motorcycle Traffic in All Regions of Lebanon";

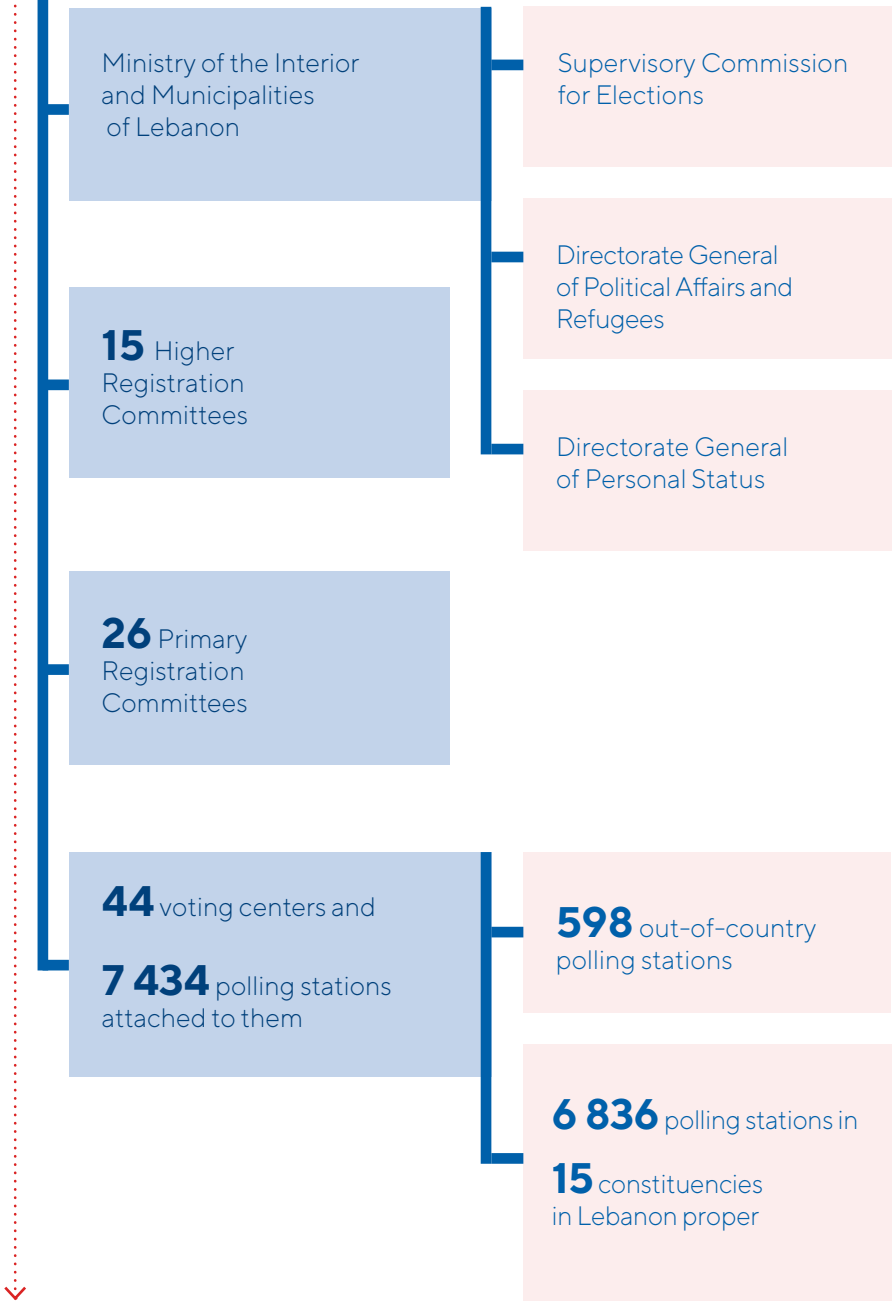
35. Decision No. 457 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of May 10, 2022, "On the Procedure for the Transfer and Transportation of Ballot Boxes to Registration Committees";

36. Circular No. 18 of the Minister of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon of May 10, 2022, "On the Procedure for the Delivery and Transportation of Ballot Boxes to the Polling Stations on Saturday."



A volunteer campaigns for the "For Beirut" qualifying list and candidates Adnan Trabulsi and Ahmad Dabbagh outside a polling station, showing a card with photos and names of candidates in the colors of the list used on ballot papers

Election Administration System in Lebanon



Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

Law No. 44 establishes a 4-tier system of electoral administration in Lebanon:

1. Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon (MOIM):
 - 1.1. The Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE);
 - 1.2. Directorate General of Political Affairs and Refugees (DGPAR);
 - 1.3. Directorate General of Personal Status (DGPS);
2. 15 Higher Registration Committees (HRCs);
3. 26 Primary Registration Committees (PRCs);
4. 44 voting centers and 7,434 polling stations attached to them, of which 6,836 stations were established in 15 constituencies in Lebanon proper, and 598 stations operated at the Lebanese diplomatic missions abroad.¹⁰

According to the national electoral legislation, the SCE is a permanent collegial body supervising the electoral process, whose functions include monitoring candidates' compliance with the electoral legislation requirements (campaign expenditures, social surveys and dissemination of their results, equal access of candidates to political campaigning, placement of campaign materials in the media, social networks, Internet, etc.), supervising registration committees and accreditation of national and international observers, processing complaints filed by observers

on violations of electoral rules, and providing educational programs for voters, candidates, and staff aimed at explaining the national electoral system and electoral procedures and increasing the professionalism of Lebanese electoral officials.

Yet setting the regulatory framework for electoral procedures and all preparations for holding elections lie within the responsibility of the MOIM of Lebanon. Moreover, the SCE is accountable to the Minister, despite the legislated noninterference in its work; the Minister also monitors the commission's work, determines the location of its headquarters, is responsible for allocating the funds necessary for its operation, and nominates and elects some of the SCE members.

The SCE is made up of 11 distinguished people representing the most important nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), associations and trade unions, as well as former judges specializing in various areas of law. Thus, the SCE composition includes:

1. An honorably retired ordinary judge with more than 20 years of experience, selected from 3 candidates nominated by the Supreme Judicial Council;
2. An honorably retired administrative judge with more than 20 years of experience, selected from 3 candidates nominated by the State Council;
3. An honorably retired financial judge with more than 20 years of experience, selected from 3 candidates nominated by the Court of Auditors;
4. A former President of the Bar Association, selected from 3 member candidates nominated by the Council of the Beirut Bar Association;
5. A former President of the Bar Association, selected from 3 member candidates nominated by the Council of the Tripoli Bar Association;

6. A representative of the Lebanese Media Editors' Press Syndicate, selected from 3 member candidates nominated by the Syndicate Council;
7. A media and advertising expert, selected from 3 member candidates nominated by the National Council for Audiovisual Media;
8. A former President of the Association of Certified Public Accountants, selected from 3 member candidates nominated by the Association;
9. 2 election experts, each selected from 3 candidates nominated by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon;
10. A representative of the CSOs eligible under Article 20 of Law No. 44, selected from 3 candidates nominated by Lebanese CSOs in a procedure decided by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon.

The SCE is headed by the highest-ranking retired judge among the judges on the Commission, however, in case all judges on the Commission are of equal status, the eldest of them becomes the SCE President. The eldest of the 2 former presidents of the Beirut and Tripoli Bar Associations on the Commission is appointed the SCE Vice President. The selection and approval of the SCE members must be guided by the principles of gender equality as per the legislation, yet no specific measures like women quotas are specifically provided. The final SCE composition is approved by decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Lebanon following the submission of the list of its prospective members by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities.

The SCE term of office varies, but the legal framework regulates the beginning and end of its mandate: i.e., a new composition of the SCE members is appointed 1 month

Supervisory Commission for Elections

11
members –

representatives of NGOs, CSOs, trade unions, and retired judges

mandate expires

6
months
after holding
the parliamentary election

prior to the expiration of powers of the current composition of the SCE members, whereas the SCE mandate expires 6 months after holding the parliamentary election.

The DGPAR, an integral part of the MOIM structure accountable to its Minister, is responsible for the actual management of the country's electoral infrastructure and administration of the system of precinct election commissions (PECs) and registration committees. Specifically, the DGPAR is in charge of establishing the polling stations and voting centers in Lebanon, allocation of polling station staff, final verification of election results transmitted from the HRCs, and their publication.

The HRCs are the lower-tier institutions established in each of Lebanon's 15 constituencies for the duration of the parliamentary election. Their main task is to validate and verify the voting results transmitted from all the PRCs operating in the respective constituency and to tabulate the constituency voting results.

¹⁰ Polling stations established in Lebanon were allocated as follows: Beirut-1 – 247, Beirut-2 – 575, Bekaa-1 – 326, Bekaa-2 – 262, Bekaa-3 – 587, Mount Lebanon-1 – 377, Mount Lebanon-2 – 360, Mount Lebanon-3 – 314, Mount Lebanon-4 – 626, North-1 – 528, North-2 – 572, North-3 – 516, South-1 – 222, South-2 – 531, South-3 – 793.

Polling stations for out-of-country voting were established in 58 countries: Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, DR Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Venezuela, Zambia.

The vote counting is conducted using special software in the presence of candidates, their agents, and accredited observers. In case the vote counting reveals discrepancies with the information transmitted from the constituency PRCs, the HRC members manually recount the ballots. After finishing the vote counting, ballot verification, and vote tabulation (i.e., votes cast both for qualifying lists and candidates), the HRC Chair announces the constituency election results in the presence of the candidates and their agents. Then HRC minutes and all election materials (e.g., ballot boxes, PRC minutes, polling station minutes, voter registers, etc.) are transported under armed escort to the DGP, which is facilitated by the governor of the respective region and/or his/her representatives under the supervision of accredited observers and an authorized DGP officer.

The HRC is comprised of 3 members:

1. The President of the Chamber or Advisor of the Court of Cassation, or the President of the Chamber of the Court of Appeals, or the President of the Chamber or Advisor of the Constitutional Council, the HRC Chair;
2. An acting ordinary or administrative judge;
3. An inspector of the Central Inspection Bureau of Lebanon.

Also, each HRC is assigned a head or officer of the DGPS Department in the capacity of the rapporteur, whose task is to compile a final report on HRC activities.

The next tier of the Lebanese election administration system is occupied by the PRCs established in each of the 26 electoral subdistricts for the duration of the parliamentary election. The PRCs are tasked with the verification of the lists of voters who cast ballots at polling stations in the respective



subdistrict (both for qualifying lists and candidates), as well as ballot validation, vote counting, and tabulation of the preliminary subdistrict election results.

Like the HRCs, the PRCs conduct vote counting using special software in the presence of candidates, their agents, and accredited observers. If any discrepancies with the information transmitted from the polling stations are detected during vote counting, the PRC members manually recount ballots.

The PRC consist of 3 members:

1. An acting ordinary or administrative judge, the PRC Chair;
2. A Head of the Municipal Council;
3. A DGPS officer.

Each PRC is also assigned several DGPS officers who perform support functions in verifying and processing the information transmitted from polling stations on Election Day.

At the lowest level of the election administration system in Lebanon are the voting centers and the

polling stations assigned to them. Each polling station is operated by a PEC comprised of 2 or 3 members: a PEC head and 1-2 secretaries appointed from the ranks of civil servants. The lists of the proposed PEC members are submitted by the governors of the regions and heads of the administrative districts to the DGP Director, who then must approve them. Additionally, a PEC head has the right to appoint 2 assistants picked from among voters registered in the respective constituency.¹¹

On Election Day, the PEC members ensure order at the polling station, keep a record of voters who cast ballots along with the candidates, their agents, and accredited observers, and, once the polling station closes, manually conduct vote counting.

When vote counting is finished, the PECs compile polling station minutes and produce 2 copies: one copy is posted at the polling station, and another, along with the sealed ballot boxes and other documents, is sent under armed escort to the PRCs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants (MFAE) of Lebanon was responsible for organizing and administering out-of-country voting. Out-of-country voting took place on May 6, 2022, in 10 countries in the Middle East and on May 8, 2022, in the remaining 48 countries. The diplomatic corps was directly in charge of operating overseas polling stations: i.e., the PEC heads and secretaries were appointed from among the diplomatic officers by a respective order of the

All voters (including out-of-country voters) registered in 1 of the

15

constituencies in Lebanon proper

41% turnout

3 967 507 registered voters

3 741 883 in Lebanon proper

225 624 out-of-country voters

ambassador or consul. When necessary, Lebanese citizens were hired by the diplomatic corps to conduct necessary PEC activities.

In addition, a special operational center was set up under the MFAE in Beirut, where third-party staff hired by the MFAE and independent observers jointly performed online monitoring of out-of-country voting organized at polling stations established at the Lebanese diplomatic missions.

When the overseas polling stations closed, the ballot boxes were opened, and the sealed ballots were counted in the presence of the ambassador or consul, candidate agents, accredited observers, and the media, then all sealed ballots, along with the PEC minutes, were placed in special diplomatic bags and sealed. Then all unused ballots, vote envelopes, and other

election materials were placed in empty ballot boxes, which were consequently also sealed. All of this was sent via GPS-tracked mail to Lebanon by May 13, 2022, where they were placed in the vault at the Central Bank of Lebanon in Beirut until the end of Election Day.

When the polling stations in Lebanon were closed, the ballots of nonresident voters were taken under armed escort to the Beirut HRC, where they were sorted and forwarded to the HREs of the respective constituencies.

In total, about 15,000 staff, including PEC and HEC Chairs and members, operated at all levels of the Lebanese election administration system at the May 15, 2022, parliamentary election.¹² All people involved in the electoral system activity in Lebanon proper had a chance to cast a ballot during early voting on May 12, 2022.

¹¹ On Election Day, the PEC head chooses 1st assistant from among voters officially registered in the constituency who came to the polling station by its opening, then the assistant chosen by the PEC head picks the 2nd assistant from among other voters who came to the polling station by its opening.

¹² According to the MOIM, 14,950 polling station officers operated at all polling stations organized in Lebanon proper.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

All Lebanese citizens who attained the age of 21 by March 31, 2022, and who are not disenfranchised for committing certain offenses, may exercise the right to vote.¹³ Exceptions are naturalized Lebanese citizens who obtained citizenship less than 10 years ago (does not apply to wives of male Lebanese citizens), as well as nonretired personnel of the Lebanese Armed Forces, Internal Security Forces, Directorate General of General Security, Directorate General of State Security, Customs Police and Parliamentary Police.

All voters (including out-of-country voters) are registered in 1 of the 15 constituencies according to the 1932 Lebanon Civil Registry and vote for the qualifying lists and candidates running in their respective electoral districts. Thus, since the setup of megacenters and the introduction of magnetic voter cards was postponed for the next electoral cycle, all registered voters residing in Lebanon had to travel to the regions where the polling stations that belonged to the constituencies of their registration were physically located in order to cast a ballot.

A consolidated voter register is compiled and updated annually by the DGPS. Following a register revision by the MOIM that lasted from December 15, 2021, to January 1, 2022, a total of 3,967,507 voters were registered for the May 15, 2022, parliamentary elections, of which 3,741,883 were registered in Lebanon and 225,624 were registered out-of-country.¹⁴

Even though, according to various estimates, the Lebanese diaspora numbers some 14 million people,



Volunteers near a tent with the logos, symbols, paraphernalia and portraits of candidates on the Voice of Change qualifying list hand around food and water to voters

the May 15, 2022 parliamentary election was only the 2nd election in the country's history when Lebanese nonresidents were able to participate in the electoral process outside Lebanon and influence Lebanese politics. Notably, the number of out-of-country voters has nearly

tripled compared to the previous parliamentary election (82,965 out-of-country voters in 2018).

Overall, the national turnout was 41%, yet it varied considerably across constituencies (from 33.57% in Beirut-1 to 63.44% in Mount Lebanon-1), while the

turnout among voters within Lebanon was on average lower than the turnout among nonresidents (about 63%). In addition to logistical problems, voter turnout in Lebanon proper was negatively affected by the aforementioned election boycott by key Lebanese Sunni politicians.

Moreover, a significant problem affecting voter participation in the election was the renewal of identity documents. In particular, in order to vote, one must present a national identification card valid on Election Day with an extract of civil status record or a Lebanese citizen passport with an actual photo. There was an option for nonresidents to vote with expired documents by paying a fee. Voters in Lebanon did not have this option, however, and it was not until May 12, 2022 (i.e., 3 days before the election), that a presidential decree was issued allowing the reissue of the old documents, implying that not everyone who wanted to change their IDs and take part in the election was able to do so.

Candidate Registration

Registration of the candidates for the Parliament of Lebanon officially began on January 10, 2022, following the publication of the MOIM's Decree, and was handled by the DGP. Yet, due to the national electoral legislation requiring candidates to open a special electoral campaign bank account and deposit 8 million LBP (Lebanese pounds) when registering, candidates were not actually able to begin registering until February 10, 2022, as the procedure for opening a special bank account was quite complicated. The issue was resolved following the intervention of the Central Bank of Lebanon which managed to simplify the procedure.

A candidate for parliament must be a citizen of Lebanon, at least 25 years of age, listed

on the present unified voter register. Candidates are subject to the same requirements and restrictions as voters concerning criminal convictions and loss of civil rights. If a candidate is a judge, member of the Constitutional Council, or head or deputy head of a municipality or municipal entity, he/she must resign at least 2 years prior to the power expiration of the current Parliament of Lebanon to participate in a parliamentary election. Civil servants of the 1st and 2nd categories, nonretired personnel of the Lebanese security forces, chairs and board of directors' members, and general directors of state agencies must resign at least 6 months before the power expiration of the current Parliament of Lebanon to stand for a parliamentary election.

When submitting documents for registration, candidates are obliged to indicate their denomination and the mandate which they wished to run for in a particular constituency. Unlike voters, candidates were not restricted to the electoral districts in which they were registered and could choose where to run, but they had to take into account the confessional quotas allocated to the electoral district of their choice.

Candidate registration ended on March 15, 2022 (60 days before the election), with 1,043 candidates registered. Only 2 candidates were denied registration, as they had previously deleted information about their confessional affiliation from the official civil registry record. Regarding the gender balance, there were 888 male and 155 female candidates. By April 4, 2022 (40 days before the election), all registered candidates had to organize themselves into qualifying lists according to the number of seats and confessional quotas assigned to their constituency.

The lists were subject to the requirement that the candidates

718
candidates

registered and allowed
to participate
in the election

on
103
electoral lists

118
women

600
men

on them be able to claim at least 40% of the seats in the electoral district and at least 1 seat in each subdistrict (if applicable) following the electoral district's confessional quotas. This measure is intended to encourage cooperation between politicians representing parties and movements from different confessional groups. There are no additional requirements for candidate lists regarding gender and other quotas.

The candidate sequence on the qualifying lists was fixed following the order set by the candidates on the lists themselves when they registered with the DGP.

After merging candidates onto mixed electoral lists, 718 registered candidates on 103 electoral lists in 15 electoral districts and 26 subdistricts were allowed to participate in the election. Among the candidates allowed to participate in the election, there were 600 men and 118 women.

¹³ Persons serving sentences in the Lebanese penitentiary system, convicted of theft, fraud, breach of trust, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, rape, intimidation, forgery, use of false documents, manufacture and trafficking of drugs, and persons disqualified with the temporary or total official ban on holding public office and/or impeached.

¹⁴ The 2022 [Statistical map](#) of the DGPS.

List of Registered Candidates

The electoral behavior of the political forces in Lebanon is very complex and complicated due to the fundamentally different strategies for getting their representatives into parliament and the intricate system of distributing seats and confessional quotas between the constituencies. Since political parties in Lebanon are predominantly organized along the confessional lines, their constituents, members, parliamentarians, etc., are most often homogeneous religious communities, so Lebanese political forces align with other parties, movements, organizations, and independent candidates representing other sects to get into parliament in constituencies with different sets of confessional quotas.

As a result, mixed qualifying lists are formed whose members, shall they win the election, form party fractions in parliament, which in turn unite into interparty blocs, which in turn unite into interbloc coalitions (see Annex). However, some candidates, while formally retaining their independent status, are affiliated with a particular party, or a political bloc formed around a major party consisting of smaller allied parties, or a large parliamentary coalition.

The key entrenched interbloc coalitions in the Lebanese political system are the following (only the largest parties and movements are listed):

March 8 Alliance

1. Hezbollah (Shia Muslim political party, one of the key Lebanese political forces, leader – Hassan Nasrallah);

2. Amal (Shia Muslim political party, one of the key Lebanese political forces, leader – Nabih Berri);
3. The Marada (Maronite Christian political party, leader – Tony Frangieh Jr.);
4. The Syrian Social Nationalist Party, SSNP (secular Pan-Syrian nationalist political party, leaders – Rabi Banat, Assaad Hardan);
5. The Free Patriotic Movement, FPM (Maronite Christian political party, one of the key Lebanese political forces, leader – Gebran Bassil);
6. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF or Tashnag (Armenian political party, leader – Hakob Pakradounian).

March 14 Alliance

1. The Future Movement, FM (Sunni Muslim political party, one of the key Lebanese political forces, leader – Saad Hariri);¹⁵
2. The Lebanese Forces, LF (Greek Orthodox Christian political party, one of the key Lebanese political forces, leader – Samir Geagea);
3. The Kataeb (Maronite Christian political party, leader – Samy Gemayel);

Democratic Gathering¹⁶

1. The Progressive Socialist Party, PSP (Druze political party, one of the key Lebanese political forces, leader – Taymur Jumblatt).

October 17 Alliance¹⁷

1. Taqaddom (The Progress Movement);

2. Tahalof Watani (The National Coalition);
3. The Lebanese Communist Party, LCP (secular political party, leader – Hanna Gharib);
4. ReLebanon (The Reset Lebanon Movement);
5. Beirut Tuqawem (The Beirut Resists Movement);
6. Beirut Madinati (The Beirut My City Movement);
7. Khatt Ahmar (The Red Line Movement);
8. Mada (nonpartisan and nonsectarian NGO);
9. Minteshreen (The Diffused Party);
10. Lana (The For Us Party);
11. Osos Lebanon (The Foundations of Lebanon Movement);
12. Citizens in a State, MMFD (secular political party, leader – Charbel Nahas).

Mixed candidate lists for the May 15, 2022 parliamentary election were made based on established political coalitions and tactical agreements between the Lebanese parties, movements, and independent candidates in each constituency. Thus, the MOIM registered the following qualifying lists in 15 electoral districts:

Beirut-1

1. Capable (4 candidates nominated by the MMFD);
2. We Were and Will Remain in Beirut (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the FPM and the ARF);
3. Sovereign Lebanon (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Kataeb);



4. For My Country (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the National Coalition and related opposition groups);
5. Beirut My City (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Beirut Madinati and related opposition groups);
6. We Are for Beirut (6 candidates nominated, supported, or

affiliated with the LF and the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party/SDHP).

Beirut-2

1. Beirut the Change (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Beirut Resists, the National Coalition, the National Bloc, and related opposition groups);

2. Beirut Needs a Heart (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the National Dialogue Party/NDP);
3. Beirut Confronts (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Fouad Siniora Bloc and the PSP);
4. Beirut My City (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Beirut Madinati and related opposition groups);
5. Capable (6 candidates nominated by the MMFD);
6. For Beirut (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Al-Ahbash Movement and sociopolitical groups related to the March 8 Alliance);
7. So Beirut Stays (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Bahaa Hariri's Sawa li Lubnan¹⁸ Movement);
8. Yes to Beirut (6 independent candidates);
9. This is Beirut (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Islamic Group and former FM members);
10. Beirut United (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Hezbollah, Amal, the FPM, the SSNP, and the Lebanese Democratic Party).

Mount Lebanon-1

1. Freedom is a Choice (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Mansour Al-Boun Block and former MP Fares Souaid);
2. The Cry of a Nation (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Kataeb, the National Bloc, the Bloc of Nehmat Frem, and several opposition groups);
3. Capable (4 candidates nominated by the MMFD);
4. The Heart of Independent Lebanon (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Marada, the Together for Beirut movement, the Farid el-Khazen Bloc, and several independent politicians);

¹⁵ Saad Hariri, the leading Sunni politician who heads the Future Movement Party, as well as other prominent Sunni politicians, Najib Mikati and Fouad Siniora, refused to participate in the election and de facto boycotted it; they were joined by thousands of Sunni voters. However, many politicians and officials associated with them and their political organizations took part in the election individually by uniting on distinctive qualifying lists or joining other candidate lists.

¹⁶ The parliamentary bloc of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party and its affiliated independent MPs.

¹⁷ A new coalition composed of decentralized, nonsectarian opposition political movements and parties formed by youth leaders and civil activists after a series of mass protests in Lebanon that began on October 17, 2019 (also known as the October 17 Revolution). The coalition advocates a change in Lebanon's political elites but failed to establish a unified structure to coordinate the joint effort in the May 15, 2022 parliamentary election.

¹⁸ Sawa li Lubnan (ar.) – Together for Lebanon.

5. We Were and Will Remain (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the FPM and Hezbollah);
6. With You We Can Until the End (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF and the National Liberal Party/NLP);
7. We Are the Change (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the opposition nonsectarian Sabaa¹⁹ Party and related opposition groups).

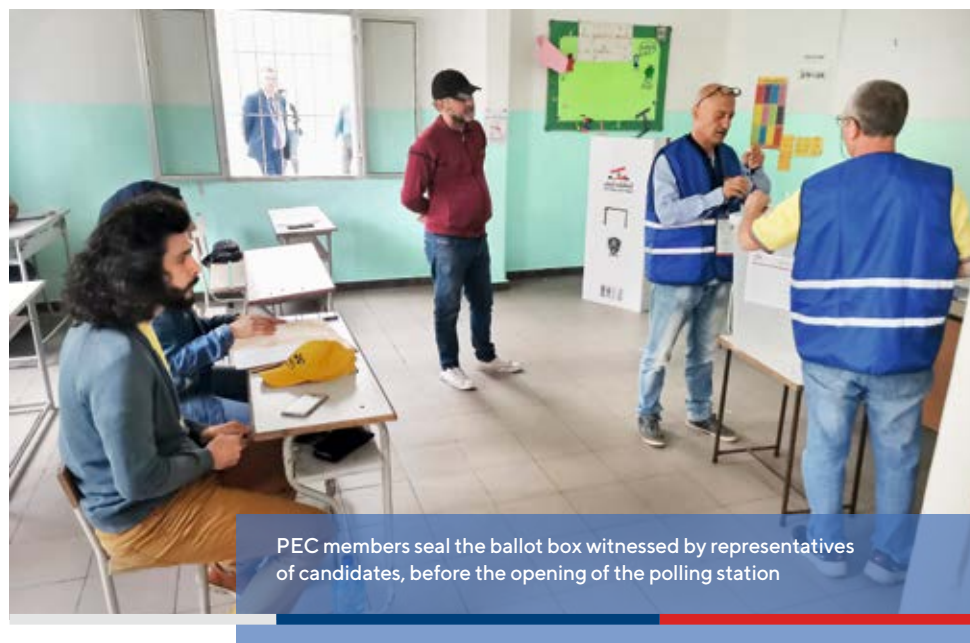
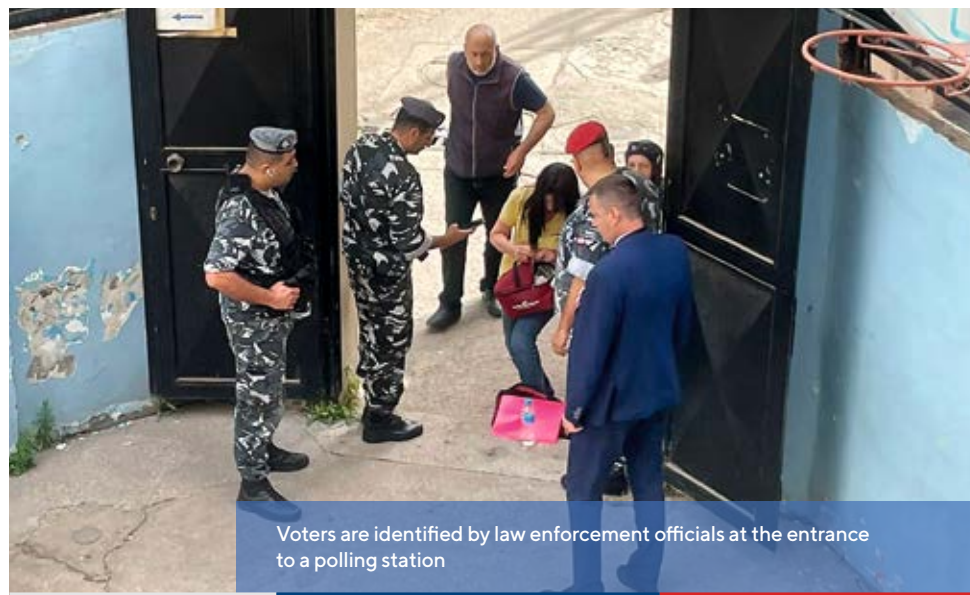
Mount Lebanon-2

1. We Were and Will Remain for Metn (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the FPM);
2. Metn the Change (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Kataeb);
3. The Free Metn (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF, the NLP, and the SDHP);
4. Sovereignists of the Metn (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with opposition groups and Alfred Riashi, a politician advocating federalization of Lebanon);
5. Together We Are Stronger (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the SSNP, the ARF, and the Michel Murr Bloc);
6. Towards a State (5 candidates supported or affiliated with the MMFD and related opposition groups).

Mount Lebanon-3

1. Baabda the Change (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the National Coalition, the For the Truth Movement, and the National Bloc);
2. Baabda Sovereignty and Decision (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF, the PSP, and the NLP);

¹⁹ Sabaa (ar.) – Seven.



3. Baabda Revolts (4 candidates, former FPM members and independent politicians);
4. Capable (3 candidates nominated by the MMFD);
5. The National Accord List (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Hezbollah, Amal, the FPM, and the LDP);
6. Together We Can (6 independent candidates);
7. We Are the Change (3 independent candidates).

Mount Lebanon-4

1. The Mountain Revolts (8 independent candidates);
2. Partnership and Will (13 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF, the PSP, the NLP, and the Fouad Siniora Bloc);
3. United for Change (13 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Progress Movement, For Us, the LCP, former FPM members, and related opposition groups);
4. Sovereignty of a Nation (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Islamic Group);
5. Your Vote is a Revolution (10 independent candidates);
6. Capable (6 candidates nominated by the MMFD);
7. The Mountain List (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LDP, the FPM, the Al-Ahbash Movement, and the Arab Unification Party/AUP).

South-1

1. Moderation is Our Strength (3 candidates supported by or affiliated with Amal);
2. The Voice of Change (3 independent candidates supported or affiliated with Bahaa Hariri's Sawa li Lubnan Movement);
3. Capable (4 candidates nominated by or endorsed by the MMFD);
4. Together for Saida and Jezzine (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the FPM);

5. We are the Change (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Beirut Madinati and related opposition groups);
6. We Vote for Change (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Popular Nasserist Organization/PNO);
7. Our Unity in Saida and Jezzine (4 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Fouad Siniora Bloc, the LF, and former FM members).

South-2

1. Hope and Loyalty (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Hezbollah and Amal);
2. The Inclusive State (4 independent candidates);
3. The Free Decision (3 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF);
4. Towards Change (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with MMFD, the LCP, Mada, and other opposition groups).

South-3

1. Hope and Loyalty (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Hezbollah, Amal, and the SSNP);
2. Voice of the South (5 independent candidates);
3. Together Towards Change (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the MMFD, the LCP, Beirut Madinati, and other opposition groups).

Bekaa-1

1. Change (5 independent candidates);
2. Speech and Action (5 independent candidates);
3. The Popular Bloc (6 candidates nominated by the Popular Bloc);
4. Zahle the Message (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Hezbollah, the FPM, and the ARF);
5. Zahle the Sovereign (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF and the Fouad Siniora Bloc);

6. Zahle Revolts (5 candidates supported or affiliated with opposition groups);
7. Independent Sovereignists (6 candidates supported or affiliated with opposition groups);
8. Capable of Confrontation (4 candidates nominated or affiliated with the MMFD).

Bekaa-2

1. A Better Tomorrow (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Amal, the Lebanese Arab Struggle Movement, the FPM, the Elie Ferzli Bloc, and the Union Party);
2. The National Decision (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Islamic Group, the PSP, and former FM figures);
3. Our Bekaa First (5 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF);
4. Capable (4 candidates supported or affiliated with the MMFD);
5. Our Plain and the Mountain (5 candidates supported or affiliated with opposition groups);
6. Towards Change (4 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Kataeb).

Bekaa-3

1. Hope and Loyalty (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Hezbollah, Amal, and the FPM);
2. The Coalition for Change (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the National Coalition, the opposition nonsectarian Sabaa Party, and related opposition groups);
3. Building the State (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF);
4. Capable (4 candidates nominated or supported by the MMFD);
5. Tribes and Families for Development (6 independent candidates);

6. Independents Against Corruption (9 independent candidates).

North-1

1. Awakening for Akkar (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Bahaa Hariri's Sawa li Lubnan Movement);
2. Loyalty to Akkar (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Najib Mikati's Azm Movement);
3. The List of Akkar (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF);
4. Akkar the Change (7 candidates supported by or affiliated with opposition groups);
5. Akkar First (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the FPM and the SSNP);
6. Akkar Revolts (5 candidates supported by or affiliated with opposition groups);
7. National Moderation (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with former FM members);
8. Towards Citizenship (6 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the MMFD and the LCP).

North-2

1. The People's Will (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Al-Ahbash Movement, the Dignity Movement, and the Marada);
2. Stability and Development (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Bahaa Hariri's Sawa li Lubnan Movement and other opposition groups);
3. The Real Change (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Islamic Group);
4. The Third Republic (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Omar Harfouche's Bloc);
5. Revolt for Justice and Sovereignty (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the opposition nonsectarian Sabaa Party and the National Bloc);

6. Rescue of a Nation (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF and the Ashraf Rifi Bloc);
7. Ambition of the Youth (5 independent candidates);
8. Capable (6 candidates nominated by or supported by the MMFD);
9. Dawn of Change (7 independent candidates);
10. Lebanon Is Ours (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with former FM members);
11. For the People (11 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the PSP and Najib Mikati's Azm Movement).

North-3

1. We Will Stay Here (7 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the SSNP (Banat fraction) and the FPM);
2. The North of Confrontation (9 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the Kataeb and the Independence Movement);
3. Our North (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with Osos Lebanon, the National Bloc, and related opposition groups);
4. We Can Change (6 candidates nominated by the MMFD and the LCP);
5. Unity of the North (8 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the SSNP (Hardan fraction) and the Marada);
6. The Pulse of the Strong Republic (10 candidates nominated, supported, or affiliated with the LF);
7. Awaken Your Voice (5 independent candidates).

Election Observation Institutions

The SCE is officially responsible for accrediting national and international observers for the parliamentary elections.

According to the Electoral Law, representatives of Lebanese NGOs specializing in human rights advocacy, democracy promotion,

elections and related issues, etc., may become national observers at the parliamentary elections. There are also several requirements for the applying NGOs:

1. The NGOs must be apolitical and have a certificate of registration issued at least 2 years before applying to the SCE for national observer accreditation.
2. The NGOs shall not have any affiliation with political parties or political movements.
3. The NGOs must not have any standing candidates for the parliamentary election among their employees and members.
4. The NGOs must have open sources of funding and submit a report on their election observation activities funding to the SCE within a month after the election is concluded.
5. The NGOs must have at least 100 full-time employees.
6. The NGOs management must act in accordance with the SCE code of ethics.

International observers may be international, intergovernmental, and foreign organizations, including foreign NGOs specializing in elections and election observation, as well as official representatives of foreign states whose applications for accreditation are considered by the SCE on a case-by-case basis.

Accredited media representatives, candidates, and their agents may also partake in election observation at polling stations and in registration committees. A candidate's agent can only be a Lebanese citizen listed in the unified voter register in the same electoral district where the candidate runs for a seat. Candidate agents may either be assigned to a particular polling station (1 per polling station) or be deployed in an electoral district or subdistrict to observe without locationwise designations (1 per every 2 polling stations in rural areas and 1 for every 3 polling stations in cities). The final number of so-called mobile and stationary candidate agents permitted to be



Volunteers of the Give Heart to Beirut qualifying list wait for the opening of the polling station

deployed in a constituency is set by governors of regions and heads of administrative districts as per the decision of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities. Then the compiled lists of candidate agents are approved by the MOIM.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was accredited by the SCE for the parliamentary election in the Lebanese Republic, held on May 15, 2022, as an international observer to monitor the voting and

vote counting procedure at polling stations and registration committees of all levels, the transportation of ballot boxes and other documents from polling stations to registration committees of all levels, as well as activities of PECs and registration committees in 15 constituencies on the territory of Lebanon.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

1. Andrey Maximov, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local

- Government, Head of the Election Observation Mission;
2. Alena Bulgakova, Deputy Chair of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for Public Oversight over Voting;
3. Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions;
4. Gayaneh Seiranyan, Head of the International Relations Department of the Executive Office of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.



Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was deployed in Lebanon from May 12 to 16, 2022. On May 14, a day before the election, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors observed a one-day silence period which envisaged prohibition of campaigning, holding political rallies, running campaign motorcades in Lebanon, and publishing campaign material and opinion polls regarding the election in the media, on social networks and the Internet.

On May 15, 2022, on Election Day morning, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation set off to observe the opening of polling stations in the Beirut-2 constituency. At 6:45 am, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic

Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived at polling stations Nos. 265-280 in the Mousaitbeh quarter of western Beirut, where they saw a gathering of national observers deployed by various political forces, wearing identification cards issued by the MOIM and dressed in their political parties' colors, who were assigned to the polling stations. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted small lines of voters waiting for the polling stations to open. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation then monitored the polling station opening, the appointment of 2 assistants picked from among the voters who had arrived early at the polling station by the PEC head, and the ballot boxes sealing. The polling station opened with a slight delay at 7:10 am, yet the first voters were not able to vote until 7:20, a fact that the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors asked

the PEC to record in its minutes. Then the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation left to monitor the situation at other polling stations in the Beirut-2 constituency until 10:00 am. In total, between 6:45 and 10:00 am, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited the following polling stations in the Beirut-2 constituency:

- 1. Polling stations Nos. 265-280 (opposite the Al Kassar Mosque, rooms Nos. 1-16), Bani Maarouf St., Khadijah El Koubra High School, Mousaitbeh, Beirut;
- 2. Polling stations Nos. 365-377 (rooms Nos. 1-12), Habib Abi Chahla St., Mar Elias Batina Public High School, Mousaitbeh, Beirut;
- 3. Polling stations Nos. 405-410 (rooms Nos. 1-6), Clémenceau St., Al Hikma - Al Kantari School, Ain El Mraiseh, Beirut.

From 10:20 am to 11:00 am, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors visited the following polling stations in Baabda, located in the Mount Lebanon-3 constituency:

- 4. Polling stations Nos. 156-164 (rooms Nos. 1-9), Baabda Girls' Public High School, Baabda.

From 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm., the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation continued observation at polling stations in Saida, located in the South-1 constituency. During this time, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors visited the following polling stations:

- 5. Polling stations Nos. 15-19 (rooms Nos. 1-5), Al Islah Girls' High School (opposite the Aboud mill), Zaouaitini, Sidon;
- 6. Polling stations Nos. 20-27 (rooms Nos. 1-5), Hussameddin Rafik El Hariri St., Al Islah High School, El Sabil, Sidon;
- 7. Polling stations Nos. 28-30 (rooms Nos. 1-3), Fouad Chehab St., Generation School, Serail, Saida;
- 8. Polling stations Nos. 1-7 (rooms Nos. 1-7), Sidon Special High School St., Sidon Special High School, Dukurman, Saida.

In the evening, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation returned to Beirut and, from 5:50 pm to 6:30 pm, monitored voting at polling stations in the Beirut-1 constituency. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors visited the following polling stations:

- 9. Polling Stations Nos. 9-24 (Rooms Nos. 1-16), Lazarus Sisters' Charitable School for Girls, Sassine Square, Achrafieh, Beirut.

At 6:45 pm, at the end of Election Day, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived in Bourj Hammoud, where it observed the polling station closure in the Mount

Lebanon-2 constituency. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors visited the following polling stations:

- 10. Polling stations Nos. 169-176 (rooms Nos. 1-8), 40 Martyrs Sunday School, Bourj Hammoud, Bourj Hammoud.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation remained at the last polling stations to observe the vote counting process when they closed at 7:00 pm. The observation of ballot boxes opening and counting of the vote cast for the qualifying lists and candidates to the Parliament of Lebanon lasted until 11:40 pm.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

In addition to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, election observation missions of the European Union (EU), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Francophonie (l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, OIF), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) were deployed at the parliamentary election in the Lebanese Republic on May 15, 2022.

The Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE), a local NGO, also participated in the election observation, deploying 1,000 observers to polling stations throughout the country.

During the deployment in Lebanon, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation met with other international observers at various polling stations on Election Day.

Observation Findings on Election Day

Polling stations established in Lebanon on election day, May 15, 2022, were open for 12 hours, from

7:00 am to 7:00 pm. When vote counting was completed, the PEC head posted the preliminary results at the polling station entrance and sent the PEC minutes along with the election materials to the constituency's Primary Registration Committee.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation confirmed that the opening and closing of the visited polling stations were on schedule in most cases, while only the first visited polling stations, i.e., Nos. 265-280 in the Beirut-2 constituency, opened 10 minutes late.

At the polling station opening, the PEC head, in the presence of the other PEC members, observers, and candidate agents, had to make sure that the ballot boxes were empty and then seal them. Next, the PEC head was required to count the total number of ballots and the number of ballot envelopes stamped by the MOIM, sign them together with the PEC secretary, and after putting aside the spare ones, let the voting begin. Nevertheless, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted that, at one of the polling stations, the PEC head made a mistake: i.e., he started distributing the ballots first and only then sealed the ballot boxes.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors also stressed that despite all the legislative and administrative measures taken, in practice, many polling stations were not located on the 1st floor and were ill-equipped with barrier-free infrastructure for people with disabilities and the elderly, therefore, low-mobility voters had great difficulty accessing the polling stations. The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also pointed out the absence of any COVID-19 regulations and measures to prevent its transmission.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted that in predominantly Muslim-inhabited areas, polling stations were gender-separated, with voter lines and voting rooms designated exclusively for women and men.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation had a positive record of some employed measures to prevent electoral fraud and vote rigging, e.g., ballot box stuffing and double voting: i.e., a 2-step, multilateral voter identification system and election ink used to mark voters' fingers. In addition, the only persons allowed to enter the polling station were officially assigned to it voters who were on the voter lists posted both at the polling station entrances and in the voting rooms with ballot boxes and polling booths. At the polling station entrance, the voter's identity was verified and checked against the voter register by armed Lebanese law enforcement personnel who ensured order at the polling station premises and in the adjacent areas (in general, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors noticed a large presence of armed law-enforcement officers and armored vehicles on Election Day in the areas where polling stations were located). Next, the voter was identified again by the PEC members, who checked the voter's ID and whether his/her name was listed in the polling station's voter register. Afterward, the PEC members made an appropriate mark in the voter register against the identified voter's name. Candidate agents and observers present at the polling station also kept and filled a copy of the voter register, checking it against the official voter register managed by the PECs.

The voting procedure allows for only 1 voter to be present at the polling station at a time. Upon entering the polling station, the voter presents his/her ID, and his/her name is announced loudly to observers.

The voter then received a ballot, marked it at the polling booth, packed the marked ballot in a special stamped envelope, and dropped it in the ballot box. Next, the voter wrote his/her name in the voter register, and the PEC secretary put a signature against it, followed by dipping the voter's finger into a jar of special indelible ink. As with voter identification, a parallel record of voters who cast their ballots was conducted by observers and candidate agents.

The evident shortcoming of the employed procedure was its duration, which caused voter lines at many polling stations, and it was even more aggravated by the small composition of the PECs and the deployment of multiple polling stations (up to 16) in a single building (schools or other public institutions). In addition, such a procedure requires high professionalism of the polling staff, yet not all polling stations were staffed with PEC members who had sufficient experience. In practice, some cases were noticed when candidate agents assigned to polling stations duplicated or took over the PEC functions.

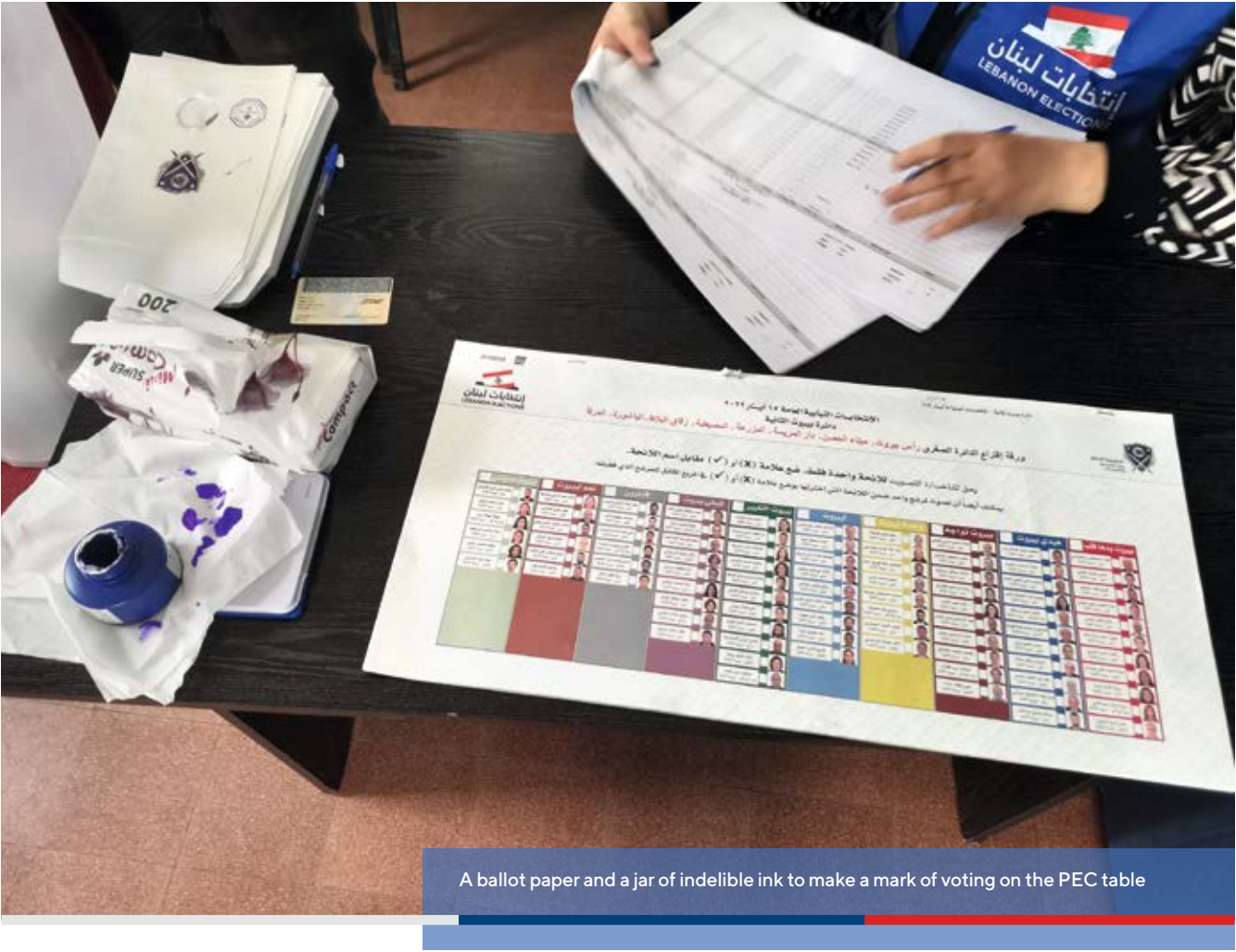
The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the voting ballot layout: each qualifying list of candidates on the ballot had its unique color, while all the lists were arranged on the ballot from right to left according to the order of their registration in the MOIM, and actual photos of the candidates on the qualifying lists were placed against their names; also, in MMDs where

candidates on the same qualifying list competed for seats in different electoral subdistricts, for the sake of voter convenience, the preferential vote boxes against the names of the candidates running in the relevant electoral subdistrict were white, while the others were dark.

While observing the vote counting at polling stations Nos. 169–176 in Bourj Hammoud (Mount Lebanon-2 constituency) after their closure, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the speed and professionalism of PEC members sorting, validating, and counting the ballots cast. In particular, the PEC members first set up a camera in a separate room to record the ballot box opening and ballot sorting, which was displayed on a large screen so that observers and candidate agents could monitor the procedure remotely without physical interference in the procedure.

The PEC head then announced the total number of voters assigned to the polling station and the number of voters who had voted, which was recorded in the PEC minutes. After that, the PEC members opened the ballot box and counted the number of envelopes inside it, checking them against the number of registered voters who cast ballots.²⁰

Next, the ballots were sorted into spoiled (invalid), blank, and valid. A ballot was considered blank if no marks were put on it. A ballot was considered invalid if any unidentified marks were put on the voting envelope (1), the voting envelope had no official stamp (2), the voting envelope was not signed by the PEC head (3), a distinct ballot was used instead of the official one (4), the ballot had marks on it other than the



A ballot paper and a jar of indelible ink to make a mark of voting on the PEC table

legally prescribed ones (5), or the voter ticked more than 1 mark box next to the qualifying lists (6).

The number of invalid and blank ballots was recorded in the PEC minutes, and then the valid ballots were counted. If the voter ticked only one mark box corresponding to a qualifying list, then the vote was counted solely for the candidate list (1); if the voter chose more than 1 candidate on the qualifying list, the preferential vote was not counted (2); if the voter chose a candidate on a qualifying list different from the qualifying list whose corresponding mark box he ticked or a candidate on the qualifying list who is yet running in a different electoral subdistrict, his preferential vote was not counted (3); if the voter chose only a candidate on the qualifying list, his vote was counted both for the qualifying list and the candidate (4).

Next, the PEC members counted the valid ballots cast, loudly announcing to the observers the preferential votes tallied for each candidate. Then a list of the sorted ballots was made and signed by all PEC members. The number of spoiled ballots was not counted in the total number of votes cast, yet the number of blank ballots, on the contrary, was included. All relevant information was recorded in the PEC minutes, whose copies were posted at the polling station entrance and distributed between the candidates and their agents.

The counted valid ballots were packed into an envelope, which was then locked by the PEC head with a special red seal. After that, all spoiled and empty ballots were signed by the PEC members and packed along with the PEC minutes, the voter register, the

list of votes cast for the qualifying lists and candidates, and the sealed envelope with valid ballots, into a large envelope, which was also locked by the PEC head with a special red seal. The large envelope, with all the materials, was sent by the PEC head under the armed escort of law enforcement officers to the PRC of the Bourj Hammoud subdistrict in the Mount Lebanon-2 electoral district.

On a separate note, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation pointed out that the power supply at the polling stations was decentralized and used diesel and gasoline generators since, for economic reasons, the local power grid in Lebanon was unstable, and the rolling blackouts occurred quite often.

²⁰ The number of envelopes in the ballot box must correspond with the register of voters who cast ballots, which was kept by the PEC during Election Day. If the numbers do not match, the PEC must recalculate the number of voters in the register and the number of envelopes in the ballot box. If they do not match again, the discrepancy must be recorded in the PEC minutes.

Complaints and Infringements

On Election Day in the Lebanese Republic, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noticed several infringements of electoral legislation at the visited polling stations.

For instance, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors saw agents or volunteers of the Al-Ahbash Movement standing close to some polling stations located in the Beirut-2 constituency, silently showing cards visually resembling a ballot paper with the colors of the “For Beirut” qualifying list and its candidates (Adnan Trabulsi and Ahmad Dabbagh) to the voters standing in lines.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors also noted that agents and volunteers of the Al-Ahbash Movement (“For Beirut” qualifying list) and the National Dialogue Party (“Beirut Needs a Heart” qualifying list) in the Beirut-2 constituency, as well as agents and volunteers of Bahaa Hariri’s Sawa li Lubnan Movement (“The Voice of Change” qualifying list) and the Popular Nasserist Organization (“We Vote for Change” qualifying list) in the South-1 constituency, set up stands with their logos, symbols, attributes, and candidate portraits in front of or next to the polling stations where they distributed free food and water to voters, which might be qualified as campaigning activities on Election Day.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noticed that almost at all visited polling stations, voters and candidate agents wore clothes with symbols or logos of some qualifying lists and candidates.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation repeatedly saw numerous motorcades with party

and political movement flags loudly agitating voters both on the day of silence and on Election Day.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that the aforementioned direct and indirect campaigning could have influenced voting on Election Day, yet, it is impossible to draw a clear and substantiated conclusion about the nature and extent of such influence, as well as about the possible distortion of the election results.

The parliamentary election was extremely competitive, but to ensure that it was democratic and that the partaking political parties were equal, the Lebanese side must make efforts to eliminate the detected irregularities.

Despite significant financial, logistical, and organizational challenges, as well as a shortage of trained polling staff, the Lebanese election administration system managed to successfully hold the election. The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation appreciated the comprehensive multilateral procedures and mechanisms for preventing electoral fraud and vote rigging.

Taking into account Lebanon’s heterogeneous society and the fact that its electoral system is a result of a complex compromise that is extremely difficult and painful to change, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation acknowledges Lebanon’s significant progress in the electoral process organization. It is furthermore proven, inter alia, by the fact that many new MPs who got into parliament have no previous parliamentary experience and are not affiliated with the

traditional Lebanese political forces.

Also, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation commended the efforts made by the Lebanese authorities to hold the election, which is especially important given the economic difficulties faced by the country and Lebanese society. Moreover, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation agree that most of the noticed shortcomings and deficiencies would not have occurred if it had been able to implement all the costly measures stipulated by the Electoral Law. The following are the main drawbacks and issues of the election organization noted by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on May 14-15, 2022, on the day of silence and Election Day:

1. Low level or nonexistent barrier-free infrastructure at polling station premises that facilitates access for people with limited mobility.
2. Lack of COVID-19 regulations and measures preventing its transmission at polling stations on Election Day.
3. Lack of opportunity for voters to cast ballots outside the constituencies where they are officially registered.
4. Absence of a photo and video recording system capturing violations at polling stations.
5. Complex voting and results processing systems that require a significant level of polling staff competence and high voter awareness.
6. Insufficient number of polling staff at stations.
7. Deployment of multiple polling stations in 1 building, leading to long voter lines.
8. Lengthy voter identification procedure, extending the waiting time for voters standing in lines.
9. Complicated system of transporting electoral

- materials from polling stations to registration committees.
10. No briefings or press conferences hosted by the SCE or the DGP.
11. Low systematization of documents regulating the electoral process and information on official state e-resources.
12. Lack of sufficient resources and authority of the SEC to promptly respond and eliminate Electoral Law violations.

Recommendations for Enhancing Elections Conduct and Improving Electoral Norms and Procedures

To further develop and improve the electoral system and procedures in the Lebanese Republic, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends paying attention to the aforementioned deficiencies identified by its members in the parliamentary election on May 15, 2022.

Main recommendations:

1. Implement a magnetic card system and e-voting technology stipulated by Electoral Law No. 44

- to optimize the voter identification procedure and facilitate election participation for voters living in areas of Lebanon other than those areas of their official registration;
2. Examine possible mechanisms and technologies for implementing a digital vote processing and vote counting system to duplicate or replace the complex system of manual vote counting and transportation of materials from polling stations to registration committees of all levels, as well as to protect the electoral process from external interference;
3. Consider reforming the SCE to transform it into an independent body with broad powers and sufficient resources to administer and monitor the electoral process;
4. Take measures to improve the accessibility of polling station premises for people with limited mobility, including the development of barrier-free infrastructure;
5. Consider allocating separate premises for each polling station and increasing the number of PEC members operating at polling stations;

6. Promote training and briefings for the election administration system staff to improve their skills and competence, as well as produce more educational materials on elections and their features for the citizens;

Additional recommendations:

7. Consider introducing a photo and video recording system capturing violations at polling stations, thus disseminating the experience of a remote observation system used for monitoring out-of-country voting;
8. Devise working modes of interaction between representatives of the SCE and the MOIM with accredited international observers, as well as prepare the events schedule with follow-up notifications for the members of the election observation missions deployed in Lebanon;
9. Facilitate the placement and systematization of relevant information on elections, electoral regulations, and electoral statistics on a special government e-resource accompanied by its official translations in foreign languages.

ANNEX

Distribution of Seats and Confessional Quotas in the Parliament of Lebanon
by Constituencies

Constituency	Number of Registered Voters	Seats and Confessional Quotas in the Parliament of Lebanon											
		Designated Seats	Constituency-assigned Confessional Quotas										
			Muslims					Christians					
			Sunni	Shia	Druze	Alawite	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Melkite	Armenian Orthodox	Armenian Catholic	Evangelical	Christian Minorities
Beirut-1	134,825	8	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	1	-	1
Beirut-2	370,862	11	6	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Mount Lebanon-1	182,103	8	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mount Lebanon-2	183,441	8	-	-	-	-	4	2	1	1	-	-	-
Mount Lebanon-3	171,746	6	-	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mount Lebanon-4	346,451	13	2	-	4	-	5	1	1	-	-	-	-
South-1	129,229	5	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
South-2	328,064	7	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
South-3	497,531	11	1	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bekaa-1	183,425	7	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-
Bekaa-2	153,975	6	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bekaa-3	341,263	10	2	6	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
North-1	309,517	7	3	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
North-2	377,111	11	8	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
North-3	257,964	10	-	-	-	-	7	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3,967,507	128	27	27	8	2	34	14	8	5	1	1	1

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Party Factions, Blocs, and Coalitions Breakdown

Party/Movement	Seats Number	Bloc	Coalition
Free Patriotic Movement	17	Strong Lebanon	March 8 Alliance
Armenian Revolutionary Federation	3		
Amal	14	Development and liberation	
Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party	1		
Hezbollah	13	Loyalty to Resistance	
Independent	2		
Marada	2	National Coalition	
Independent	1		
Al-Ahbash	2	-	
Popular Nasserist Organization	1	-	
Union Party	1	-	
Independent	3	-	
Total: 60			
Lebanese Forces	19	Strong Republic	March 14 Alliance
National Liberal Party	1		
Future Movement (former members)	8	-	
Kataeb	5	-	
Rifi Bloc	2	-	
Independence Movement	2	-	
Islamic Group	1	-	
Total: 38			
Progressive Socialist Party	8	Democratic Gathering	-
Independent	1		
Total: 9			
Progress	2	-	October 17 Alliance
National Coalition	1	-	
Lebanese Communist Party	1	-	
ReLebanon	1	-	
Beirut Resists	1	-	
Red Line	1	-	
For Us	1	-	
Osos Lebanon	1	-	
Independent	4	-	
Total: 13			
National Dialogue Party	1	-	-
Independent	7	-	-
MPs Total: 128			

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Beirut-1 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Sovereign Lebanon	8	Kataeb	11,271	24.14	2
We Were and Will Remain in Beirut	8	FPM, ARF	10,950	23.45	2
We Are for Beirut	6	LF, SDHP	13,220	28.31	2
For My Country	8	National Coalition	8,261	17.69	2
Capable	4	MMFD	1,510	3.23	0
Beirut My City	5	Beirut Madinati	1,089	2.33	0
Blank votes:			395	0.85	Total: 8
Total registered voters			134,825		
Voters in Lebanon			125,175		
Out-of-country voters			9,650		
Votes cast			48,311		
Turnout			35.83%		
Spoiled ballots			1,615		
Valid ballots			46,696		
Electoral threshold			5,837		
Hare quota			5,512		
Constituency confessional quotas			Armenian Orthodox (3) Armenian Catholic (1) Greek Orthodox (1) Maronite (1) Melkite (1) Minorities (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Beirut-2 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Beirut Needs a Heart	11	NDP	19,421	13.04	1
This is Beirut	11	Islamic Group, FM	20,439	13.72	2
Beirut Confronts	10	Fouad Siniora Bloc, PSP	18,060	12.13	1
Beirut United	8	Hezbollah, Amal, FPM, SSNP LDP	36,962	24.82	3
For Beirut	9	Al-Ahbash, March 8 Alliance	14,931	10.03	1
Beirut the Change	11	National Coalition, Beirut Resists, National Bloc	32,823	22.04	3
So Beirut Stays	9	Together for Lebanon	2,387	1.60	0
Capable	6	MMFD	1,797	1.21	0
Yes to Beirut	6	Independent	250	0.17	0
Beirut My City	6	Beirut Madinati	358	0.24	0
Blank votes:			1,498	1	Total: 11
Total registered voters			370,862		
Voters in Lebanon			344,437		
Out-of-country voters			26,425		
Votes cast			154,721		
Turnout			41.72%		
Spoiled ballots			5,795		
Valid ballots			148,926		
Electoral threshold			13,539		
Hare quota			13,103		
Constituency confessional quotas			Sunni (6) Shia (2) Druze (1) Greek Orthodox (1) Evangelical (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Mount Lebanon-1 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
With You We Can Until the End	8	LF, NLP	27,939	23.60	2
The Heart of Independent Lebanon	8	Marada, Together for Beirut, Farid el-Khazen Block	14,979	12.66	1
The Cry of a Nation	8	Kataeb, National Bloc, Nehmat Frem Bloc	25,713	21.72	2
Freedom is a Choice	6	Mansour al-Boun Block, Fares Souaid	11,292	9.54	0
Capable	4	MMFD	1,926	1.63	0
We Were and Will Remain	8	FPM, Hezbollah	34,192	28.88	3
We Are the Change	5	Sabaa	1,681	1.42	0
Blank votes:			657	0.55	Total: 8
Total registered voters			182,103		
Voters in Lebanon			169,171		
Out-of-country voters			12,932		
Votes cast			121,693		
Turnout			66.83%		
Spoiled ballots			3,314		
Valid ballots			118,379		
Electoral threshold			14,797		
Hare quota			12,935		
Constituency confessional quotas			Maronite (7) Shia (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Mount Lebanon-2 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
The Free Metn	7	LF, NLP, SDHP	21,301	22.87	2
Sovereigntists of the Metn	7	Independent, Alfred Riashi	667	0.72	0
Together We Are Stronger	8	SSNP, ARF, Michel Murr Bloc	15,997	17.17	2
Metn the Change	7	Kataeb	22,523	24.18	2
Towards a State	5	MMFD	11,555	12.40	0
We Were and Will Remain for Metn	5	FPM	20,533	22.04	2
Blank votes:			573	0.62	Total: 8
Total registered voters			183,441		
Voters in Lebanon			169,847		
Out-of-country voters			13,594		
Votes cast			95,853		
Turnout			52.25%		
Spoiled ballots			2,704		
Valid ballots			93,149		
Electoral threshold			11,644		
Hare quota			10,116		
Constituency confessional quotas			Maronite (4) Greek Orthodox (2) Melkite (1) Armenian Orthodox (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Mount Lebanon-3 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Together We Can	6	Independent	417	0.50	0
Baabda Sovereignty and Decision	6	LF, PSP, NLP	29,801	35.18	3
Baabda Revolts	4	Independent (former FPM members)	5,010	5.91	0
Baabda the Change	5	National Coalition, For the Truth, National Bloc	13,201	15.58	0
We Are the Change	3	Independent	766	0.90	0
Capable	3	MMFD	952	1.12	0
The National Accord List	6	Hezbollah, LDP, FPM, Amal	33,962	40.08	3
Blank votes:			619	0.73	Total: 6
Total registered voters			171,746		
Voters in Lebanon			158,475		
Out-of-country voters			13,271		
Votes cast			87,114		
Turnout			50.72%		
Spoiled ballots			2,386		
Valid ballots			84,728		
Electoral threshold			14,121		
Hare quota			10,730		
Constituency confessional quotas			Maronite (3) Shia (2) Druze (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Mount Lebanon-4 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Partnership and Will	13	LF, PSP, NLP, Fouad Siniora Bloc	83,389	46.33	7
Your Vote is a Revolution	10	Independent	3,438	1.91	0
The Mountain List	11	FPM, Al-Ahbash, LDP, AUP	41,545	23.09	3
Capable	6	MMFD	1,596	0.89	0
United for Change	13	Progress, For Us, LCP, Independent (former FPM members)	42,077	23.38	3
Sovereignty of a Nation	9	Islamic Group	6,082	3.38	0
The Mountain Revolts	8	Independent	491	0.27	0
Blank votes:			1,358	0.75	Total: 13
Total registered voters			346,451		
Voters in Lebanon			320,895		
Out-of-country voters			25,556		
Votes cast			184,202		
Turnout			53.17%		
Spoiled ballots			4,226		
Valid ballots			179,976		
Electoral threshold			13,844		
Hare quota			12,951		
Constituency confessional quotas			Maronite (5) Druze (4) Sunni (2) Melkite (1) Greek Orthodox (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
South-1 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Moderation is Our Strength	3	Amal	11,719	19.12	0
We Vote for Change	5	PNO	18,783	30.65	3
We are the Change	5	Beirut Madinati	4,919	8.03	0
Our Unity in Saida and Jezzine	4	Fouad Siniora Bloc, LF, former FM members	13,948	22.76	2
The Voice of Change	3	Together for Lebanon	324	0.53	0
Capable	4	MMFD	1,128	1.84	0
Together for Saida and Jezzine	5	FPM	9,846	16.06	0
Blank votes:			623	1.01	Total: 5
Total registered voters			129,229		
Voters in Lebanon			120,874		
Out-of-country voters			8,355		
Votes cast			63,366		
Turnout			49.03%		
Spoiled ballots			2,076		
Valid ballots			61,290		
Electoral threshold			12,258		
Hare quota			6,671		
Constituency confessional quotas			Sunni (2) Maronite (2) Melkite (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
South-2 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Hope and Loyalty	7	Hezbollah, Amal	138,242	84.77	7
The Inclusive State	4	Independent	7,405	4.54	0
Towards Change	7	MMFD, LCP, Mada	10,061	6.17	0
The Free Decision	3	LF	5,240	3.21	0
Blank votes:			2,135	1.31	Total: 7
Total registered voters			328,064		
Voters in Lebanon			309,372		
Out-of-country voters			18,692		
Votes cast			167,557		
Turnout			51.08%		
Spoiled ballots			4,474		
Valid ballots			163,083		
Electoral threshold			23,298		
Hare quota			20,054		
Constituency confessional quotas			Shia (6) Melkite (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
South-3 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Hope and Loyalty	11	Hezbollah, Amal, SSNP	197,822	85.20	9
Together Towards Change	11	MMFD, LCP, Beirut Madinati	30,384	13.09	2
Voice of the South	5	Independent	952	0.41	0
Blank votes:			3,042	1.30	Total: 11
Total registered voters			497,531		
Voters in Lebanon			475,510		
Out-of-country voters			22,021		
Votes cast			238,610		
Turnout			47.96%		
Spoiled ballots			6,410		
Valid ballots			232,200		
Electoral threshold			21,109		
Hare quota			21,023		
Constituency confessional quotas			Shia (8) Sunni (1) Druze (1) Greek Orthodox (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Bekaa-1 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Independent Sovereigntists	6	Independent	15,477	16.70	1
Zahle the Sovereign	7	LF, Fouad Siniora Bloc	25,646	27.67	3
Zahle Revolts	5	Independent	7,713	8.32	0
Speech and Action	5	Independent	332	0.36	0
Zahle the Message	6	Hezbollah, FPM, ARF	27,872	30.07	3
Change	5	Independent	1,440	1.55	0
Capable of Confrontation	4	MMFD	1,316	1.42	0
The Popular Bloc	6	Popular Bloc	12,064	13.02	0
Blank votes:			831	0.89	Total: 7
Total registered voters			183,425		
Voters in Lebanon			173,789		
Out-of-country voters			9,636		
Votes cast			95,377		
Turnout			51.99%		
Spoiled ballots			2,686		
Valid ballots			92,691		
Electoral threshold			13,242		
Hare quota			9,975		
Constituency confessional quotas			Melkite (2) Greek Orthodox (1) Maronite (1) Shia (1) Sunni (1) Armenian Orthodox (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Bekaa-2 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
A Better Tomorrow	5	Amal, FPM, Elie Ferzli Bloc, Union Party, Lebanese Arab Struggle Movement	28,920	43.72	3
Our Bekaa First	5	LF	5,316	8.04	0
Our Plain and the Mountain	5	Independent	11,397	17.23	1
The National Decision	6	Islamic Group, PSP, former FM members	19,054	28.81	2
Towards Change	4	Kataeb	192	0.28	0
Capable	4	MMFD	653	0.99	0
Blank votes:			616	0.93	Total: 6
Total registered voters			153,975		
Voters in Lebanon			146,817		
Out-of-country voters			7,158		
Votes cast			68,346		
Turnout			44.39%		
Spoiled ballots			2,198		
Valid ballots			66,148		
Electoral threshold			11,025		
Hare quota			9,998		
Constituency confessional quotas			Sunni (2) Shia (1) Maronite (1) Greek Orthodox (1) Druze (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
Bekaa-3 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Independents Against Corruption	9	Independent	2,819	1.48	0
Hope and Loyalty	10	Hezbollah, Amal, FPM	154,358	80.76	9
Tribes and Families for Development	6	Independent	1,491	0.78	0
Capable	4	MMFD	1,937	1.01	0
Building the State	10	LF	23,308	12.19	1
The Coalition for Change	9	National Coalition, Sabaa	5,633	2.95	0
Blank votes:			1,593	0.83	Total: 10
Total registered voters			341,263		
Voters in Lebanon			333,397		
Out-of-country voters			7,866		
Votes cast			195,116		
Turnout			57.18%		
Spoiled ballots			3,977		
Valid ballots			191,139		
Electoral threshold			19,114		
Hare quota			17,926		
Constituency confessional quotas			Shia (6) Sunni (2) Maronite (1) Melkite (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
North-1 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Loyalty to Akkar	7	Azm Movement	13,619	9.16	0
National Moderation	7	Former FM members	41,848	28.16	4
The List of Akkar	7	LF	19,334	13.01	0
Towards Citizenship	6	CSP, CPL	3,154	2.12	0
Akkar Revolts	5	Independent	1,371	0.92	0
Akkar the Change	7	Independent	14,145	9.52	0
Awakening for Akkar	7	Together for Lebanon	11,885	7.99	0
Akkar First	7	FPM, SSNP	41,761	28.10	3
Blank votes:			1,509	1.02	Total: 7
Total registered voters			309,517		
Voters in Lebanon			301,039		
Out-of-country voters			8,478		
Votes cast			153,878		
Turnout			49.72%		
Spoiled ballots			5,252		
Valid ballots			148,626		
Electoral threshold			21,232		
Hare quota			12,160		
Constituency confessional quotas			Sunni (3) Greek Orthodox (2) Maronite (1) Alawite (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
North-2 Constituency

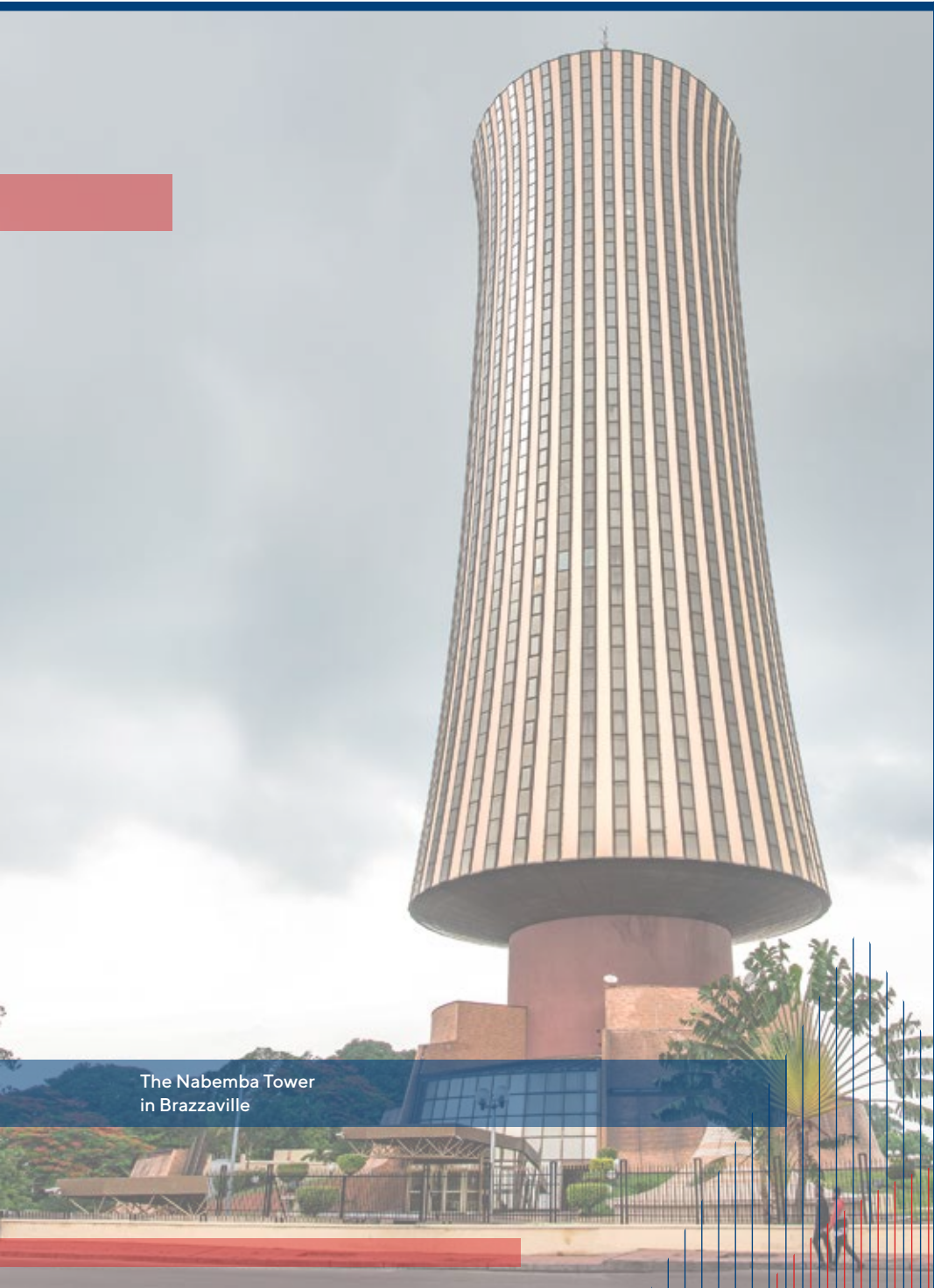
Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
The People’s Will	10	Al-Ahbash, Marada, Dignity Movement	29,277	20.24	2
The Third Republic	9	Omar Harfouche’s Bloc	3,318	2.29	0
Ambition of the Youth	5	Independent	79	0.06	0
Rescue of a Nation	11	LF, Ashraf Rifi Bloc	30,006	20.75	3
For the People	11	PSP, Azm Movement	16,215	11.21	1
Lebanon Is Ours	11	Former FM members	28,041	19.39	2
Revolt for Justice and Sovereignty	9	National Bloc, Sabaa	14,181	9.80	1
The Real Change	11	Islamic Group	16,825	11.63	2
Dawn of Change	7	Independent	672	0.47	0
Stability and Development	10	Together for Lebanon	1,306	0.90	0
Capable	6	MMFD	1,839	1.27	0
Blank votes:			2,882	1.99	Total: 11
Total registered voters			377,111		
Voters in Lebanon			361,835		
Out-of-country voters			15,276		
Votes cast			151,521		
Turnout			40.18%		
Spoiled ballots			6,880		
Valid ballots			144,641		
Electoral threshold			13,149		
Hare quota			12,493		
Constituency confessional quotas			Shia (8) Greek Orthodox (1) Maronite (1) Alawite (1)		

Results of the Parliament of Lebanon Election,
May 15, 2022
North-3 Constituency

Qualifying list	Number of candidates	Party, movement, affiliation	Votes cast		Number of seats
			Votes	%	
Our North	10	Osos Lebanon, National Bloc	14,121	11.55	1
The Pulse of the Strong Republic	10	LF	39,844	32.58	3
The North of Confrontation	9	Kataeb, Independence Movement	22,613	18.49	2
We Can Change	6	MMFD, LCP	974	0.79	0
Awaken Your Voice	5	Independent	230	0.19	0
Unity of the North	8	Marada, SSNP (Hardan fraction)	26,475	21.65	2
We Will Stay Here	7	FPM, SSNP (Banat fraction)	17,077	13.96	2
Blank votes:			977	0.79	Total: 10
Total registered voters			257,964		
Voters in Lebanon			231,250		
Out-of-country voters			26,714		
Votes cast			126,018		
Turnout			48.85%		
Spoiled ballots			3,707		
Valid ballots			122,311		
Electoral threshold			12,231		
Hare quota			12,111		
Constituency confessional quotas			Greek Orthodox (7) Maronite (3)		

Source: Ministry of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



The Nabemba Tower
in Brazzaville

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNE
COUNCILS ELECTIONS
JULY 4 AND 10, 2022



Andrey Maximov, the CCRF EOM member, at a polling station on Election Day

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

The 1st round of the election to the National Assembly of the Republic of the Congo, the lower house of the bicameral parliament, took place on July 10, 2022. Party candidates and self-nominated candidates competed for 151 seats in the Congolese Legislature.

On July 4, 2022, 6 days ahead of the main Election Day, early voting took place for the Congolese armed forces and the electoral management staff, who vote separately from the rest of the citizens, according to the Electoral Law.

This was the 5th National Assembly election since the 2002 abolition of the National Transitional Council, the interim legislative body created at the end of the 1997 Civil War, and the 2nd since the 2015 constitutional reform.

Elections for local governments – the councils of all the departments and communes of the Republic of the Congo²¹ – were held at the same time as the elections to the National Assembly.

Election Significance

The July 4 and 10, 2022 parliamentary and local elections in

the Republic of the Congo were of key importance to the country.

First, the elected members of the National Assembly are to form the new government of the Republic of the Congo and legislate for the next 5 years, directly determining the national policy.

Second, the department and commune councils elections are extremely important not only because the elected councils are to carry out the country's day-to-day governance at the grassroots level, but also because during 2023 indirect elections, an electoral college composed

of members of commune and department councils is to elect the new 72-member Senate, the upper house of the Congolese parliament, for a 6-year term of office.

Electoral System

National Assembly Election

According to Article 66 of the 2001 Electoral Law, as amended on September 21, 2020, the election of members to the National Assembly of the Republic of the Congo, whose term of office is 5 years, is held under TRS in 151 SMDs. The 2017 amendments to the Electoral Law expanded the composition of the National Assembly, increasing the number of seats from 139 to 151 (Article 54).

To win in the 1st round, candidates must receive a majority of votes (50% + 1 vote). Otherwise, a 2nd round is held between the 2 candidates who received the highest number of votes.

In the 2nd round, a candidate must receive a simple majority of votes to win. Significantly, there is no legally prescribed deadline for the run-off.

If only 1 candidate runs in a constituency, an uncontested election is held.

Candidates to the National Assembly run in tandem: the main candidate, who takes a seat in the parliament, and the alternate candidate, who is in 'reserve,' i.e., shall the main candidate leave the party which had nominated him/her or is unable to perform

the parliamentary duties for other reasons, the alternate takes the seat over.

In addition, the Electoral Law does not stipulate minimum turnout threshold for an election to be considered valid.

Such an electoral system somewhat diminishes the role of political parties in politics at the national level, and electoral competition between candidates and political groups turns into a miniature presidential election in each constituency.

Article 54 of the Electoral Law also establishes the electoral constituencies within the boundaries of administrative units of the Republic of the Congo:

1. Kouilou Department – 7 constituencies;
2. Pointe-Noire Department – 12 constituencies;
3. Niari Department – 18 constituencies;
4. Bouenza Department – 13 constituencies;
5. Lékoumou Department – 6 constituencies;
6. Pool Department – 16 constituencies;
7. Plateaux Department – 14 constituencies;
8. Cuvette Department – 13 constituencies;
9. Cuvette-Ouest Department – 7 constituencies;
10. Sangha Department – 9 constituencies;
11. Likouala Department – 9 constituencies;
12. Brazzaville Department – 27 constituencies.

Usually, the constituency boundaries coincide with the boundaries of administrative

National Assembly of the Republic of the Congo Election

151
seats

5-year
tenure

Held under TRS
(50% + 1 vote)

151
SMDs

Main candidates run
on the same ticket
with alternate candidates

districts and/or boroughs, but within the boundaries of some administrative units (mainly in densely populated cities and suburbs), there may be several constituencies.

The total number of constituencies formed in distinct departments corresponds to the number of seats assigned to it in the lower house of parliament. However, the Electoral Law does not prescribe the principles and criteria for distributing seats in the National Assembly among the departments; also, seat distribution does not follow a demographic logic, that is, the number of parliamentary seats assigned to each department does not depend on the number of inhabitants living in it.²²

²¹ According to Law No. 3-2003 of 17 January 17, 2003, on determining the territorial and administrative organization of the Republic of the Congo, the administrative division of the state is as follows: departments, which are divided into communes and districts, with most communes divided into boroughs (*fr. arrondissement*). The districts and boroughs are further divided into rural and urban communities; rural communities are, in turn, divided into villages, and urban communities into quarters. Local authorities are organized only at the level of departments and communes.

²² Significantly, the 2007, 2012, and 2017 amendments to the Electoral Law gradually redistributed seats in the National Assembly in favor of the northern regions of the country; thus, *ceteris paribus* the northern departments had more representatives in the lower house of the national legislature.

Department and Commune Councils Election

According to Article 67 of the Electoral Law, the elections of council members (councilors) of departments and communes, whose term of office is 5 years, are based on proportional representation with closed lists of candidates nominated by political parties or political groups. The seats are distributed among the winning lists using the Hare method.

Candidate lists can be nominated for the elections by political parties, independent sociopolitical organizations, and movements. If an incumbent councilor withdraws from the political party or group on whose list he/she was elected, the councilor loses his/her post and the seat is taken by the next candidate on the electoral list. If there are no other candidates on the electoral list, a by-election is held in a respective department or commune. Local council elections are held at least 20 and no more than 50 days prior to the expiration of the current councilors' term of office.

The constituency boundaries for elections of department and commune councils coincide with the boundaries of corresponding administrative units, i.e., departments, communes, and boroughs of the Republic of the Congo. According to Article 67 of the Electoral Law, there are 4 types of local councils:

1. Department councils elected in each of their constituent districts (a candidate list per each district);
2. Commune councils elected in each of their boroughs (a candidate list per each borough);
3. Department and commune councils of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire elected in each of the constituent districts and boroughs (a candidate list per each district and borough);



A woman in the secret vote booth made of 2 overturned school desks

4. Councils of communes without boroughs elected in respective communes (a candidate list per commune without boroughs).

The 2017 amendments to the Electoral Law also increased the total number of councilors at all levels from 860 to 1,154 (Article 72). Notably, the original version of the Electoral Law prescribed only the minimum and maximum number of seats that can be assigned to a council at any given level. However, amendments editions of the Electoral Law fixed a precise number of seats assigned to all department and commune councils. Thus, under Article 54

of the Electoral Law, the actual distribution of seats in department and commune councils is as follows:

Department Councils

1. Kouilou Department Council – 45 seats;
 - 1.1. Loango District – 4 seats;
 - 1.2. Hinda District – 6 seats;
 - 1.3. Mvouti District – 10 seats;
 - 1.4. Madingo-Kayes District – 9 seats;
 - 1.5. Nzambi District – 7 seats;
 - 1.6. Kakamoeka District – 9 seats;
2. Niari Department Council – 61 seats;

- 2.1. Mougoundou-sud District – 4 seats;
- 2.2. Banda District – 4 seats;
- 2.3. Moutamba District – 4 seats;
- 2.4. Mougoundou-nord District – 4 seats;
- 2.5. Yaya District – 4 seats;
- 2.6. Mbinda District – 4 seats;
- 2.7. Mayoko District – 4 seats;
- 2.8. Divénié District – 5 seats;
- 2.9. Nyanga District – 4 seats;
- 2.10. Louvakou District – 5 seats;
- 2.11. Londéla-Kayes District – 4 seats;
- 2.12. Kimongo District – 5 seats;
- 2.13. Makabana District – 5 seats;
- 2.14. Kibangou District – 5 seats;
3. Bouenza Department Council – 61 seats;
 - 3.1. Mfouati District – 6 seats;
 - 3.2. Boko-Songho District – 6 seats;
 - 3.3. Kayes District – 5 seats;
 - 3.4. Kingoué District – 5 seats;
 - 3.5. Loudima District – 8 seats;
 - 3.6. Mabombo District – 5 seats;
 - 3.7. Madingou District – 7 seats;
- 3.8. Mouyondzi District – 9 seats;
- 3.9. Tsiaki District – 5 seats;
- 3.10. Yamba District – 5 seats;
4. Lékoumou Department Council – 47 seats;
 - 4.1. Sibiti District – 13 seats;
 - 4.2. Zanaga District – 9 seats;
 - 4.3. Komono District – 9 seats;
 - 4.4. Bambama District – 7 seats;
 - 4.5. Mayéyé District – 9 seats;
5. Pool Department Council – 61 seats;
 - 5.1. Kinkala District – 7 seats;
 - 5.2. Boko District – 6 seats;
 - 5.3. Mayama District – 4 seats;
 - 5.4. Mindouli District – 9 seats;
 - 5.5. Kindamba District – 5 seats;
 - 5.6. Goma Tsé-Tsé District – 6 seats;
 - 5.7. Louingui District – 3 seats;
 - 5.8. Ngabé District – 5 seats;
 - 5.9. Ignié District – 4 seats;
 - 5.10. Vindza District – 3 seats;
 - 5.11. Mbanza-Ndounga District – 3 seats;
 - 5.12. Loumo District – 3 seats;
 - 5.13. Kimba District – 3 seats;
6. Plateaux Department Council – 61 seats;
 - 6.1. Abala District – 6 seats;
 - 6.2. Djambala District – 6 seats;
 - 6.3. Makotimpoko District – 5 seats;
 - 6.4. Mpouya District – 5 seats;
 - 6.5. Allembé District – 5 seats;
 - 6.6. Ongogni District – 5 seats;
 - 6.7. Ngo District – 5 seats;
 - 6.8. Ollombo District – 6 seats;
 - 6.9. Lékana District – 6 seats;
 - 6.10. Gamboma District – 7 seats;
 - 6.11. Mbon District – 5 seats;
7. Cuvette Department Council – 61 seats;
 - 7.1. Bokoma District – 4 seats;
 - 7.2. Owando District – 8 seats;
 - 7.3. Loukoléla District – 6 seats;
 - 7.4. Tchikapika District – 6 seats;
 - 7.5. Boundji District – 6 seats;
 - 7.6. Oyo District – 6 seats;
 - 7.7. Ntokou District – 5 seats;
 - 7.8. Ngoko District – 5 seats;
 - 7.9. Mossaka District – 8 seats;
 - 7.10. Makoua District – 7 seats;



Voters look for their names in the lists posted on the wall of a polling station

8. Cuvette-Ouest Department Council – 55 seats;
 - 8.1. Mbama District – 8 seats;
 - 8.2. Okoyo District – 9 seats;
 - 8.3. Mbomo District – 8 seats;
 - 8.4. Kelle District – 9 seat;
 - 8.5. Etoumbi District – 10 seats;
 - 8.6. Ewo District – 11 seats;
9. Sangha Department Council – 49 seats;
 - 9.1. Cabo District – 4 seats;
 - 9.2. Mokéko District – 11 seats;
 - 9.3. Pikounda District – 8 seats;
 - 9.4. Sembé District – 8 seats;
 - 9.5. Souanké District – 10 seats;
 - 9.6. N'gbala District – 8 seats;
10. Likouala Department Council – 57 seats;
 - 10.1. Bouanéla District – 6 seats;
 - 10.2. Dongou District – 8 seats;
 - 10.3. Bétou District – 9 seats;
 - 10.4. Liranga District – 7 seat;
 - 10.5. Impfondo District – 10 seats;
 - 10.6. Epena District – 8 seats;
 - 10.7. Enyellé District – 9 seats;

Department and commune councils of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire

11. Brazzaville Department and Commune Council – 101 seats;
 - 11.1. Brazzaville Commune – 97 seats;
 - 11.1.1. Borough No. 1 (Makélékélé) – 11 seats;
 - 11.1.2. Borough No. 2 (Bacongo) – 13 seats;
 - 11.1.3. Borough No. 3 (Poto-Poto) – 13 seats;
 - 11.1.4. Borough No. 4 (Moungali) – 13 seats;
 - 11.1.5. Borough No. 5 (Ouenzé) – 13 seats;
 - 11.1.6. Borough No. 6 (Talangai) – 13 seats;
 - 11.1.7. Borough No. 7 (Mfilou-Ngamaba) – 11 seats;
 - 11.1.8. Borough No. 8 (Madibou) – 4 seats;
 - 11.1.9. Borough No. 9 (Djiri) – 6 seats;
 - 11.2. Borough Mbamu – 4 seats;
12. Pointe-Noire Department and Commune Council – 85 seats;
 - 12.1. Pointe-Noire Commune – 75 seats;
 - 12.1.1. Borough No. 1 (Patrice Emery Lumumba) – 17 seats;
 - 12.1.2. Borough No. 2 (Mvou-Mvou) – 17 seats;
 - 12.1.3. Borough No. 3 (Tié-Tié) – 14 seats;
 - 12.1.4. Borough No. 4 (Loandjili) – 14 seats;
 - 12.1.5. Borough No. 5 (Mongo-Pokou) – 6 seats;
 - 12.1.6. Borough No. 6 (Ngoyo) – 7 seats;
 - 12.2. Tchiamba-Nzassi District – 10 seats;

Councils of communes with boroughs

1. Nkayi Commune Council – 45 seats;
 - 1.1. Borough No. 1 – 23 seats;
 - 1.2. Borough No. 2 – 22 seats;
2. Beco Commune Council – 45 seats;
 - 2.1. Borough No. 1 – 23 seats;
 - 2.2. Borough No. 2 – 22 seats;
3. Dolisie Commune Council – 45 seats;
 - 3.1. Borough No. 1 – 23 seats;
 - 3.2. Borough No. 2 – 22 seats;

Councils of communes without boroughs

4. Madingou Commune Council – 25 seats;
5. Sibity Commune Council – 25 seats;
6. Kinkala Commune Council – 25 seats;
7. Kintele Commune Council – 25 seats;
8. Djambala Commune Council – 25 seats;
9. Ewo Commune Council – 25 seats;
10. Owando Commune Council – 25 seats;
11. Oyo Commune Council – 25 seats;
12. Pokola Commune Council – 25 seats;
13. Impfondo Commune Council – 25 seats;
14. Mossendjo Commune Council – 25 seats.

Another extremely important feature in the electoral system of the Republic of the Congo is the single ballot, introduced in 2016, establishing a unified layout for ballots used at all levels of elections and thereby significantly reducing

ballot stuffing and electoral fraud, including the use of non-standard ballots.

Electoral Legislation

In the Republic of the Congo, the electoral procedures for the parliamentary and municipal elections of July 4 and 10, 2022, were regulated by the following laws, regulations, and documents:

1. Constitution of the Republic of the Congo of 2015;
2. Organic Law No. 1-2003 of January 17, 2003, "On the Organization and Functioning of the Constitutional Court";
3. Law No. 3-2003 of January 17, 2003, "On Determining the Territorial Administrative Organization of the Republic of the Congo";
4. Law No. 8-2001 of November 12, 2001, "On Freedom of Information and Communication";
5. Electoral Law No. 9-2001 of December 10, 2001, amended and supplemented by Laws No. 5-2007 of May 25, 2007, No. 9-2012 of May 23, 2012, No. 40-2014 of September 1, 2014, No. 1-2016 of January 23, 2016, and No. 19-2017 of May 12, 2017, No. 50-2020 of September 21, 2020;
6. Organic Law No. 28-2018 of August 7, 2018, "On the Organization and Functioning of the Constitutional Court," as amended and supplemented by Organic Law No. 57-2020 of November 18, 2020;
7. Decree No. 2016-34 of February 1, 2016, "On Establishing the Organization and Functioning of the Independent National Electoral Commission";
8. Decree No. 2007-309 of June 15, 2007, "On Determining the Procedures for National and International Election Observation";
9. Decree No. 2008-407 of October 9, 2008, "On Amendments and Additions to Decree No. 2001-530 'On the 'Creation, Powers and Organization of Administrative Commissions to Revise Voter Registers of October 31, 2001,'";



Polling station staff at a polling station on Election Day

10. Decree No. 2012-26 of February 6, 2012, "On Amendments and Additions to Resolution No. 2008-407 of October 9, 2008, 'On Amendments and Additions to Decree No. 2001-530 of October 31, 2001, 'On the Creation, Powers, and Organization of the Work of Administrative Commissions for Revising Voter Registers'";
11. Decree No. 2016-35 of February 1, 2016, "On the Characteristics of the Single Voting Ballot";
12. Decree No. 2022-245 of May 6, 2022, "On the Convocation of Voters for Local Government Elections and the 1st Round of Legislative Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022";
13. Resolution No. 8286 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of December 31, 2001, "On Establishing the Procedure for Proxy Voting";
14. Resolution No. 2810 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of June 21, 2002, "On Establishing the Procedure for Calculating Local Election Results and the Method of Distributing Seats";
15. Resolution No. 1431 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of February 29, 2016 "On Establishing the Term for the Distribution of Voter Cards";
16. Resolution No. 5 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of January 8, 2021, "On Appointing Administrative Commissions for Revising the Voter Registers";
17. Resolution No. 1410 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of April 1, 2022, "On the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Registers";
18. Resolution No. 1411 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of April 1, 2022, "On Establishing the Number of Registration Offices of the Administrative Commissions for Revising the Voter Registers";
19. Resolution No. 1608 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of May 2, 2022, "On Postponing the End Date of the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Registers";
20. Resolution No. 1896 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of April 1, 2022, "On the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Registers";

- Development of the Republic of the Congo of May 10, 2022, "On Setting Deadlines for Submitting Candidate Documents for Legislative and Local Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022";
21. Resolution No. 2854 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of May 31, 2022, "On Postponing the Deadline for Submitting Candidate Documents for Legislative and Local Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022";
22. Resolution No. 4445 of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo of June 22, 2022, "On Establishing the Campaigning Period for Local Government Elections and 1st Round of Legislative Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022";
23. Circular No. 0286/MID/CAB of the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization Regarding Reminders of July 3, 2012, "On the Missions of Local Administrative Authorities in the Election Period";
24. Circular No. 005/CNEI/COO/PR/CT of the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization of July 11, 2017, "On Voting by Proxy";
25. Circular No. 006/CNEI/COO/PR/CT of the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization of July 14, 2017, "On the Identity and Civil Status Documents Required for Voting in Elections for Members of the National Assembly and Department and Commune Councils";
26. Circular No. 007/CNEI/COO/PR/CT of the Minister of Interior and Decentralization of July 14, 2017, "On the Amendment of Circular

- No. 005/CNEI/COO/PR/CT of the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization of July 11, 2017, "On Voting by Proxy";
27. Circular No. 1896/MATDDL-CAB of the Minister of Interior and Decentralization of May 10, 2017, "On Establishing Deadlines for Nominating Candidates for Elections";
28. CNEI Regulation No. 01/CNEI of March 13, 2021, "On the Procedure for Early Voting by Members of the Armed Forces and General Voting";
29. CNEI Regulation No. 02/CNEI of March 15, 2021, "On Procedures for Early Voting by Election Commissions at All Levels."

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

- According to the Electoral Law, the Republic of the Congo has a 3-tier mixed electoral administration system:
- 1.1. National Independent Electoral Commission (*fr.* Commission nationale électorale indépendante, CNEI);
- 1.1.1. CNEI Coordination Bureau;
- 1.1.2. CNEI Technical Committee;
- 1.1.3. CNEI Election Observation and Monitoring Committee;
- 1.2. Directorate General of Electoral Affairs of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo (*fr.* Direction Générale des Affaires Electorales, DGAE);
1. 135 local electoral commissions for all levels of elections established in each department, district, and commune (with and without boroughs) of the Republic of the Congo;
2. 4,006 voting centers and 6,651 polling stations organized in the Republic of the Congo's 12 departments.²³

National Independent Electoral Commission

The governing body is the Coordination Bureau

1 Chair

3 Deputy Chairs, nominated by parliamentary parties

1 Deputy Chair, nominated by CSOs

1 Chair of the Technical Committee

1 Chair of the Election Observation and Monitoring Committee

1 Rapporteur

1 General Treasurer

In 2016, the Republic the Congo reformed its election administration system. Thus, the National Commission for the Organization of Elections, which had been in place since 2001, was replaced by a new permanent body, the CNEI, which is responsible for conducting elections at all levels and for ensuring that the election participants comply with the electoral law requirements.

The idea to reform the election administration system was promoted by the opposition political platforms, the Republican Front for the Respect of Constitutional Order and Democratic Change (*fr.* le Front républicain pour le respect de l'ordre constitutionnel et l'alternance démocratique) and the Initiative for Democracy in Congo (*fr.* l'Initiative pour la démocratie au Congo).

The key difference from the previous election management body is that, according to Article 17 of the Electoral Law, the CNEI is an independent body financed from the state budget as authorized by the members of the National Assembly. Thus, the CNEI is not formally subordinated to any executive authority and is authorized to independently manage its expenses and make decisions related to the organization and conduct of elections at all levels.

The governing body of the CNEI is the 9-member Coordination Bureau. The CNEI Coordination Bureau is composed equally of representatives from the state, parliamentary political parties, and CSOs. They are as follows:

1. Chair of the CNEI Coordination Bureau;
2. Deputy Chair of the CNEI Coordination Bureau,

nominated by the political parties of the parliamentary majority²⁴ (to be appointed from among 3 nominated candidates);

3. Deputy Chair of the CNEI Coordination Bureau, nominated by the political parties of the parliamentary opposition (to be appointed from among 3 nominated candidates);
4. Deputy Chair of the CNEI Coordination Bureau, nominated by the political parties of the parliamentary center (to be appointed from among 3 nominated candidates);
5. Deputy Chair of the CNEI Coordination Bureau, nominated by the CSOs whose activities are directly related to elections and electoral issues (to be appointed from among 3 nominated candidates);
6. Chair of the CNEI Technical Committee;
7. Chair of the CNEI Election Observation and Monitoring Committee;

8. CNEI Speaker;
 9. CNEI General Treasurer.
- The composition of the CNEI Coordination Bureau is approved by a decree of the President of the Republic of the Congo on the proposal of the Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development.

Members of the CNEI Coordination Bureau may not participate in election campaigns or publicly express their political opinions, nor may they engage in any activity that could call into question the independence and impartiality of CNEI and/or the transparency and impartiality of its activities.

The CNEI Technical Committee and the CNEI Election Observation and Monitoring Committee are directly involved in the preparation and conduct of elections at all levels, as well as CNEI's monitoring of compliance with electoral legislation.



Voters at the entrances to polling stations on Election Day

²³ The final number of polling stations and polling centers is established by a Decree of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo. Thus, for the elections of the National Assembly and the councils of the departments and communes, their distribution and organization have been carried out under the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo Order No. 1411 of April 1, 2022, "On Establishing the Number of Administrative Offices for Revising the Voter Registers".

²⁴ Political forces represented in the national legislature in the Republic of the Congo are divided into 3 blocs: the parliamentary majority bloc, which includes the party that won the elections, its coalition partners and allied political forces; the parliamentary opposition bloc, which includes parties that oppose the policies of the ruling party (which does not prevent opposition forces from cooperating with the ruling coalition and even receiving ministerial portfolios); the parliamentary center bloc, which includes political forces that do not oppose the ruling coalition and are willing to cooperate with all the forces represented in parliament.

Thus, the objectives of the CNEI Technical Committee include:

1. rendering assistance to the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo in the preparations for elections at all levels;
2. conducting public opinion polls and surveys;
3. verifying voter registers;
4. monitoring the issuance of personal voter cards (identification);
5. conducting educational programs for citizens about the country's electoral system;
6. processing, counting and tabulating the votes cast at all levels of elections for the subsequent transmission of the final information to the Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo.

The CNEI Election Observation and Monitoring Committee performs the following functions:

1. supervising the activities related to the organization and conduct of elections at all levels;
2. verifying voter registers;
3. making recommendations to the CNEI Coordination Bureau on the organization and conduct of elections.

Working parallel to the CNEI at the national level, according to Article 16 of the Electoral Law, is the DGAE a specialized unit of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development. The DGAE is entrusted with most of the election management responsibilities, including organizational, administrative, and logistical activities related to the formation and periodic updating of voter registers, issuance and distribution of voter cards to citizens, printing and distribution of ballots, delivery of ballot boxes and other materials necessary for voting.



The PEC secretary and representatives of candidates at the opening of a polling station

When comparing the Ministry's and CNEI's areas of responsibility, it was noted that the executive branch performs the main functions of preparing and conducting elections. This is owing to, inter alia the ambiguous and vague wording of the Electoral Law. Thus, the CNEI is autonomous only when counting the votes cast; in the other stages of preparing and conducting elections, the CNEI is more of an auxiliary institution.

At a lower level in the election administration system are the local electoral commissions, responsible for preparing and conducting elections at the local level in the departments, communes, districts and boroughs of the Republic of the Congo.

Regardless of the administrative division, all local election commissions consist of 7 people:

1. Chair of the local commission, who may be either a civil servant or a citizen in good standing, appointed by the Minister

of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo;

2. Deputy Chair of the local commission, nominated by the parliamentary majority political parties (appointed from among 3 proposed candidates);
3. Deputy Chair of the local commission, nominated by the political parties of the parliamentary opposition (appointed from among 3 candidates nominated);
4. Deputy Chair of the local commission, nominated by the political parties of the parliamentary center (to be appointed from among 3 candidates nominate);
5. Deputy Chair of the local commission, nominated by civil society structures, whose core business is directly related to elections and electoral issues (to be appointed from among 3 candidates nominated);
6. Local commission speaker;
7. Local commission treasurer.

In addition, an official representative of CNEI is assigned to all local commissions. The CNEI representative monitors the voting process and confirms the correctness of the reports and documents on the results of the voting, and then personally delivers the results and all of the local commission's official documents (protocols, registers, etc.) to the Chair of the CNEI Coordination Bureau.

At the lowest level of the election administration system are commissions operating at electoral centers and the polling stations attached to them, the latter known as precinct election commissions or PECs.

The PECs are tasked with organizing the voting process at the polling stations in compliance with Congolese electoral legislation, as well as counting all the votes cast after the polls close on Election Day.

The Ministry Foreign Affairs, Francophonie, and Congolese Abroad of the Republic of the Congo is also indirectly included in the election administration system and is responsible for reviewing applications and issuing accreditations for international observers. This is carried out by a special national commission within the Ministry Foreign Affairs, Francophonie, and Congolese Abroad, which is chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry.

Voting is available at Congolese diplomatic missions for citizens of the Republic of the Congo residing out-of-country, but there are no details on the rules for organizing and conducting voting abroad in the national electoral legislation.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

The Electoral Law of the Republic of the Congo grants active suffrage to all citizens of the country over 18 years of age who have not been stripped of their civil and political rights for committing criminal offenses.

Notably, voter registration is not automatic but takes place just before elections: the procedure for revising and updating voter registers begins approximately 2 months before Election Day and lasts for 3 to 4 weeks, according to the relevant resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo.²⁵ For the July 4 and 10, 2022 elections of the National Assembly and the Department and Commune Councils of the Republic of the Congo, the update of the voter registers was initially scheduled for April 4 to 29, but was extended until May 5 by a resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo.²⁶

The registers are updated by special administrative commissions for the revision of voter registers, which function in each department of the country. Each administrative commission is assigned a number of registration points whose work they oversee. The special administrative commissions consist of 10 people:

1. Chair of the commission, a representative of the departmental administration;
2. Secretary-Rapporteur of the commission, a representative of the departmental administration;
3. Member of the commission, a representative of political

parties of the parliamentary majority;

4. Member of the commission, a representative of political parties of the parliamentary opposition;
5. Member of the commission, a representative of political parties of the parliamentary center;
6. Member of the commission, a representative of civil society structures;
7. 4 members of the commission elected from among the heads of the rural and urban communities, urban quarters, and villages within the boundaries of the jurisdiction of the administrative commission for the revision of voter registers.

The composition of the registration point commissions is approved by the decree of the departmental prefect, who is responsible for the respective administrative commission for the revision of the voter registers and the registration points assigned to it.

A total of 2,877,081 voters were registered for the July 4 and July 10, 2022 elections, according to information provided by the DGAE.²⁷ It is important to note that this election marks the first time that voter registration data from departments and administrative bodies at lower levels have been combined to generate a single nationwide voter register.

However, this register was not available to observers, nor was it possible to find any related statistical information, such as the number of voters by constituency, the age and gender structure of the electorate, the actual threshold of candidates by constituency, etc.

²⁵ Resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo No. 1410 of April 1, 2022, "On the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Register."

²⁶ Resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo No. 1608 of May 2, 2022, "On Postponing the Expiration Date of the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Registers."

²⁷ The total population of the Republic of the Congo is [estimated by the World Bank](#) to be 5,657,017 in 2021.



A sealed ballot box at a polling station on Election Day

2,877,081
registered voters

>35%
turnout
(according to unofficial data)

Once the voter registers are complete, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of

the Republic of the Congo prints the appropriate number of voter cards IDs, which are issued to all officially registered voters a few days before the elections. Consequently, no citizen of the Republic of the Congo can vote without a voter card.

However, due to logistical, production, and administrative barriers, many voters did not receive their cards on time and therefore were not able to participate in the elections. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that this time the production and distribution of voter cards was decentralized, which made it difficult for the responsible services to coordinate their efforts.

The bodies responsible for election administration, the CNEI and the DGAE, did not publish data on voter turnout or other information on the distribution of votes among candidates in the constituencies. Nevertheless, based on their own experience of observing polling stations, as well as on assessments by other foreign observers who observed with the Russian experts on Election Day, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation considered the turnout to be relatively low (not more than 35%).

The lack of serious work on statistics by the responsible agencies did not make it possible to determine the final turnout or other statistical indicators, which negatively affects the transparency of the electoral process as a whole and the preparation and conduct of elections in particular.

Candidate Registration

Registration of candidates for all levels of elections took place from May 10 to 31, 2022, pursuant to the Resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo,²⁸ but it was subsequently extended until June 7.

Candidates for the National Assembly are subject to the same age requirements as voters: thus, a candidate must be a citizen of the Republic of the Congo over 18 years old. Also, the candidate must permanently reside on the territory of the Republic of the Congo and have no criminal record.

Furthermore, a deposit of 1.5 million CFA francs must be paid for National Assembly candidates and 500,000 CFA francs for local

government candidates.²⁹ It should be noted that the property qualification is too high for the average Congolese, potentially preventing most of the country's population from participating in the political life of the country.³⁰

Nevertheless, in spite of these restrictions, several thousand candidates were registered for elections at all levels. For example, 1,176 main and alternate candidates ran in the National Assembly election, and 1,627 candidate lists were registered for the department and commune councils elections. According to Article 61 of the Electoral Law, candidate lists must include at least 30% women.

National Assembly Election

1,176
main and alternate
registered
candidates

Department and Commune Councils Election

1,627
registered
candidate lists
at least

30%
of female
candidates
on the list

List of Registered Candidates

Several dozen small and large political parties are officially registered in the Republic of the Congo and are actively engaged in electoral competition at the national and local levels.

Listed below are the key parties and coalitions officially registered for the National Assembly elections:

1. The Congolese Party of Labor (*fr.* Parti Congolais du Travail, PCT), the ruling party, leader – the incumbent President Denis Sassou Nguesso;
2. The Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (*fr.* Union panafricaine pour la démocratie sociale, UPADS), the main Opposition party, leader – Pascal Tsachi Mabiala;
3. Union of Humanist Democrats Party (*fr.* Union des Démocrates Humanistes-Yuki, UDH-Yuki), Opposition party, leader – Pascal Nguanou;
4. Action and Renewal Movement (*fr.* Mouvement Action et Renouveau, MAR), Pro-government party and part of the ruling coalition, leader – Roland Bouiti-Viaudo;
5. Republican and Liberal Party (*fr.* Parti républicain libéral, PRL), party of the Center, leader – Nicéphore Fylla de Saint-Eudes;
6. Club 2002 – Party for the Unity and the Republic (*fr.* Club 2002 – Parti pour l'Unité et la République, Club 2002-PUR), pro-government party, a member of the ruling coalition, leader – Juste Désiré Mondélé;
7. Patriotic Front party (*fr.* Front Patriotique, FP), Pro-government party, leader – Destini Ermella Ducaga;
8. Permanent Action for the Congo (*fr.* Action Permanente pour le Congo, APC), party of the Center, leader – Rodrigue Malanda-Samba;
9. Movement for Unity, Solidarity and Labor Party (*fr.* Mouvement pour l'unité, la solidarité et le travail, MUST), Opposition party, leader – Claudine Munari;
10. Congolese Movement for Democracy and Integral Development (*fr.* Mouvement Congolais pour la Démocratie et le Développement Intégral, MCDDI), opposition party, leader – Guy Brice Parfait Kolélas;
11. Rally for Democracy and Social Progress (*fr.* Rassemblement pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social, RDPS);
12. Perspectives and Realities Club (*fr.* Club Perspectives et Réalités, CPR), Pro-government party, leader – Aimée Gidvert Moigny;
13. Union for Reconstruction and Development of the Congo (*fr.* Union pour la Reconstruction et le Développement du Congo, URDP), Pro-government party, leader – Luc Adamo Matéta;
14. Republican Dynamics for Development party (*fr.* Dynamique pour la République et le Développement, DRD), party of the Center, leader – Hellot Matson Mampouya;
15. Citizen Rally Party (*fr.* Rassemblement Citoyen, RC), Pro-government party, leader – Claude Alphonse Nsilou;
16. Movement for Democracy and Progress (*fr.* Mouvement pour la démocratie et le progrès, MDP), party of the Center, leader – Jean-Claude Ibovi;
17. Party for Unity, Freedom and Progress (*fr.* Parti pour l'unité, la liberté et le progrès, PULP), Pro-government party, leader – Médard Moussodia.

²⁸ Resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo No. 1896 of May 10, 2022, "On Setting Deadlines for Submitting Candidate Documents for Legislative and Local Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022." Resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo No. 2854 of May 31, 2022 "On Postponing the Deadline for Submitting Candidate Documents for Legislative and Local Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022."

²⁹ As of September 2022, the amount of the deposit for a National Assembly candidate is about 140,000 RUB, and for a council member (councilor) of a department or commune – 46,000 RUB.

³⁰ The World Bank estimates that as of 2021 in the Republic of the Congo about 54% of the population live below the absolute poverty line, i.e., spending no more than \$1.9 a day to live, approximately 48% of the country's urban population live in slums. The unemployment rate for 2021, according to the ILO estimates, is 23%.



Election Observation Institutions

According to Article 84 of the Electoral Law and Decree No. 2007-309 of June 15, 2007, official representatives of each candidate and each candidate list are entitled to observe the voting and vote counting process as national observers at all polling stations in the country. Thus, the registered candidates and electoral lists have the right to appoint 1 observer per polling station.

Relevant Congolese NGOs accredited by the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo can also participate in election observation.

On Election Day, each PEC must enter the data of all independent observers and representatives of candidates and/or candidate lists

present at the polling station in the official report.

Decree No. 2007-309 of June 15, 2007, provides for international observation during elections and referenda in the Republic of the Congo. In particular, at the invitation of the Congolese Government, foreign and international NGOs, observation missions of intergovernmental organizations, official delegations of foreign governments, as well as representatives of the foreign diplomatic corps accredited in the country, including Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, may participate in election observation.

The accreditation of international observers is the responsibility of a special national commission under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie, and Congolese Abroad.

The CNEI Election Observation and Monitoring Committee is in charge of coordinating the work of national observers as well as monitoring their compliance with the Electoral Law of the Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie, and Congolese Abroad is responsible for coordinating the work of international observers.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Special National Commission under the Congolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie, and Congolese Abroad accredited the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for the July 4 and July 10, 2022 elections of the National Assembly and Department and Commune Councils of the Republic of the Congo. As an international

election observer, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was set to monitor voting at polling stations and voting centers, as well as to observe the work of the local electoral commissions at all levels in the country's 12 departments on July 10, 2022, the main voting day of the 1st round of elections.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

- 1. Andrey Maximov, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government, Head of the Election Observation Mission;
- 2. Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present in the Republic of the Congo from July 8 to 11, 2022. On July 9, a day prior to the elections, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the 1-day silence period.³¹

On July 10, Election Day, from 8:00 am to 9:30 am members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation attended a working meeting for accredited international observers with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Francophonie, and Congolese Abroad of the Republic the Congo. During the meeting, the international observers formed working groups, each of which was offered a specific route to visit the polling stations in several constituencies on the territory of the Congolese capital.

For this reason, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were not able to be present at the official opening of polling stations at 7:00 am. The observers arrived at the first polling stations at 10:30 am and monitored at all polling stations on the given route until the end of Election Day (until 5:00 pm).

Members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation carried out the observation in a group with accredited representatives of the diplomatic corps of Benin, Egypt, Cameroon, Malta and Senegal, as well as representatives from the World Food Program (UN WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the observation mission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), 10 people in total. Among them were the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Abou Lo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Samuel Ateba Owono Iyanga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Malta, H.E. Henri Nsika, and Honorary Consul of Benin, Younoussa Okanlahun Mamadou.

During voting day on July 10, 2022, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic

Chamber of the Russian Federation and the other international observers on the working group visited a total of 3 out of 9 constituencies in Brazzaville (listed in chronological order of the visits):

- 1. Constituency No. 7 (Ngamaba-Mfilou);
- 2. Constituency No. 9 (Ndjiri);
- 3. Constituency No. 8 (Madibou).

The polling stations and voting centers in the department and commune of Brazzaville visited by members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation are listed below in chronological order:

Constituency No. 7 (Ngamaba-Mfilou)

- 1. Polling Station No. 1, Pierre Mayindou Primary School Voting Center, CQ 701 Kibouende Quarter;
- 2. Polling Station No. 3, Pierre Mayindou Primary School Voting Center, CQ 701 Kibouende Quarter;
- 3. Polling Station No. 5, Pierre Mayindou Primary School Voting Center, CQ 701 Kibouende Quarter;
- 4. Polling Station No. 7, Pierre Mayindou Primary School Voting Center, CQ 701 Kibouende Quarter;
- 5. Polling Station No. 1, Reconciliation (B) Lyceum Voting Center, CQ 709 Mbouala Quarter;
- 6. Polling Station No. 2, Reconciliation (B) Lyceum Voting Center, CQ 709 Mbouala Quarter;
- 7. Polling Station No. 4, Reconciliation (B) Lyceum Voting Center, CQ 709 Mbouala Quarter;

³¹ According to the Resolution of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo No. 4445 of June 22, 2022, "On Establishing the Campaigning Period for Local Government Elections and 1st Round of Legislative Elections on July 4 and 10, 2022," the day of silence was also set for July 3, 2022, the day before the early voting, specially organized for the security forces and all levels of electoral management staff. Given the dates of the mission's deployment to the Republic of the Congo, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not have the opportunity to monitor the observance of the silence period on July 3, 2022.

8. Polling Station No. 4, Reconciliation (A) Lyceum Voting Center, CQ 702 Cahunga Quarter;
9. Polling Station No. 2, Jossef Mutabal Elementary School Voting Center, CQ 709 Mbouala Quarter;

Constituency No. 9 (Ndjiri)

10. Polling Station No. 2, Maria Theresa School Voting Center, CQ 903 Matari Quarter;
11. Intello School Voting Center, CQ 903 Matari Quarter;

Constituency No. 8 (Madibou)

12. Polling Station No. 1, Madibou Nkouka Boussoumbou Elementary School Voting Center, CQ 808 Madibou Quarter.

Separately from the working group of international observers, which monitored the polling stations listed above, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited 1 more polling station on their own prior to the official closing:

13. Polling Station No. 2, Luna Park Voting Center, CQ 808 Madibou Quarter.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

Along with the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, observation missions from the African Union, the ECCAS and the international diplomatic corps accredited in the Republic of the Congo actively participated in observing the National Assembly and the department and commune councils elections on July 4 and July 10, 2022.

In addition, there were at least 3,000 national observers deployed by the Congolese NGOs, as well as official representatives of candidates and candidate lists, monitoring polling stations throughout the country.

As mentioned above, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observed alongside a group of international observers headed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Samuel Ateba Owongo Iyanga, at the polling stations in the department and commune of Brazzaville. All members of the international observer team, including its head, demonstrated a high level of professionalism and in-depth knowledge of both the electoral process in the Republic of the Congo and the generally accepted international electoral standards, and, consequently, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation managed to establish productive cooperation with their foreign colleagues during the observation of voting processes at the polling stations and voting centers they visited. The main language of communication in the group of observers was English.

Observation Findings on Election Day

On Election Day, July 10, 2022, the polling stations were open on the territory of the Republic of the Congo for 10 hours, from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. It was recorded that, by the time members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived at the polling stations in constituency No. 7 (Ngamada-Mfilou) at about 10 am, some polling stations were still closed.

The delay in opening the polling stations was caused by problems that were logistical (not all election materials, e.g., indelible ink, report forms for voting results, ballots, ballot boxes, forms of observer registers, etc., were delivered on time), administrative (it took a long time for a number of PECs to prepare the polling stations for opening) and transport-related (some PEC

members did not arrive on time due to transport difficulties).

Since members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, for the reasons outlined above, were unable to arrive at the polling stations in time for the official opening, the only evidence of work-schedule violations were the instances of some PECs starting late, as recorded by observers. Thus, at least 4 polling stations opened with a 3-4 hour delay, and there is a possibility that other polling stations also opened with a slight delay. Nevertheless, despite PECs starting late, all voters who came to the designated polling stations were able to vote, even after the polling stations' closing time, in accordance with the Republic of the Congo's electoral legislation. In general, polling stations closed mostly on schedule.

Before the opening of polling stations, PEC members checked the number of ballots received against the number of voters assigned to the polling station, and the space was set up to accommodate voting booths. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recorded that special voting booths were not used at all the polling stations they visited, and the space for secret voting was organized from improvised means (school desks placed sideways, corners of the premises walled off with curtains, etc.).

The PEC chair showed the empty ballot boxes to all observers present at the polling station at the opening, and then closed and sealed them.

The covers of the ballot boxes differed in color depending on the type of election, but the color differentiation was not standardized: for example, in some places the ballot boxes were red (National Assembly election) and yellow (local elections),



and in other places they were green (National Assembly election) and red (local elections).

Each seal had a unique number, recorded in a special register administered by CNEI and the DGAE.

Nevertheless, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted that, contrary to the established procedure for opening polling stations, at a number of polling stations the ballot boxes had not been properly sealed, but the PECs promptly corrected the problem in response to complaints. Members of the Election Observation Mission

of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation asked the other observers present at these polling stations whether they had registered any violations while the ballot boxes were unsealed; however, both observers deployed by political parties and independent observers all stated that there had been no violations. Based on a visual assessment, by the time the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors arrived at the polling station, there were no more than 20-30 ballots in the ballot boxes.

Once the polls were opened, the next stage of the voting process consisted in identification of voters and distribution of ballots. The

voter presented his or her voter ID to a member of PEC member, who checked it against the voter register assigned to the polling station, then the voter showed his/her hands so that the PEC members could make sure that the voter had not voted before, i.e., had no special indelible marks on them.

After checking the register, a special mark was put on the voter's ID, the voter then dipped a finger into the election ink and received 2 ballots: 1 for members of the councils (councilors) of departments and communes and the other for members of the National Assembly. After marking the ballots in the booth for secret voting, the voter dropped them into the appropriate ballot boxes.

The members of the the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation studied the ballot paper layout. Thus, for the convenience of voters, the ballots for the National Assembly had photos of each pair of candidates with their surnames, and under the photos information on which of them was the main candidate and which was the alternate. Also, above the candidates' photos and names were the affiliation and logo of their party or, if the candidates were independent, their socio-political organization. The ballots for local elections contained only a list with the candidates' names and, at the top of the list, information on the candidates' affiliation and logo of their party or socio-political organization. The order of candidates and electoral lists on the ballots was d1 by drawing lots.

Observers noted that in some constituencies up to 27 local elections candidate lists and up to 14 pairs of candidates in parliamentary elections took part in the elections, which indicates a very high competition among politicians in this electoral cycle.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noticed

that all voter registers attached to a particular polling station were posted on the wall next to the entrance to the polling stations. They also noted that a significant number of candidate representatives and independent observers were present at all of the polling stations visited.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation pointed out that the CNEI representatives at the polling stations regulated the number of people at the polling stations and only allowed in a specific number of voters so as to avoid chaos and lines inside the secured areas where the polling stations were located. The downside of this was that small lines formed outside some polling stations.

As for the professionalism of the PEC staff, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation stressed that despite limited resources the work at the polling stations was organized quite effectively. The polling station space was used efficiently (national observers sat opposite the desks of the polling station commissioners and had a full view of everything that happened at the polling station), PEC members and representatives of CNEI and the DGAE wore special uniforms that distinguished their roles and responsibilities (the PEC chairs wore red vests, PEC secretaries were in yellow, PEC staffers (4 per station) were in green), and the procedure for identifying voters was relatively efficient. Observers also noted that the polling staff promptly responded to all their questions, requests and comments, as well as provided all the requested information that was available for distribution.

In addition, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noticed that the technical equipment of polling stations

was generally quite poor, with the situation in the poor districts of Brazzaville being noticeably worse, and there was no infrastructure for easy access to polling stations for the disabled, elderly and people with low mobility. Furthermore, a number of polling stations lacked electricity and lighting, which significantly complicated the PEC work and vote counting after dark.

Observers also pointed out that polling staff, observers and voters hardly used any personal protective equipment at polling stations, nor were there hand sanitizers at polling stations, facts which could have contributed to the spread of the COVID-19.

In addition, there were no information systems at the polling stations, and in general the elections lacked a unified system for collecting and processing statistical information, as well as information on voter turnout, number of votes cast, number of blank and spoiled ballots, etc. Also, no digital solutions were used for processing, rechecking and counting votes, which made it difficult to summarize the election results, given the complexity of the electoral system in the Republic of the Congo.

Overall, however, the deficiencies and observations listed above are largely due to the lack of resources and general level of economic development in the Republic of the Congo.

Complaints and Infringements

On the main Election Day in the Republic of the Congo, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not register any formal complaints from voters, candidates or observers at the polling stations visited.

However, as noted above, during the opening of a number of polling stations, ballot boxes were not

sealed on time, contrary to the established procedure (for example, at Polling Station No. 7, at the Pierre Mayindou Primary School Voting Center located in CQ 701 Quarter of Kibouende constituency No. 7 (Ngamada-Mfilou). Nevertheless, this violation was promptly eliminated and observers did not report any other violations of the voting procedure, thus allowing us to conclude that the violation did not affect the final results of the polling stations.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

Members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that despite the number of infringements identified, they did not influence the course and results of the voting and the elections were held in a peaceful atmosphere in accordance with the standards stipulated by the electoral legislation of the Republic of the Congo. Law and order in the vicinity of the polling stations was ensured by the Congolese law-enforcement and security forces personnel.

Overall, despite the financial, logistical and organizational difficulties, the electoral administration system of the Republic of the Congo was able to cope with the complex organization of the national parliamentary and local elections.

It is important to note that the national and local elections were highly competitive among politicians, and the integrity of the electoral process was monitored by thousands of domestic and international observers.

All candidates who disagreed with the election results had 15 days to file a complaint with the Constitutional Court, which reviewed each individual case in detail and without exception.

Nevertheless, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation identified a number of shortcomings in the electoral process organization:

1. Lack of a system for collecting and processing electoral statistics and counting votes, inaccessibility of the nationwide voter register;
2. Low level of systematization of electoral legislation and other relevant documents and information;
3. Lack of official electronic resources at CNEI and the DGAE;
4. Complex and costly procedures for updating voter registers and the production and distribution of voter IDs;

5. Limited opportunity for voters to change their place of voting and no opportunity to vote outside the constituency where they are registered;
6. Mixed system of preparation and organization of elections and referenda;
7. Low level of equipment at polling stations, including the lack of a barrier-free infrastructure to facilitate access for people with limited mobility;
8. Lack of a photo and video recording system to capture violations at polling stations;
9. Lack of sanitary and epidemiological measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 among visitors of polling stations.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

To develop and improve the voting system and electoral procedures of the Republic of the Congo, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends paying attention to the above shortcomings identified during the National Assembly and Department and Commune Councils elections observation on July 4 and 10, 2022.

Priority recommendations:

1. Implement a system for collecting and processing electoral statistics and use modern technical solutions for vote processing and counting.



Representatives of candidates on the territory of a polling station

2.

Create official Internet pages and other public electronic resources of the agencies responsible for organizing and holding elections, where all relevant information about the electoral process in the Republic of the Congo will be systematized and posted, including electoral statistics, electoral legislation, electoral calendar, information about constituencies and candidates, etc.
3.

Switch over to automatic updating of voter registers on a permanent basis, optimize the procedure for producing and distributing voter cards, taking into account the organizational and logistical problems identified or consider abandoning it in favor of more practical and less resource-consuming stations.
4.

Consider options for reforming the electoral administration system in order to concentrate all powers, competencies and resources for the preparation and conduct of elections and referendums in the hands of a single independent body (CNEI), which will increase coordination between subdivisions and qualitatively reduce the costs of administration.
5.

Allocate additional funding for the purchase of a sufficient number of standardized materials necessary for the elections.
6.

Increase the number of trainings for employees of the electoral administration system to improve their skills and competence, as well as the creation of more educational materials about elections and their particularities for the population.
- Other recommendations:

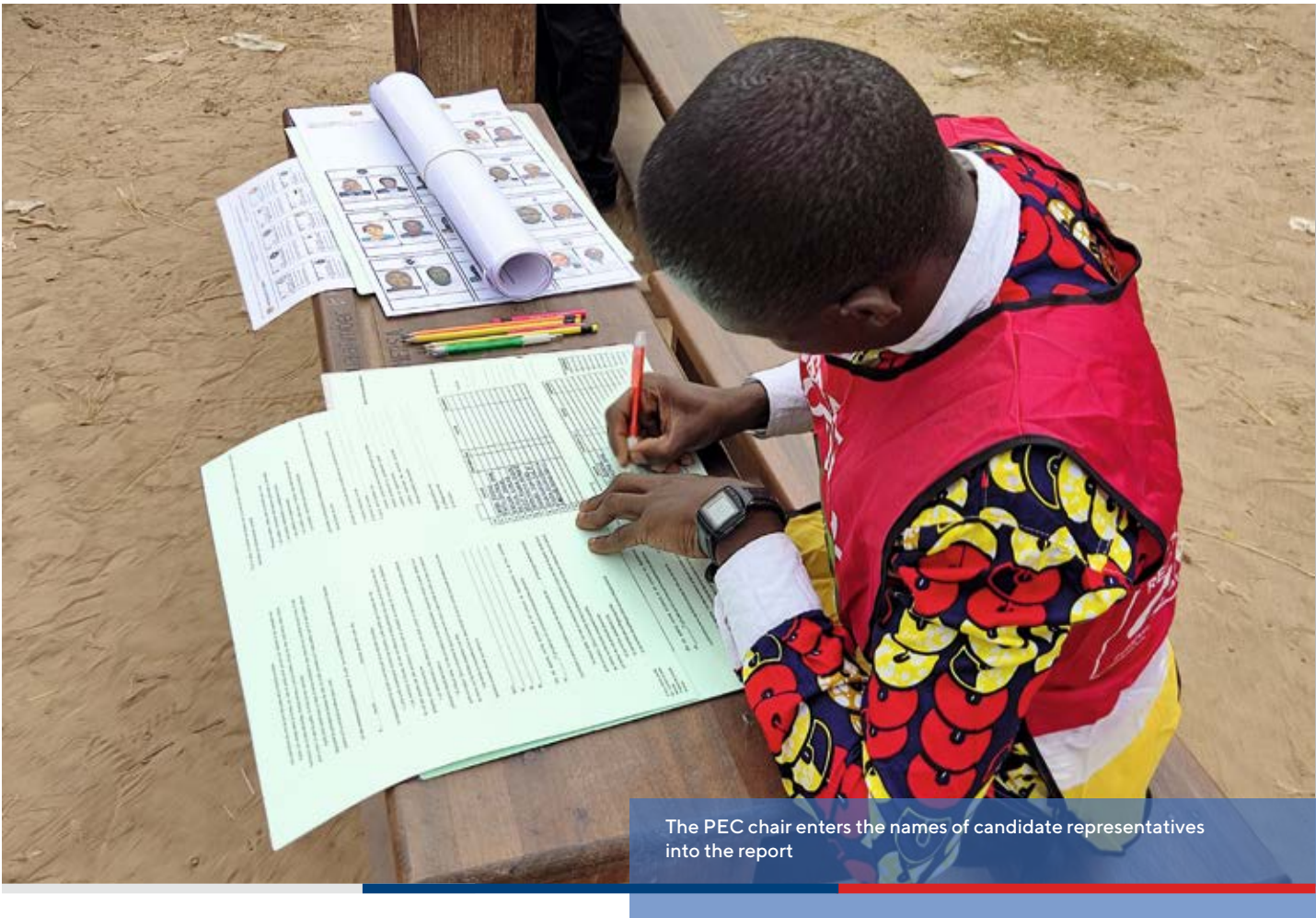
7.

Explore the possibility of introducing a system of absentee voting certificates to make it easier for voters to vote outside their place of registration or consider the possibility of introducing remote postal or e-voting.
8.

Take measures to ensure more convenient access to polling stations for people with limited mobility, including the introduction of a barrier-free environment.
9.

Consider the possibility of introducing a photo and video recording system to capture violations at polling stations.
10.

Develop and implement a system of sanitary and epidemiological recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at polling stations.



ANNEX

Results of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Congo Election, July 4 and 10 (1st Round) and July 26 and 31 (2nd Round), 2022

Party	1 st round	2 nd round	Total
Congolese Party of Labour (PCT)	103	9	112
The Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (UPADS)	4	3	7
Union of Humanist Democrats (UDH-Yuki)	3	4	7
Action and Renewal Movement (MAR)	4	0	4
Rally for Democracy and Social Progress (RDPS)	2	0	2
Club 2002 – Party for the Unity and the Republic (Club 2002-PUR)	2	0	2
Republican and Liberal Party (PRL)	0	2	2
Republican Dynamics for Development (DRD)	1	1	2
Chain (La Chaîne)	1	0	1
Movement for Unity, Solidarity and Labor (MUST)	0	1	1
Perspectives and Realities Club (CPR)	0	1	1
Citizen Rally (RC)	1	0	1
Permanent Action for the Congo (APC)	1	0	1
Movement for Democracy and Progress (MDP)	1	0	1
Union for Reconstruction and Development of the Congo (URDP)	1	0	1
Congolese Movement for Democracy and Integral Development (MCDDI)	0	1	1
Patriotic Union for Democracy and Progress (UPDP)	1	0	1
Patriotic Front (FP)	0	0	0
Party for Unity, Freedom and Progress (PULP)	0	0	0
Independent	1	3	4
Number of seats in the National Assembly	126	25	151

Source: Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization, and Local Development of the Republic of the Congo.

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

The African Renaissance Monument
in Dakar

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION
JULY 31, 2022

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

On July 31, 2022, the Republic of Senegal held the election of 165 members of the National Assembly (MPs), a unicameral national parliament elected for a 5-year term.³²

7 months before the parliamentary elections, on January 23, 2022, Senegal held elections for local government – departmental and communal councils and mayors. In many ways, the local elections were a rehearsal for the national legislative elections, in which political forces outlined their ambitions and demonstrated their strength.

Election Significance

The July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Senegal were of both national and regional significance.

Among the factors that influenced the results of the election are the negative socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 global pandemic for Senegalese, as well as the reform of the country's electoral law implemented 3 months before the elections. Under the reform, 7 seats assigned to the national constituency were redistributed in favor of MPs

elected in the country's distinct departments; 5 seats were allotted to 4 departments that have significantly increased their population, and 2 seats more were assigned to the 46th Department of Keur Massar, created in 2021.³³

Thus, the election results determined the balance of political forces in the main legislative body of the country for the next 5 years, as well as the strategy of the key political forces in Senegal for the presidential elections scheduled for 2024.

Since Senegal chaired of the African Union in 2022 and certain changes in domestic politics could influence the country's foreign policy with respect to both neighboring states and the continental interstate institution, the election also had regional and, partially, international significance.

Electoral System

According to Articles 148-156 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Senegal, as amended of May 3, 2022, elections to the National Assembly are held using a parallel mixed system: 112 MPs are elected either by first-past-the-post (FPTP) voting or party block vote (PBV) in 54 single-member and multi-member districts (SMDs and MMDs), while the remaining 53 MPs are elected

in a nationwide constituency by proportional representation.

Out of Senegal's 54 SMDs and MMDs, 46 constituencies are established in Senegal proper, where 97 MPs are elected (from 1 to 7 MPs per constituency). The borders of these constituencies coincide with the borders of the country's 46 departments. The other 8 constituencies have been allocated to the Senegalese diaspora, which elects another 15 MPs (from 1 to 3 MPs per constituency). The number of seats assigned to an electoral district is strictly defined by its population size, as laid out in Article 151 of the Electoral Code.³⁴

The distribution of the 97 seats allocated to the 46 SMDs and MMDs established within the departmental boundaries of Senegal is as follows:

Dakar Region – 18 seats

1. Dakar Department – 7 seats;
2. Guédiawaye Department – 2 seats;
3. Pikine Department – 5 seats;
4. Keur Massar Department – 2 seats;
5. Rufisque Department – 2 seats.

Diourbel Region – 9 seats

1. Bambey Department – 2 seats;
2. Diourbel Department – 2 seats;
3. Mbacké Department – 5 seats.

National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal Election

165
members

5-year
tenure

112
members
elected by FPTP

in 54
SMDs and MMDs

53
members
elected in a nationwide constituency under party-list proportional representation



The CCRF EOM members with Doudou Ndir, CENA of Senegal Chair

³² In 1999–2001 and 2007–2012, the National Assembly was the lower house of the Senegalese Legislature, while the Senate was the upper house in those years.

³³ Under the legislation of the Republic of Senegal (Law No. 2008-14 of March 18, 2008, "Amending Law No. 72-02 of February 1, 1972, 'On the organization of territorial administration,'" Presidential Decree No. 2021-687 of May 28, 2021, "On the establishment of the Department of Keur Massar and the districts in the Dakar region," etc.), the administrative divisions of Senegal are as follows: 14 regions, which are divided into 46 departments. As part of the 2013 local government reform (Law No. 2013-10 of December 28, 2013, "On the General Code of Local Authorities"), all local authorities were transformed into communes and cities of equal administrative and legal status. As a result, the administrative status of cities was given to the 5 largest settlements of the country (Dakar, Pikine, Guédiawaye, Rufisque, Thiès), while the rest of the territory was divided into 552 communes. Thus, the former 133 districts (*fr. arrondissement*), 46 district communes (*fr. commune d'arrondissement*), and rural communities (*fr. communauté rurale*) were abolished.

³⁴ Thus, Article 151 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Senegal states that each department of the country must be represented by at least 1 and no more than 7 MPs, and departments with a population of 170,000 or more being guaranteed at least 2 seats in the national legislature. Speaking of the overseas constituencies, it is worth noting that seat distribution does not depend on the size of the diaspora living in a country or region but on the number of registered voters. Thus, each overseas constituency must be allocated from 1 to 3 seats in the Parliament, while constituencies with 40,000 or more officially registered voters are guaranteed at least 2 representatives in the National Assembly.

Fatick Region – 5 seats

1. Fatick Department – 2 seats;
2. Foundiougne Department – 2 seats;
3. Gossas Department – 1 seat.

Kaffrine Region – 6 seats

1. Birkilane Department – 1 seat;
2. Kaffrine Department – 2 seats;
3. Kounghoul Department – 2 seats;
4. Malem Hoddar Department – 1 seat.

Kaolack Region – 5 seats

1. Guinguineo Department – 1 seat;
2. Kaolack Department – 2 seats;
3. Niore du Rip Department – 2 seats.

Kédougou Region – 3 seats

1. Kédougou Department – 1 seat;
2. Salémata Department – 1 seat;
3. Saraya Department – 1 seat.

Kolda Region – 6 seats

1. Kolda Department – 2 seats;
2. Médina Yoro Foulah Department – 2 seats;
3. Vélingara Department – 2 seats.

Louga Region – 6 seats

1. Kébémér Department – 2 seats;
2. Linguère Department – 2 seats;
3. Louga Department – 2 seats.

Matam Region – 5 seats

1. Kanel Department – 2 seats;
2. Matam Department – 2 seats;
3. Ranérou Ferlo Department – 1 seat.

Saint-Louis Region – 6 seats

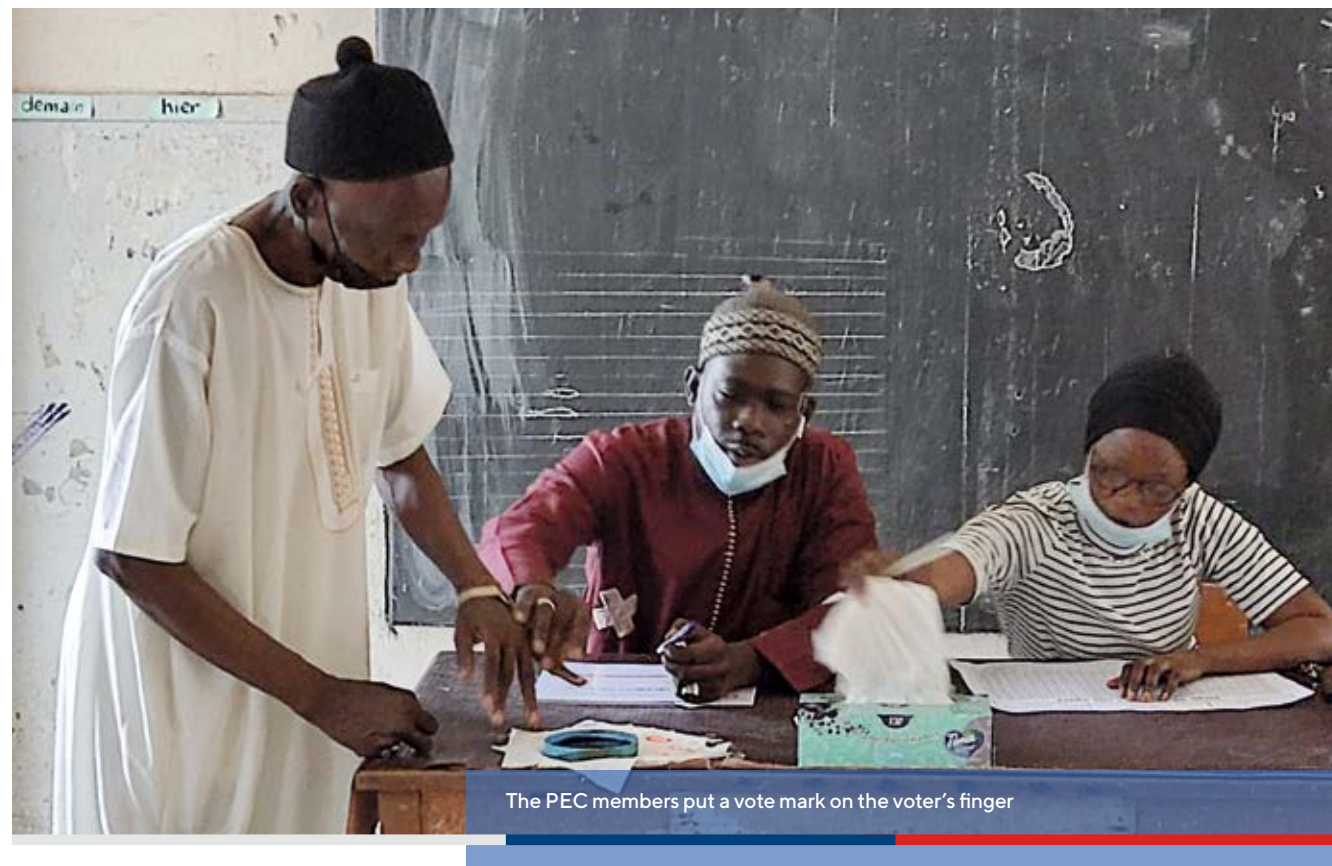
1. Dagana Department – 2 seats;
2. Podor Department – 2 seats;
3. Saint-Louis Department – 2 seats.

Sédhiou Region – 6 seats

1. Bounkiling Department – 2 seats;
2. Goudomp Department – 2 seats;
3. Sédhiou Department – 2 seats.

Tambacounda Region – 7 seats

1. Bakel Department – 2 seats;
2. Goudiry Department – 1 seat;
3. Koumpentoum Department – 2 seats;
4. Tambacounda Department – 2 seats.



The PEC members put a vote mark on the voter's finger

Thiès Region – 10 seats

1. M'bour Department – 4 seats;
2. Thiès Department – 4 seats;
3. Tivaouane Department – 2 seats.

Ziguinchor Region – 5 seats

1. Bignona Department – 2 seats;
2. Oussouye Department – 1 seat;
3. Ziguinchor Department – 2 seats.

The distribution of the 15 mandates of the Senegalese diaspora among the constituencies abroad is as follows:

Africa Zone – 7 seats

1. North Africa Constituency (department) – 1 seat;
2. West Africa Constituency (department) – 3 seats;
3. Central Africa Constituency (department) – 2 seats;
4. South Africa Constituency (department) – 1 seat.

Europe Zone – 6 seats

1. Western, Central and Northern Europe Constituency

- (department) – 3 seats (2 of which are allocated to voters residing in France);
2. Southern Europe Constituency (department) – 3 seats (2 of which are allocated to voters residing in Italy).

America and Oceania Zone – 1 seat

1. America – Oceania Constituency (department) – 1 seat.

Asia and Middle East Zone – 1 seat

1. Asia – Middle East Constituency (department) – 1 seat.³⁵

Voters in SMDs cast ballots for a particular candidate nominated by either a party or political coalition, while in MMDs, they vote for closed candidate lists. Since the voting is based on an FPTP/PBV system, the candidates and candidate lists with the highest number of votes get all seats allocated to their constituency in parliament.

As noted above, 53 members of the National Assembly are elected in a single nationwide constituency. The voters cast ballots for closed candidate lists, and the seat distribution between the parties elected to parliament is done using the largest remainder method, i.e., the Hare method.

All National Assembly candidates run on a single ticket with their potential substitutes – alternates who will take the place of the main candidate in case he/she leaves the party/coalition/political group which nominated the main candidate or due to other reasons preventing him/her from fulfilling MP duties. The main and alternate candidates are registered in separate electoral lists. It is important to note that in the case of MPs elected in a national constituency, first, the vacant seats will be given to the candidates next in line on the main list, and only then the mandates will be

distributed among the alternate candidates (Article 154 of the Electoral Code).

In addition, according to the Gender Parity Law of May 28, 2010, there are requirements for gender balance in the electoral lists in the MMDs and nationwide constituency. In particular, the law stipulates the vertical rank-order rule for the distribution of male and female candidates on both main and alternate candidate lists.³⁶ Also, according to Article 148 of the Electoral Code, if the number of candidates on the list is odd, the principle of gender equality requires that the sex of the last candidate on the list shall be the opposite of the sex of the second-to-last one. In addition, the law requires that the main and alternate candidates in the SMDs must be of different sexes.

Another notable feature of Senegal's electoral system is the method of determining the winner in SMDs and MMDs: i.e., shall candidates or candidate lists receive an equal number of votes, a candidate or candidate list whose average age is higher than that of their opponents is declared a winner (Article 151 of the Electoral Code).

Electoral Legislation

In the Republic of Senegal, the electoral process and electoral procedures for conducting the election on July 31, 2022 were governed by the following laws, regulations, and documents:

1. Law No. 2001-03 of January 22, 2001, "On the Constitution," as amended by Constitutional Law No. 2016-10 of April 5, 2016, "On Amendments to the Constitution";
2. Law No. 2006-04 of January 4, 2006 "On the Establishment of the National Council for Audiovisual Regulation";

3. Law No. 2010-11 of May 28, 2010 "On Establishing Full Equality between Men and Women";
4. Law No. 2013-10, of December 28, 2013, "General Local Government Code";
5. Law No. 2019-12 of July 8, 2019, "On Amending and Supplementing Law No. 2013-10 of December 28, 2013, 'On General Local Government Code'";
6. Law No. 2021-35, of July 23, 2021, "On the Election Code," as amended by Law No. 2022-15 of May 3, 2022;
7. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2020-30 of January 8, 2020, "On Establishing Model Schemes of Organization of Local Authorities";
8. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2020-790 of March 19, 2020 "On the Structure of the Ministry of Interior";
9. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 10 2020-2393 of December 30, 2020, "On Amending Presidential Decree No. 2020-790 of March 19, 2020, 'On the Organization of the Ministry of the Interior'";
10. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2021-1196 of September 20, 2021, "On Repealing and Replacing Decree No. 2017-170 of January 27, 2017, 'On the Regulatory Part of the Electoral Code'";
11. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2022-162 of February 3, 2022, "On Setting the Date of the Parliamentary Election";
12. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2022-240 of February 14, 2022, "On the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Lists for the July 31, 2022 Parliamentary Election";

13. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2022-868 of April 19, 2022, "On Convocation of Voters for the July 31, 2022 Parliamentary Election";
14. Decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal No. 2022-1051 of May 3, 2022 "On the Distribution of Seats in Single-Member and Multi-Member Constituencies for the July 31, 2022 Parliamentary Election";
15. Decree of the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Senegal No. 3400 of February 21, 2022 "On the Organization of Administrative Commissions for the Extraordinary Revision of the Voter Lists for the July 31, 2022 Parliamentary Election."

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

According to the Electoral Code of the Republic of Senegal, the country has a 4-tier mixed electoral administration system:

- 1.1. Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Republic of Senegal;
 - 1.1.1. The Directorate General for Elections (DGE);
 - 1.1.2. Commission on receipt of candidates' applications;
- 1.2. Autonomous National Electoral Commission (CENA) of Senegal;
- 1.3. National Council for Audiovisual Regulation;
- 1.4. National Vote Counting Commission;
- 2.1. 46 Departmental Vote Counting Commissions;
- 2.2. 8 Vote Counting Commissions in constituencies (departments) formed abroad;
- 2.3. 46 Departmental Election Committees;
- 3.1. 557 Commune Administrative Commissions on Voter Registers Update;
- 3.2. 557 Commune Commissions on Voter IDs Distribution;

³⁵ The seat distribution in the National Assembly between the departments and overseas constituencies was established by Presidential Decree No. 2022-1051 of May 3, 2022, "On the distribution of seats in single-member and multiple-member constituencies for the parliamentary elections of July 31, 2022."

³⁶ The alternation of male and female candidates on the primary list is conducted separately regardless of the vertical rank order used on the alternate candidate lists: e.g., the alternate of a specific main candidate may be either male or female irrespective of the main candidate's sex (unless the candidates run in the SMD).

- 3.3. Diplomatic Institutions of the Republic of Senegal Responsible for Updating Voter Registers and Distribution of IDs of Voters Residing Abroad;
4. 7,013 voting centers and 15,954 polling stations assigned to them, 15,196 out of which were established in 46 departments within Senegal and 758 overseas.

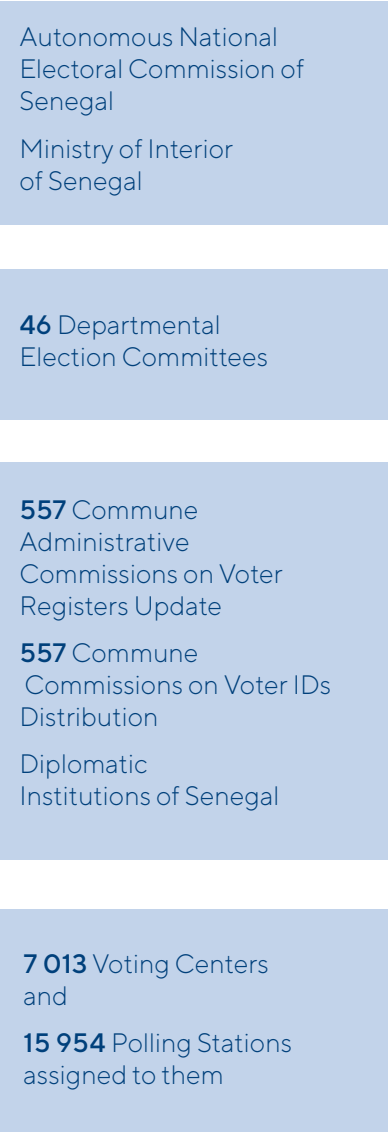
Under this system of administration of the electoral process, the main functions of organizing and holding elections and referenda at all levels are entrusted to the MOI of the Republic of Senegal. In particular, the duties assigned to the MOI are performed by its specialized structural subdivision – the General Directorate for Elections (*fr.* Direction Générale des Elections, DGE).

Thus, the tasks of the MOI of the Republic of Senegal in general and the General Directorate of Elections in particular include:

1. compilation and updating of voter registers of departments of the country and a unified register of voters;
2. issuance and distribution of voter IDs;
3. purchasing, producing and distributing to polling centers and stations the materials necessary for voting and referenda in the country and abroad;
4. other administrative activities necessary for the preparation and conduct of elections and referenda in the country and abroad.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Senegal assists in the preparation and conduct of elections abroad. In particular, Senegalese diplomatic officials prepare the polling stations set up abroad for voting. They are also the heads and members of the district electoral commissions and, together with other commission members, supervise the observance of electoral standards on Election Day.

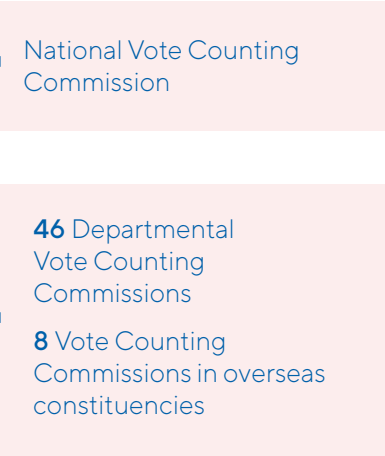
Election Administration System



The second electoral administration body is the Autonomous National Electoral Commission of Senegal (*fr.* Commission électorale nationale autonome, CENA). CENA of Senegal is a permanent and independent body, with the right to manage its own budget and determine its own plan of action. CENA of Senegal is financed from the state budget and its amount is set by the National Assembly MPs during the budget adoption procedure.

Unlike the MOI of the Republic of Senegal, the main tasks of the CENA of Senegal are to monitor and

Vote Counting System



supervise compliance with the rules set out in the electoral legislation of the country, at all stages of the preparation and conduct of referenda and elections at all levels. In particular, according to Article 11 of the Electoral Code, the full list of functions of the CENA of Senegal is as follows:

1. supervision over the formation, updating and revision of the unified voter register and voter registers allocated to polling stations, and, if necessary, making appropriate corrections;
2. supervision over the printing, storage and distribution of voter IDs, as well as keeping

3. records of invalid and withdrawn voter IDs;
3. supervision over the procedure for nominating candidates, party and coalition lists for elections at all levels;
4. supervision over the publication of the list of established polling stations no later than 30 days before voting day with notification of registered election candidates and members of party and coalition lists;
5. providing final voter registers allocated to polling stations to registered candidates and members of party and coalition lists no later than 15 days before Election Day in electronic and paper forms;
6. supervision over the ordering and printing of ballots;
7. approval of the composition of the administrative commissions of the communes, commissions of the communes for the distribution of voter IDs and district election commissions appointed by the regional executive authorities and the MOI of the Republic of Senegal;

8. supervision, together with political parties, over the production and distribution of electoral materials and documents;
9. participation in the selection and accreditation of national and international observers;
10. validation of IDs of official representatives of candidates registered for elections, issued by regional state authorities;
11. supervising the collection and transfer of protocols and ballot boxes from polling stations to Departmental commissions and National Vote Counting Commission;
12. participation in the work of Departmental commissions and the National Vote Counting Commission during the registration, processing, counting and tabulation of votes;
13. storage of copies of all documents related to the preparation and conduct of elections at all levels;
14. contributing to the awareness and education

- of Senegalese citizens about the electoral process and the peculiarities of national electoral legislation;
15. making proposals for improving the electoral code of the Republic of Senegal.

Furthermore, according to Articles 4–6 of the Electoral Code, the CENA of Senegal supervises and coordinates all decisions of the responsible authorities related to the organization and conduct of elections and referenda, including the registration in elections of candidates and/or electoral registers, the announcement of the official voting results, etc.

In addition, the CENA of Senegal verifies and approves the unified registry of voters, and its officials have full access to all documentation, digital tools and databases related to the maintenance and updating of the voter registry. The CENA of Senegal issues an annual report to the government and the parliament of Senegal, based on the results of the verification of the voter registry.



Work of a polling station on Election Day

According to Article 17 of the Electoral Code, the representatives of the CENA of Senegal have access to all information regarding the preparation and conduct of elections and referenda, and the members of the CENA of Senegal mandatorily receive copies of all protocols of meetings and decisions taken by the MOI, its subordinate structures and heads of departments regarding the preparation and conduct of elections and referenda.

In order to carry out its direct activities at the local level, the CENA of Senegal forms branches in all departments and in all diplomatic institutions abroad, whose staff is responsible for monitoring the compliance of organizers, voters and electoral participants with all the requirements prescribed by national electoral legislation.

In addition, according to Article 13 of the Electoral Code, if the MOI, other authorities and state agencies fail to comply with the rules and regulations established by the electoral legislation of the country regarding the preparation and conduct of elections and referenda, the CENA of Senegal has the right to officially notify the violator and, if he refuses to comply with legal requirements, may issue a binding decision to ban, rectify or cancel any actions taken in the preparation and conduct of elections.

In case of violations committed both by the MOI, other authorities and state agencies, as well as by parties, candidates, voters, media and others, the CENA of Senegal has the right to appeal to the courts of the respective jurisdictions, where the complaint must be promptly resolved as a matter of priority within 72 hours.

The CENA of Senegal, according to Article 7 of the Electoral Code, is composed of 12 members, who are appointed by decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal. Each member of the CENA of Senegal is appointed for a period of 6 years, with the possibility of reappointment. At the same time,



every 3 years one third of the members of the CENA of Senegal are rotated.

The same article states that members of the CENA of Senegal shall be chosen from among independent public figures “of impeccable reputation and known for their intellectual honesty, neutrality and impartiality,” nominated by professional associations and nonprofit organizations (associations of lawyers, scientists, human rights activists, media and communication professionals, etc.).

According to Article 10 of the Electoral Code, members of the CENA of Senegal cannot be:

1. incumbent government members;

2. incumbent judges;
3. incumbent members of the Cabinet of Ministers;
4. incumbent members of the National Assembly;
5. governors, prefects, subprefects, and their deputies who are currently in office or have resigned less than 5 years ago;
6. persons not entitled to vote (regulated by Article 160 of the Electoral Code)
7. registered candidates in elections at all levels;
8. 1st and 2nd degree family members of registered candidates for the presidential election;
9. members of the party and/or initiative group that nominated a candidate or a candidate list in the election.

President and Vice President of the CENA of Senegal are appointed by a separate decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal from among the approved members of the CENA of Senegal.

According to Article 14 of the Electoral Code, all members of the CENA of Senegal have legal immunity that protects them from arrest, search, detention and prosecution (except for criminal offenses).

All administrative functions in the CENA of Senegal, including drawing up protocols of meetings, receiving and storing documents related to the organization and conduct of elections, public relations, etc., are entrusted to its secretariat, headed by a Secretary General. The Secretary General is also appointed by a separate decree of the President of the country on the proposal of the head of the CENA of Senegal.

Electoral committees (*fr. comité électoral*) represent another level of the electoral administration system, with being bodies formed in preparation for elections in each department of the country by decree of its prefect or subprefect.

Article 65 of the Electoral Code establishes the following composition of election committees:

1. Election committee chair (the prefect or subprefect of the department);
2. Authorized representatives of political parties and political coalitions;
3. Representative of the CENA of Senegal;
4. Mayors of cities located within the department.

The composition of election committees must also be approved by the CENA of Senegal. Meetings of the committee take place at least once every 6 months and, if necessary, the chair may decide to convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee.

The main task of the electoral committees is to supervise the electoral process and the issuance

of voter cards in each department of Senegal.

In addition, the committees are responsible for recommending the layout of polling stations in departments, which is then taken into account by the departmental prefects when drawing up the final layout of polling stations. The layout is then submitted to the CENA of Senegal for review and approval and then to the Minister of Interior for approval. The final list of polling stations to be established on the territory of Senegal is published by the MOI 30 days before the elections.

It is noteworthy that such committees are not established in constituencies formed abroad; there, the committees’ functions are performed by heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of the CENA of Senegal. In this regard, according to Article 333 of the Electoral Code, separate lists of polling stations formed on the territory of a foreign country shall be compiled by the head of a diplomatic mission or consulate accredited on the territory of the said foreign country and shall also be published no later than 30 days before Election Day.

Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) are located at the lowest level of the electoral management system, providing for the operation of polling stations established within the country and abroad. For convenience, several polling stations may be combined into a single voting center due to the large number of voters residing in a particular area.

It is important to note that the law regulates the maximum number of voters allocated to one polling station. Thus, according to Article 66 and Article 331 of the Electoral Code, which regulate the norms of voters allocated to polling stations in Senegal and abroad, respectively, there should be no more than 600 voters per polling station by default. In some cases, it is allowed to increase the number of voters allocated to the polling

station up to 650, but if there are more than 650 voters at one polling station the law prescribes opening of a separate polling station. At the same time, the law does not regulate downward deviation from the norm of voters allocated to a polling station.

According to Article 67 of the Electoral Code, PECs operating at the polling stations established on the territory of Senegal include:

1. Chair of the commission;
2. Advisor;
3. Secretary;
4. Representatives of each candidate and each candidate list registered for election.

The members of all PECs in each separate department are appointed by decree of the prefect or subprefect of the department, after which these lists must be approved by the CENA of Senegal and published at least 20 days before Election Day.

In addition, only Senegalese nationals who meet 1 of the following criteria may hold key positions (chair, advisor and secretary) in the PECs:

1. Citizen is a current or former civil servant of A, B or C category or equivalent status, and is a permanent resident of the department in question and is on the electoral lists of the respective commune of the department;
2. Citizen is a current or former employee of a local government whose status is equivalent to that of an A, B or C civil servant, and is a permanent resident of the department in question and is on the electoral lists of the respective commune of the department;
3. Citizen is a current or former employee or representative of a public or private-public entity whose status is equivalent to that of an A, B or C civil servant, and is a permanent resident of the department in question and is on the electoral lists of the respective commune of the department.

Should the commune have not enough citizens who meet these requirements and to staff all PECs, the prefect or subprefect may appoint current or former employees of private companies or nongovernmental organizations to these positions, whose status is equivalent to that of civil servants at A, B or C category, and who are permanent residents of the department and are on the electoral lists of the respective commune of the department.

If there are not enough citizens to staff all PECs, the prefect or subprefect has the right to appoint ordinary citizens who are residents of the department and are on the electoral lists of the respective commune of the department to these positions.

According to Article 68, each candidate and list of candidates registered for election shall appoint an authorized representative in each department of the country at least 50 days before the parliamentary elections.

Authorized representative's task is to draw up a list of candidate representatives or candidate lists to be deployed as PEC members in each department. The prefect or the subprefect of the department requests this list 30 day before the parliamentary elections, after which the authorized representative must provide it within the following 5 days.

Unlike ordinary PEC, the composition of the PECs operating at the overseas polling stations, according to Article 333 of the Electoral Code, is formed by the head of a diplomatic mission or consular office of Senegal (or his deputy). At the same time, the lists of members of these PECs must also be approved by the CENA of Senegal and published within the standard deadlines.

The composition of PECs operating overseas is identical to that of regular PECs, the only difference being that the key members – the

chair, advisor and secretary – are not subject to the aforementioned civil service experience or its equivalent. However, all PEC members must be on the voter list assigned to the relevant Senegalese diplomatic or consular mission.

In addition, as mentioned above, the CENA of Senegal representatives (controllers) are present at the polling stations set up both within the country and abroad to monitor the compliance with the procedures prescribed by national law during voting, counting and transportation of electoral materials to the commissions of the counting departments.

Vote Counting System

The election administration system in Senegal includes the bodies responsible for processing, verifying, counting and tabulating the votes cast at the elections.

The direct vote counting is conducted by the National Vote Counting Commission (*fr.* Commission nationale de Recensement des Votes), to which 46 departmental commissions for vote counting and 8 commissions for vote counting in the constituencies (departments) established abroad are subordinated (*fr.* commission départementale de recensement des votes).

Pursuant to Article 142 of the Electoral Code, the National Vote Counting Commission is composed of the following members:

1. Chair of the National Vote Counting Commission, who is the First Chair of the Dakar Court of Appeals (if he is unable to perform his functions, a judge (magistrate) appointed by him at the Dakar Court of Appeals);
2. 2 judges (magistrates) of the Dakar Court of Appeals, appointed by the First Chair of the Dakar Court of Appeals;
3. Representative of the CENA of Senegal;
4. Representatives of each candidate and each candidate list registered for election.

Candidates and candidate lists must provide information about their authorized representatives and alternates (names, date and place of birth, occupation and telephone number) to the Minister of the Interior, the Chair of the National Commission for the Census of Votes and the Chair of the Constitutional Council at least 15 days before Election Day so that they can participate in the commission.

The National Vote Counting Commission makes decisions by majority vote, but only 3 judges (magistrates), including the chair of the commission, have the right to vote. The remaining members have the right to attend all meetings of the commission except for the final meeting and to comment on the protocols of the meetings, and they have access to all documents and protocols of the commission.

Article 142 of the Electoral Code also fixes the composition of commissions of departments for vote counting and commissions for vote counting in the electoral districts (departments) established abroad. Thus, they are composed of:

1. Chair of the commission appointed by the First Chair of the Dakar Court of Appeals from among the judges of the magistrates' courts and tribunals;
2. 2 judges (magistrates) appointed by the First Chair of the Dakar Court of Appeals from among the judges of the magistrates' courts and tribunals;
3. Representative of the CENA of Senegal;
4. Representatives of each candidate and each candidate list registered for election.

Similar to the National Election Commission, in order to register their authorized representatives and their alternates as members of departmental counting commissions, candidates and candidate lists must submit the necessary information to the Minister of the Interior, Chair of the National Commission for the



The polling station staff at their polling station on Election Day

Census of Votes and the Chair of the Constitutional Council at least 15 days before Election Day.

In addition, the decision-making mechanism in departmental commissions is identical to that of the National Commission: decisions are taken by majority vote, and only the 3 judges (magistrates) on the commission have the right to vote.

The procedure of processing, counting and tabulation of votes, regulated by Articles 86-90 of the Electoral Code is as follows. Upon the end of voting at the polling stations the votes are counted and the final protocol is drawn up in several copies. Copies of the protocols are given to each PEC member, the Prefect of the Department, as well as to the representative of the CENA of Senegal.

The final results protocols, sealed ballot boxes, blank votes and other electoral materials are then taken under the protection of the police, gendarmerie or military to the Departmental Vote Counting Commissions, where they are handed over to the Departmental Vote Counting Commission Chair in the presence of the PEC Chairs, the CENA of Senegal, representatives of the Senegalese Court of Appeal and representatives of the candidates or party lists registered for the elections. Regional authorities may also assist in transporting these materials, if necessary.

The results from all the polling stations of each separate region, as recorded in the Precinct Election Commission protocols, are rechecked and consolidated

in a single document in the Departmental Vote Counting Commissions, which takes no more than 2 days (the deadline for the announcement of the departmental results is midnight on Tuesday after Election Day).³⁷

Department commissions do not have the right to invalidate the protocols of Precinct Election Commissions, only in case of fixing mistakes in the counting or introduction of erroneous figures, members of the department commissions have the right to make corrections in the protocols received from the polling stations, and all corrections must be justified in writing and be recorded in the final protocol of the department commission. If the commission fails to reach a consensus on a disputed protocol of a Precinct Election

³⁷ Under Article 63 of the Electoral Code, voting takes place over one day, and Election Day is set for Sunday.

Commission, no changes shall be made, but each member of the commission may state his/her point of view in the protocol.

A final protocol is then drawn up, copies of which are given to the prefects of the departments and to each member of the Departmental Vote Counting Commission, including representatives of CENA of Senegal and the candidates. A separate copy is sent to the National Vote Counting Commission, where the final stage of verification of the votes cast and the information in the tabulation of the final results of the vote takes place.

When receiving the materials from the department commissions, the chair of the National Vote Counting Commission must show the sealed election materials to the representatives of candidates and/or lists of candidates, representatives of political parties and other members of the National Commission who are present at the rechecking of the protocols. If the integrity of the seals, stamps and packages is damaged, this shall be indicated in the final protocol of the commission.

According to Article 142 of the Electoral Code, the National Commission counts the votes on the basis of the protocols of the subordinate commissions and polling stations, and in case of discrepancies and mistakes, the commission members are authorized to correct the protocols of the department and polling station commissions, as well as to declare them invalid, which is mentioned in the final minutes of the National Commission. In the case of deleting, substitution, loss or theft of original protocols, copies of protocols of representatives of candidates and candidate lists may be recognized as original, but for this it is necessary to collect at least 2/3 of the copies and verify with the copy kept by the CENA of Senegal.

Within 3 days (by Friday midnight), the National Electoral Commission members are required to summarize the results and consolidate them in a single document, after which they send the final protocol and all election materials to the Chair of the Constitutional Council, who will approve and announce the final results of the elections. The final election results are then published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Senegal.

Separately, Articles 330-339 of the Electoral Code regulate the procedure for counting votes in the Vote Counting Commission in the electoral districts (departments) formed abroad. Thus, these commissions are located and operate in the capital city of Dakar, whereas the electoral centers and precincts established abroad at the Senegalese diplomatic representations are obliged to promptly transmit the final protocols and election materials to the departmental commissions appropriate to their geographical area by diplomatic mail immediately after the end of voting. The head of the diplomatic mission is also obliged to duplicate the final protocol by e-mail, fax or any other means of digital communication. The vote counting commissions in the constituencies (departments) formed abroad then process, verify, collate and transmit the results to the National Vote Counting Commission according to the same procedure as the regular departmental commissions.

In addition, the Senegalese electoral management system includes the National Council for Audiovisual Regulation (Conseil National de Régulation de l'Audiovisuel, CNRA), a separate body responsible for monitoring compliance with national legislation on election campaigning during the preparation and conduct of elections. Its mission is to ensure the independence and freedom of information and communication in the media (radio, television, Internet, etc.), as well as equal

access of political forces to the media, in accordance with Senegalese law.

The National Council for Audiovisual Regulation consists of 9 members appointed by decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal:

1. Chair of the Council;
2. Representative of organizations and communities of authors;
3. Representative of the Academic Community;
4. Representative of human rights organizations;
5. Representative of the Professional Communities of Communicators;
6. Representative of Creative Organizations and Communities;
7. Representative of Women's Organizations and Movements;
8. Representatives of organizations of the elderly;
9. Representative of youth organizations.

The term of office of the members of the National Council of Audiovisual Regulation shall be 6 years. Members of the National Council of Audiovisual Regulation cannot be prosecuted, arrested or tried for actions or statements made in the performance of their duties.

At the same time, the National Council of Audiovisual Regulation is coordinated by its executive secretary, an A-level civil servant or equivalent appointed by decree of the President of the Republic of Senegal on the proposal of the President of the National Council.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

Article 26 of the Electoral Code stipulates that Senegalese citizens have the right to vote if they are at least 18 years old, have not been deprived of their rights and have not been declared legally incompetent by a court. Naturalized Senegalese citizens

who are not citizens of a foreign country and those who have acquired Senegalese citizenship by marriage to a Senegalese citizen also have the right to vote.

According to Article 40 of the Electoral Code, the nationwide voter register in Senegal consists of 2 parts: the register of voters on Senegalese territory and the register of voters residing abroad.

Under Articles 37 and 314 of the Electoral Code, the lists of voters registered in Senegal and abroad are permanent and updated automatically every year on set dates under the supervision of representatives of the CENA of Senegal. There is also a provision for a special update of the voter lists, if required. The law stipulates that a special update of voter lists is carried out by default when preparing for regular elections at all levels; however, for early elections or referenda, if the tight deadline does not allow for a special review of voter lists to be properly carried out, then current voter lists are used as they are in the year of the early elections or referenda.

The lists of voters registered on the territory of Senegal are compiled, updated and corrected by special administrative commissions (*fr.* commissions d'administration) in each commune of the country. The voter lists of all the communes are then compiled into voter lists for each of the departments, and these departmental lists are then used to compile the register of voters who are registered on the territory of Senegal. Significantly, law enforcement officers, military personnel, and parliamentarians, unlike in some African countries, are also included in the general voter register and vote on the same day as the rest of the electorate.

In preparation for the parliamentary elections on July 31, 2022, 557 administrative commissions updated the voter lists in the communes and towns under their jurisdiction from March 7 to March 31, 2022, pursuant to Presidential

Decree No. 2022-240 of February 14, 2022, on the Special Revision of the Voter Lists for the Parliamentary Elections on July 31, 2022, and Decree No. 3400 of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Senegal of February 21, 2022, on the Organization of Administrative Commissions for the Special Revision of the Voter Lists for the Parliamentary Elections on July 31, 2022.

Article 37 of the Electoral Code specifies the composition of the commune administrative commissions for updating voter lists as follows:

1. Head of the administrative commission, appointed by the prefect or subprefect of the department;
2. Deputy head of the administrative commission, appointed by the prefect or subprefect of the department;
3. Mayor of the city or commune or his/her representative;
4. Representatives of officially registered parties and political coalitions that have filed the appropriate application with the MOI.

The composition of the administrative commissions is approved by the CENA of Senegal, whose representatives also oversee their work. Specifically, each administrative commission is assigned a controller from the CENA of Senegal, whose job is to monitor the accuracy of updates and changes in the voter lists.

According to Articles 314-326 of the Electoral Code, all the tasks of compiling and updating the voter lists in the constituencies abroad are also performed by administrative commissions, which are led by the heads of Senegalese diplomatic and consular missions or their appointed representatives from among the diplomatic staff and supervised by representatives of CENA of Senegal.

The administrative commissions abroad, according to Article 315 of the Electoral Code may not have fewer than 3 members. The lists of commission members are compiled by the heads of diplomatic and consular missions and are approved by the CENA of Senegal. The commission includes,



Trash bin for unused ballot papers



in addition to the head of the Senegalese diplomatic or consular mission, representatives of officially registered political parties or party coalitions on the Senegalese voter list in the respective foreign country.

If it is not possible to include 2 representatives of parties and party coalitions in the commission, its chair has the right to appoint to the commission a member of a diplomatic or consular mission or a voter from the list in that country.

As part of the updating of voter lists, according to Article 38 of the Electoral Code, administrative commissions

track and, if necessary, correct the following information: voter's name, date and place of birth, occupation, place of registration and actual place of residence and, if applicable, disability.³⁸ This information must match the information on the biometric ID card of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In case of discrepancies or if a voter wishes to register on the list of another commune, he/she must prove his/her connection with the other constituency by presenting relevant certificates and documents. When changing information in the register, the voter, per Article 39 of the Electoral Code, receives a receipt

with the registration number in the commune's voter list and the date of issue from the administrative commission, signed by the controller from the CENA of Senegal.

Pursuant to Article 43 of the Electoral Code, all voter lists are kept at the town halls of their respective communes and at the prefectures and subprefectures of the respective departments, and their publication and distribution is regulated by a decree from the President of Senegal.

If the CENA of Senegal finds errors in the voter lists, regional governors and departmental

prefects and subprefects have the right to make the appropriate changes, per Article 50 of the Electoral Code. In addition, if there are indications the law was violated during the compilation of the voter lists, they have the right to refer the case to the public prosecutor's office for further legal action.

The procedure for updating voter lists abroad is somewhat more complicated. For example, in order to be included in the voter lists, voters must prove their residence abroad by presenting a consular card, certificate of employment, rental agreement and, if necessary, other documents confirming their place of residence.

All changes made to the lists, as per Article 324 of the Electoral Code, are submitted by diplomatic and consular missions to the MOI and MFA, after which the CENA of Senegal verifies them and enters them in the register of voters who are registered abroad. All officially registered political parties in the country also have the right to verify the voter lists.

Articles 318-319 of the Electoral Code stipulate keeping up-to-date voter lists in the archives of the Senegalese diplomatic and consular missions, and also require the MOI and the MFA to transmit immediately to the heads of diplomatic and consular missions any information relating to the registration status of voters on their respective lists for prompt corrective action.

Copies of the voter lists kept in the archives of the Senegalese diplomatic and consular missions may be obtained by any voter, representative of an officially registered political party, representative of a candidate or candidate list, or candidate, as regulated by Article 322 of the Electoral Code.

In preparation for the elections, per Article 54 of the Electoral Code, commissions for the

distribution of voter IDs (*fr.* commission chargée de la distribution des cartes d'électeur) are created in each commune by order of the prefect or subprefect 45 days before Election Day. These commissions are composed of the following:

1. Chair of the administrative commission, appointed by the prefect or subprefect of the department
2. Deputy chair of the administrative commission, appointed by the prefect or subprefect of the department
3. Mayor of the city or commune or his/her representative
4. Representatives of officially registered political parties that have applied for participation in the work of the commission.

A citizen found guilty of violating Senegalese electoral law in the last 3 years cannot be appointed chair of the commission.

The commissions' only task is to issue voter IDs to each registered voter in the communes allocated to them. This activity lasts until the day before voting day; if necessary, the commissions can involve former civil servants and organize mobile visiting teams to distribute voter IDs. The Departmental Election Committees mentioned above are responsible for issuing voter IDs beyond the election and referendum period. The activities of commissions and electoral committees for distributing voter cards are supervised by representatives of the CENA of Senegal.

The issuance of IDs to voters registered abroad is regulated by Article 328 of the Electoral Code. In particular, Senegalese diplomatic and consular missions form commissions for the distribution of voter IDs. As in the case of administrative commissions formed abroad, the chair is the head of the mission or his/her appointed representative, and the other members are representatives

of officially registered political parties or party coalitions on the voter list of the respective foreign country.

If necessary, heads of diplomatic and consular missions may provide transportation for members of commissions from their places of residence to places selected for the distribution of voter IDs.

Voter IDs that have not been distributed are returned to the Senegalese diplomatic and consular missions and voided. The CENA of Senegal supervises all the activities of the commissions for the distribution of voter IDs. After the elections, the heads of the diplomatic and consular missions are responsible for issuing voter certificates.

The voter ID is an ECOWAS biometric ID card valid for 10 years. All voter data (voter number, region, department, arrondissement, commune, voting location, polling station and national identification number) are indicated on the back of the card.

Under Article 53 of the Electoral Code, the MOI of Senegal is responsible for the procurement and production of cards, including the issuance of duplicates (in case of loss of the original) and new cards to replace expired ones.

An expired voter ID may be used, as an exception, if it expires between the revision of the voter list and the election. Voter data on a voter ID may be changed when replacing an expired certificate with a new one, as well as by submitting an application to the administrative commission, as mentioned earlier.

Upon receipt of a new voter ID, according to Article 55 of the Electoral Code, the voter must present his/her old ECOWAS biometric ID card or an official certificate of its loss and sign the appropriate register.

³⁸ The voter's ID contains information about disability as there are more options for disabled people that facilitate their participation in voting. Thus, according to Article 80 of the Electoral Code, every voter with disabilities has the right to ask for assistance from other voters and/or members of electoral commissions at their own discretion during voting. Article 69 of the Electoral Code also allows voters with disabilities to vote at the nearest accessible polling station to their place of residence if they are unable to go to the polling station to which they are assigned.

A total of 7,036,466 voters were officially registered in the nationwide voter register in Senegal for the July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections, including 6,727,759 in the register for voters within Senegal and 308,707 in the register for voters abroad.

A total of 3,279,110 voters participated in the July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections. Thus, the turnout was 46.60%, slightly lower than similar figures for elections at all levels held in Senegal in recent years.

Candidate Registration

Registering political parties and party coalitions for the elections is the responsibility of the Commission for the Reception of Candidate Applications (*fr.* commission de réception), established under the MOI and supervised by the CENA of Senegal. Article 176 of the Electoral Code stipulates that the commission is established by decree of the Minister of the Interior no later than 88 days before the elections.

Pursuant to Article 176 of the Electoral Code, the Commission for the Reception of Candidate Applications receives and verifies documents and candidate lists within 25 days: therefore, its work begins 85 days before elections and ends 60 days before elections; the final decision on the registration of candidates is adopted and published by the MOI on the last day of the commission's work. The applications nominating candidates are simultaneously sent to the CENA of Senegal for verification.

Should the commission find mistakes and inconsistencies in the submitted documents (for example, a person who is not eligible to run in elections has been included in the list of candidates), according to Article 179 of the Electoral Code, its

staff will immediately notify the national representative of that electoral association, after which they have 3 days to make all necessary corrections.

If the registration of a candidate and/or candidate list is rejected, according to Article 184 of the Electoral Code, representatives of the political parties and/or party coalitions have the right to apply for a review of the decision within 24 hours to the Constitutional Council, which is obliged to make a final decision within 3 days.

Also, if a dispute arises, the Interior Minister has the right to refer the case to the Constitutional Council, which must decide within 3 days whether a candidate and/or candidate list can or cannot be registered.

The Electoral Code provides for additional candidates to be included in the electoral lists even after the MOI has published the officially registered candidate lists. According to Article 185, this is allowed until the day of silence in case a candidate registered on the list has died or is no longer eligible to run in elections. In this procedure, the authorized representative of the candidate and/or the list of candidates must submit the appropriate application to the Interior Minister, after which he/she ensures that voters and persons involved in the organization and conduct of elections are notified of the changes made. Notably, according to Article 185 of the Electoral Code, the candidate to be added to the list must be of the same gender as the outgoing one.

To participate in parliamentary elections, political parties, party coalitions, and sociopolitical groups need to collect signatures of 0.5–0.8% of voters registered in at least half of the regions of the country (7 out of 14),

7,036,466
registered voters

6,727,759
in Senegal proper

308,707
out-of-country voters

3,279,110
voters took
part in the
parliamentary
election

46.6%
turnout

and in each region must collect at least 1,000 signatures. To collect signatures, a political association appoints a national coordinator who directs the process of collecting signatures, compiling voter lists, and submitting the necessary documents to the MOI.

Any officially registered voter over 25 years of age, with no criminal record or illness that prevents him or her from serving as a member of the National Assembly, may become a candidate for one of the political associations registered for the parliamentary elections. In the case of a voter who is a naturalized Senegalese citizen, at least 10 years must have elapsed since the acquisition of citizenship. Non-retired personnel of the armed forces, paramilitary organizations,

and civil service, as well as those employees who retired less than 6 months ago, are not eligible to stand for the election.

Candidates can be registered on both departmental lists (SMDs and MMDs) and the national list. There are also several requirements for the lists. According to Article 173 of the Electoral Code, political parties, party coalitions, and initiative groups are not required to submit lists in all constituencies for nomination in specific departments; also, the number of candidates on the list must correspond to the number of seats allocated to the department. The number of candidates on the national list must also correspond to the total number of seats allocated to the nationwide constituency. Yet the same candidate cannot be on more than 1 candidate list (e.g., on candidate lists in different departments or on a candidate list in a department and on a national candidate list simultaneously).

In addition, according to Article 175 of the Electoral Code, the representative of a political association has to deposit each candidate in a special account, which is returned within 15 days after the announcement of the final results of the election if the list has won at least one seat in the National Assembly. The amount of the deposit is set by the Minister of the Interior no later than 150 days before the elections.

List of Registered Candidates

The following political parties and party coalitions were registered for the July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Senegal (listed in the order used by the Constitutional Council in announcing the final election results):

1. Democratic Convergence Bokk Gis Gis – BGG (opposition political party, leader – Pape Diop);
2. Naataangue Askan Wi – NAW (coalition of opposition political forces, leader – Sheikh Alassane Sène);
3. Alternative for a Breakaway Assembly – AAR Senegal (coalition of opposition political forces, leaders – Thierno Alassane Sall (Republic of Values Party), Abdourahmane Diouf (Avale Party), Thierno Bocoum (Action Movement));
4. United in Hope – Benno Bokk Yakaar, BBY (political coalition formed around the Alliance for the Republic ruling party, leader – incumbent President Macky Sall);
5. Union of Citizens – Bunt Bi, BB (coalition of opposition political forces, leaders – Sheikh Sadibu Ba (Sam Sa Momel movement), Abdou Fall);
6. The Servants – Les Serviteurs/MPR (coalition of opposition political forces, leader – Hamidou Thiaw);
7. Save Senegal– Wallu Sénégal, WS (the second most important coalition of opposition political forces formed around the

8. Senegalese Democratic Party, leader – Abdoulaye Wade);
8. Liberate the People – Yewwi Askan Wi, YAW (main opposition coalition, leaders – Ousmane Sonko (was not registered as a standing candidate), Serigne Moustapha Sy, Khalifa Sall).³⁹

Election Observation Institutions

According to Article 25 of the Electoral Code, any national and international organizations, as well as private persons, whose applications have been reviewed and approved by the MOI and the CENA of Senegal, may observe the elections. The Electoral Code regulates the observation of all levels of elections both on the territory of Senegal and abroad (where out-of-country voting is provided).

In addition, according to Article 71 of the Electoral Code, observation functions are assigned to members of Polling Station Election Commissions who represent political associations registered in the elections, as well as to authorized representatives of political associations registered in the elections in each department. Moreover, the authorized representative has the right to freely visit all polling stations in the department under his/her charge and all of his/her comments and objections should be recorded in the protocol by a representative of a candidate and/or candidate list, who is a PEC member. Every candidate registered for the elections has the same rights.

³⁹ After reviewing candidate registration applications, the MOI of the Republic of Senegal only partially approved the national candidate lists of the ruling coalition, United in Hope (Benno Bokk Yakaar), and the key opposition coalition, Liberate the People (Yewwi Askan Wi). The MOI found a number of violations in the United in Hope national alternate candidate list, which resulted in the list being denied registration; however, its national main candidate list was registered for the election. Similarly, the MOI denied registration for the Liberate the People coalition's national main candidate list, which included one of the leaders of the opposition coalition, Ousmane Sonko, on the same grounds. However, its national alternate candidate list was then registered as the main candidate list. Both party coalitions filed complaints with the Constitutional Council, but the Constitutional Council upheld the MOI's decision. The national alternate candidate list's ineligibility means that if an MP dies or ceases to serve for whatever reason and there are no remaining candidates on the primary list, his/her place cannot be filled by an official alternate from the same party; instead, by decision of the MOI and the CENA of Senegal, a by-election will be held within 3 months or, if the National Assembly member's term expires in the next 12 months, the seat will remain vacant (Article 154 of the Electoral Code).



Voters queuing at the entrance of a polling station

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The MOI and the CENA of Senegal accredited the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for the July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Senegal as international observers to monitor the voting and counting procedures at polling stations, and to observe the work of PECs located throughout the country.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

- 1. Andrey Maximov, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government, Head of the Election Observation Mission;
- 2. Ilya Zotov, member of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present in Senegal from July 29 to August 1, 2022. On July 30, one day prior to the elections, the EOM members monitored the 1 day silence period.⁴⁰

On July 31, Election Day, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

⁴⁰In compliance with the regulations on campaigning (Article 186 of the Electoral Code), the campaign period for the July 31, 2022 parliamentary election lasted 21 days, from July 10 to 29, 2022.

visited 8 voting centers and 70 polling stations established in the Dakar and Keur Massar departments (listed in chronological order):

- 1. Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba Mbacké (Kleber) School Voting Center, Dakar Plateau, Dakar (polling stations 1-4);
- 2. Tiong St., Ajah Mame Yasin Diagne Elementary School (former Tiong School) Voting Center, Dakar Plateau, Dakar (polling stations 1-21);
- 3. Hassan II Avenue, Berthe Maubert School Voting Center, Dakar Plateau, Dakar (polling stations 1-5);
- 4. Intersection of Blaise Diagne Avenue and Rue 25, Duta Seck House of Culture Voting Center, Medina, Dakar (polling stations 1-5);
- 5. Grand Yoff School of Higher Education Voting Center, Yoff, Dakar (polling stations 1-17);
- 6. Tavarh Voting Center, Keur Massar (polling stations 1-2);
- 7. School No. 10 Voting Center, Pikine, Dakar (polling stations 1-7);
- 8. Ibrahima Diop School, Dakar Plateau, Dakar (polling stations 1-9).

At the last polling center, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observed until the polling stations closed at 6 pm, after which they monitored the vote count until 10 pm.

The day after the elections, on August 1, 2022, at 1:00 pm, the observers visited the CENA of Senegal, where they had a working meeting with Doudou Ndir, the CENA Chair; Ndary Touré, the CENA secretary general; Mamadou Amat Niass, the CENA adviser for communications; and Samba Moussa Lo, the advisor to the CENA Chair.

The legal, organizational, and other aspects of preparing and conducting the July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections were discussed during the meeting.

In particular, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation highlighted the well-coordinated and efficient work of the Polling Station Election Commissions, but also pointed out to the CENA of Senegal leadership that despite noticeable progress in the legislation providing voting assistance for the disabled and citizens with limited mobility, additional efforts should be made to ensure barrier free conditions at the polling stations. The Russian observers also suggested exploring the possibility of organizing home visits by some members of the Polling Station Election Commissions as an accessible and effective alternative.

In addition, there was considerable discussion on digitalizing Senegal’s electoral process. Both sides agreed that this is a promising way to optimize the time and resources needed for processing and counting votes, and, therefore, the sides decided to develop expert and analytical cooperation between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the CENA of Senegal on electoral issues.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

In addition to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, observation missions of the African Union and ECOWAS participated in observing the July 31, 2022 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Senegal.

The Collective of Civil Society Organizations for Elections (fr. Collectif des Organisations de la Société Civile pour les Élections), an association of civil society organizations in Senegal, also participated in the election observation. The association deployed a long-term mission of 46 observers and a short-term mission of 391 observers to monitor polling stations throughout the country on Election Day.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not meet with other international observers at the polling stations they visited, nor did they have work-related contact with national observers during their work in Senegal.

Observation Findings on Election Day

On Election Day, July 31, 2022, the polling stations organized throughout Senegal were open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm; thus, opening time of polling station electoral laws was officially 10 hours. Depending on circumstances, the opening hours of individual polling stations could be extended at the discretion of the PEC chair.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived at the first polling stations visited at 7:30 am, 30 minutes before the official start of voting, and observed their opening procedure. At the opening of the voting center, the PEC chairs showed that the ballot boxes were empty in the presence of all the commission members, voters and members of the observation mission, after which they were sealed. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors noticed that the seals were not individually numbered, which potentially complicates the procedure of identification and elimination of possible violations during the voting.

At other polling stations visited, observers recorded that, according to the protocols, the openings were delayed slightly, 15-20 minutes on average, which did not seriously affect the course and results of voting. The polling stations closed according to schedule as all those who wished to vote were able to do so during regular hours.

The observers also noted that a significant number of polling stations were located on the 2nd

and 3rd floors of buildings and were not equipped with elevators and ramps, which significantly complicated access to the polling stations for the disabled, people with limited mobility and the elderly on Election Day.

The observers stressed that posters and drawings indicating to voters the voting algorithm had been placed at the entrances to the polling stations, along with the candidate lists and some of the articles from the Electoral Code explaining voters' rights and obligations during the voting procedure.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted a lack of sanitary and epidemiological regulations in Senegal to prevent the risks associated with the spread of

COVID-19; no personal protective equipment was available at the polling stations, only some polling station staff and representatives of the CENA of Senegal wore protective masks inside the premises.

Voters were allowed into the premises, where the polling station was located, strictly one at a time. At the entrance the voter's name and surname were announced so that all PEC members could note them in their copies of the polling station's voter list. Then, the procedure for identifying the voter took place at the desk for the commission's chair, advisor and secretary, where the voter's biometric ID was checked against the voter list.

Following identification, the voter received a special envelope for voting from the polling station

commission members and proceeded to a table with the ballots laid out on it, a fact which merited special attention from the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Senegal's ballot system has a distinctive feature: there is no unified ballot paper listing all standing candidates and candidate lists nominated either in the nationwide constituency or in SMDs and MMDs.

Instead, each registered political association has its separate ballot paper: on one side of the list are the main and alternate candidate lists nominated in the nationwide constituency (based on proportional vote), while on the other side are the main and alternate candidates nominated in SMDs and MMDs (based on FPTP

and PBV). Moreover, the candidate lists nominated by the parties and coalitions are not assigned with numbers; each political force rather uses a distinct color design for their ballots which is aimed at enhancing voter convenience and better distinction and identification.⁴¹

In the booth for secret voting, the ballot of the political association that the voter chooses, should be placed in a special, standard envelope and stamped by the chair of the polling station commission and then dropped into the ballot box. Voters tossed the remaining 7 ballots into a separate bin standing next to the booth.

Before dropping the sealed ballot envelope into the ballot box, the voter had to return to the polling station commission desk and show that he/she had only one ballot envelope, which the commission members noted with an additional mark on the voter list. The voter put his/her signature next to the mark and dipped a finger in a can of indelible paint, which is a common and effective way to prevent double voting and ballot stuffing.

On the one hand, using the colored party ballots to count the votes cast simultaneously for both candidate lists speeds up vote counting procedure at polling stations, which, according to the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, takes 1-1.5 hours on average, which is an undeniable advantage when the electoral process is not digitalized. On the other hand, due to the peculiarities of this procedure, it is not possible to recheck the counting results at higher level vote counting commissions since there are no additional marks on the ballots, and no record is kept of the unused

ballot papers during the processing and counting of votes cast.

In addition, a key consequence of this form of ballot is that the voter does not have the opportunity to vote for different political forces in the departmental and national constituencies. Also, the use of separate ballots by each political association increases the amount of resources spent on the production, recording and distribution of election materials, which puts additional pressure on the election administration system.

This method of production and use of ballots raises the additional problem of supervising:

1. distribution of ballots: ballots of different parties are laid out in a row at the polling station, not excluding the possibility of voters taking more than one ballot of a party or not taking any;
2. the disposal of unused ballots, which the voter can throw into the trash bin or take away with him or her;
3. the state of the special trash bin for unused ballots, which is placed in the booth for secret voting and is out of sight of the election organizers.

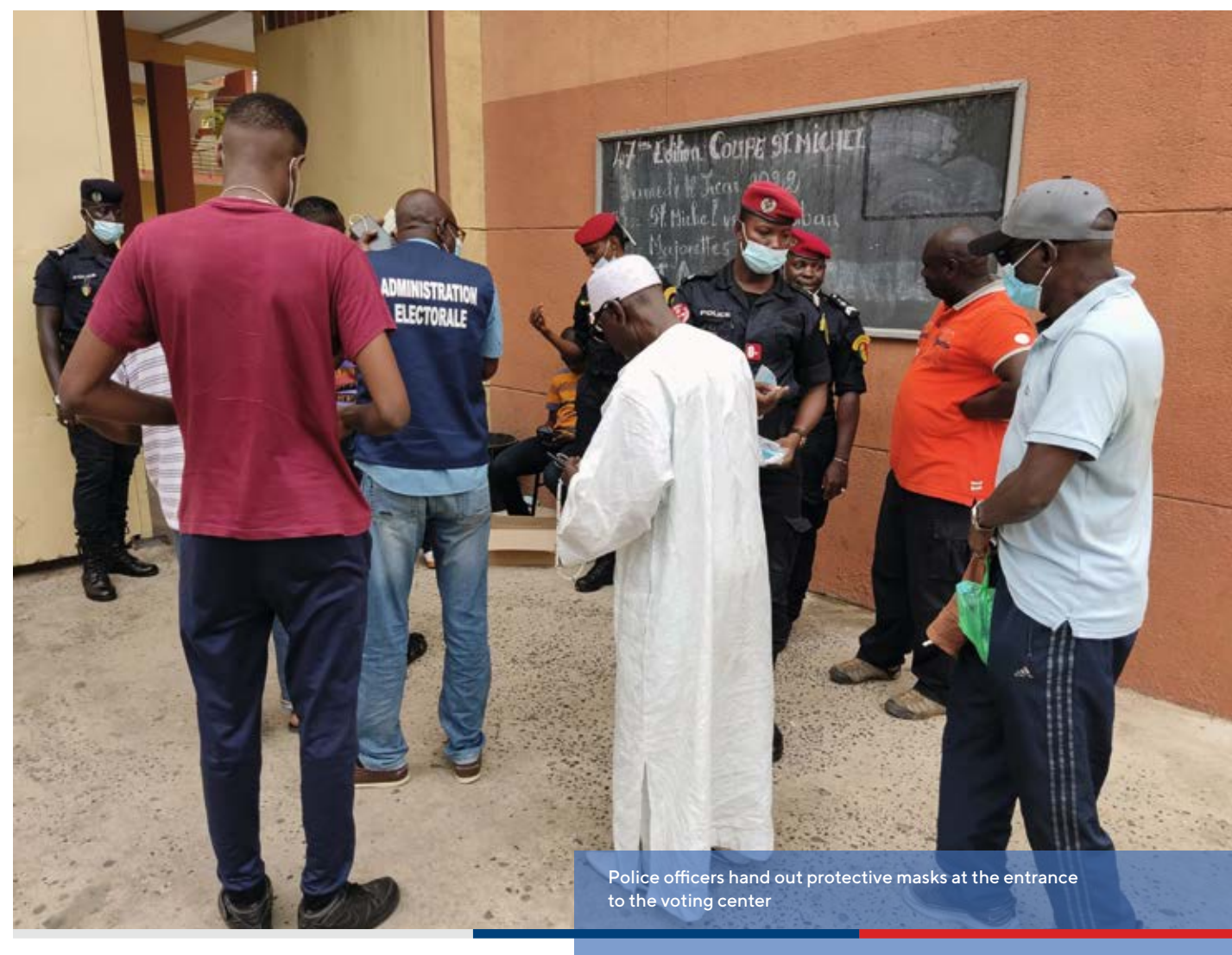
An indisputable advantage of the existing election administration system is that the vote counting procedure at the lower level is directly monitored by candidate representatives, who are engaged in the PEC work, but this does not negate the fact that such a system operates mainly on the stakeholders' trust to the PEC staff. However, in practice, not all registered political associations participated in the PEC work: e.g., for the most part, the representatives of the United in Hope ruling coalition and the

Liberate the People main opposition coalition were the ones working as part of the PECs. Members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation drew attention to the fact that the candidates' representatives were mostly young people, which could point to the significant role of young people in the political life of the country.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted that at the polling stations there was no system of photo and video recording of violations, which could have reduced the likelihood of violations and interference in the electoral process, and could have recorded the ballot counting after the polling stations closed.

On a positive note, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observed that PEC members very accurately carried out the necessary paperwork, in accordance with the prescribed instructions: for example, they filled out the lists of candidate representatives, which recorded all the people working in the polling station commissions, voter lists with checkmarks next to the citizens who voted and, after counting the votes, the final protocols, which took into account all the comments from the candidates' representatives.

Also, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation especially noted the well-coordinated work of the PECs at the polling stations that they visited on Election Day and high level of polling staff professionalism at the lower level of the electoral system. In particular, the polling stations were organized very efficiently, and



Police officers hand out protective masks at the entrance to the voting center

⁴¹ Pursuant to Article 180 of the Electoral Code, each political association has to provide its own symbol, color and abbreviation when registering its candidates for the election. If there are disputes between political associations over the use of similar or identical distinctive features listed above, the MOI has the right to independently make a decision, while giving priority to established colors, abbreviations and traditional symbols of political parties and movements. In addition, all political associations are prohibited from using symbols and emblems consisting of the colors of the national flag: i.e., green, yellow, red.

despite allowing only one voter into a polling station at a time, there were no significant lines, which was also facilitated by the average turnout in the country.

PEC members also demonstrated a high level of organization during the vote count by promptly sorting and counting all the ballots submitted. First, PEC members opened the ballot box and made sure that the number of envelopes inside corresponded to the number of ticks on the voter list.

According to Article 83 of the Electoral Code, if the number of envelopes does not match the number of voting checkmarks on the voter list, a recount commission is formed from the number of voters present at the polling station and conducts a check aloud, but such cases were not recorded by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

PEC members then opened the envelopes and counted the votes cast. If there was more than one ballot in the envelope, the vote was considered invalid, except when these ballots were of the same political association. Ballots found in the ballot box without an envelope, as well as ballots and envelopes of unidentified type were considered invalid. Invalid votes were counted separately, and their number was entered in the final protocol, but was not included in the final results of voting.

Once the votes had been counted, all the ballots, including invalid ballots, the final report signed by the PEC members and the CENA controller, the voter list, the list of candidate representatives on the commission, and other documents were packed up and sent, under the supervision of commission members and the CENA controller, accompanied

by armed guards, to the Departmental Vote Counting Commission.

Complaints and Infringements

On Election Day in the Republic of Senegal, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not register any violations during voting or vote counting at the polling stations.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that the elections took place without serious violations in a peaceful atmosphere, and separately noted the absence of bureaucratization in the electoral process and the professionalism of the staff at all levels of the national electoral administration system.

According to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the elections were very competitive and the electoral administration system of the Republic of Senegal generally managed to organize the electoral process in a relatively high voter turnout. They commended the efforts made to map the polling stations in order to optimize the concentration of voters at the polling stations and reduce the waiting time in the lines. Also noted were the procedures and mechanisms to prevent voter falsification.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation formed a positive opinion of the electoral system of the Republic of Senegal, which focuses on inclusiveness and respect for gender balance through the obligatory principle of gender rotation of candidates on electoral lists.

Nevertheless, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation drew attention to a number of features that could be improved based on Russian and international experience:

- 1. The complex system of electoral management with several parallel vertically integrated bodies administering various aspects of the preparation and conduct of elections.
- 2. The resource-intensive ballot system requiring significant funds to produce ballots and increases the burden levied on the electoral administration system.
- 3. The low level of digitalization of the electoral process and a lack of modern digital technologies for processing and counting votes, protecting the electoral process from external influence, and e-voting.
- 4. Lack of a photo and video recording system at polling stations.
- 5. Insufficient regulation of the status of national observers and the procedure for obtaining accreditation from the relevant authorities.
- 6. The significant number of polling stations located in premises above the 1st floor and the lack of a barrier-free infrastructure in the surrounding area, making access to the polling stations difficult for people with limited mobility.
- 7. Lack of sanitary and epidemiological measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 among voters and PEC members at polling stations on Election Day.
- 8. Insufficient disclosure level of electoral statistics.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

To develop and improve the voting system and electoral procedures of the Republic of Senegal, the

Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends paying attention to the above shortcomings identified by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation during their parliamentary election observation on July 31, 2022.

Priority recommendations:

- 1. Consider the possibility of optimizing the electoral administration process, including the abolition of the National and Departmental Vote Counting Commissions and the transfer of the counting, processing, and

tabulation of votes to the Autonomous National Electoral Commission of Senegal.

- 2. Consider options for a transition from a multiple ballot system, where each registered electoral association is represented in a separate ballot, in favor of a single ballot with a list of registered candidates from all political forces with the possibility of voting separately for candidates in single- and multi-member constituencies and the nationwide constituency.
- 3. Study possible mechanisms and technologies for implementing a digital system for processing and counting votes to duplicate or replace the system of manual counting and transporting

materials from polling stations to departmental commissions for counting votes, as well as for protecting the electoral process from external influence.

- 4. Facilitate the implementation of a photo and video recording system to capture violations at polling stations.
- 5. Consider the possibility of amending the Electoral Code of the Republic of Senegal to regulate in detail the procedure and criteria for accrediting international and national observers, as well as take measures to increase the involvement of independent public observers in overseeing the electoral process.



The PEC members count the ballot papers

Additional recommendations:

6.

Consider taking measures to ensure more convenient access to polling stations for people with limited mobility, including
7.

the introduction of a barrier-free environment.
Consider introducing legal measures and regulations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at polling stations.
8.

Promote centralized placement and systematization of relevant information on elections, regulations, and more detailed up-to-date statistics on a special state electronic resource.



Voters are being identified by the PEC members under observation of candidate representatives

ANNEX

Results of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal Election, July 31, 2022

Party/Coalition	Votes	%	Seats in the National Assembly		
			Nationwide Constituency	SMDs and MMDs	Total
United in Hope	1,518,137	46.56	25	57	82
Liberate the People	1,071,139	32.85	17	39	56
Save Senegal	471,517	14.46	8	16	24
The Servants	56,303	1.73	1	0	1
AAR Sénégal	52,173	1.59	1	0	1
Bokk Gis Gis	44,862	1.38	1	0	1
Naataangue Askan Wi	25,833	0.79	0	0	0
Bunt Bi	20,922	0.64	0	0	0
Total	3,260,886	100.00	53	112	165
Blank/invalid votes	18,224				
Total votes	3,279,110				
National Index	61,526.151				
Registered voters	7,036,466				
Turnout	46.60%				

Source: Constitutional Council of the Republic of Senegal.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



City Square
in Nairobi

GENERAL ELECTIONS
AUGUST 9, 2022

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

On January 20, 2022, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of Kenya announced that the general elections were scheduled on August 9, 2022.

The general elections were announced with the view to elect a new 13th composition of the bicameral Parliament of Kenya, i.e., the National Assembly and the Senate, the President and the Vice-President of the country, 47 governors and deputy governors, as well as members of the county assemblies in 47 counties of Kenya.⁴²

Election Significance

General elections are traditionally a major political event in Kenya, as they decide the fate of hundreds of seats in the national legislative and local governing bodies in the regions, but this electoral cycle has become particularly important. The August 9, 2022 elections triggered a new political cycle for the country by completely renewing the composition of the executive and legislative bodies at the national and regional levels, given that the incumbent governors and the President of Kenya were not eligible to run for another term.

Thus, the August 9, 2022 elections decided which political forces would control Kenya's domestic policy at the national and regional levels, as well as the foreign policy of the state for the next 5 years.

Electoral System

Election of the National Assembly of Kenya

The National Assembly, the lower house of Kenya's 349-member

Parliament, is elected under a mixed system by 3 methods.

290 MPs, the main body of the National Assembly, are elected in SMDs, delimited with the account of the population living in the counties, using a FPTP system.

47 seats are reserved for women elected in SMDs, whose boundaries coincide with the administrative boundaries of 47 counties of Kenya, using the FPTP system. Female members represent their counties in the National Assembly.

The remaining 12 seats are distributed between the closed party lists that entered the National Assembly in proportion to their number of mandates; the nominated members on party lists are reserved for the youth, persons with disabilities and special needs, and marginalized groups.

The party-based lists of candidates shall comply with the gender equality principle.

The term of office of the members of the National Assembly is 5 years.

Election of the Senate of Kenya

The Senate, the 67-member upper house of Kenya's Parliament, is also elected under a mixed system by 2 methods.

Specifically, 47 senators shall be elected in SMDs based on the counties via the FPTP; the remaining 20 seats are distributed proportionally among the party-nominated lists of candidates based on their seat share in the Senate. The parties get a share of 16 seats reserved for women, 2 seats reserved for persons with disabilities and special needs, and 2 seats reserved for youth.

Election of the National Assembly, Lower House of the Parliament of Kenya

349
members

5-year
tenure

3
types of mandates

290
members
elected in SMDs
under FPTP

47
female members
elected in SMDs
under FPTP

12
members
elected by party-list
proportional
representation

The term of office for the senators is 5 years.

Like with the election to the National Assembly, voting for the closed party lists of nominees to the Senate functions like seat quota in the legislature for the underrepresented social groups.

Election of the Senate, Upper House of the Parliament of Kenya

67
senators

5-year
tenure

2
types
of mandates

47
senators
elected in SMDs
under the FPTP

20
senators
elected by party-list
proportional
representation

16
seats for women

2
seats for persons
with disabilities

2
seats for youth



Alexander Kholodov, the CCRF EOM member, in Kenya's IEBC media center

The formula for seat distribution between the party lists was announced in a special declaration of September 15, 2022, by Wafula Chebukati, Chair of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of Kenya.⁴³ Thus, the party lists shall get the number of seats in the relevant Parliament house equal to the number of seats received by the party representatives in the elections to one or the other house of the Legislature, divided by the total number of seats in the relevant house and multiplied by the number of seats reserved in a particular house for party candidate lists.

Election of the President and Vice President of Kenya

The President and Vice President shall be elected under modified TRS in a single nationwide constituency. To win in the 1st round, a candidate must receive 50%+1 of the vote nationally and at least 25% of the vote in more than half of Kenya's counties (i.e., 24 of 47).

If no candidate receives enough votes to win in the 1st round of the election, a run-off between the 2 candidates who received

⁴² With the adoption of the 2010 Constitution, Kenya was institutionally transformed from a federation to a unitary state. However, given the country's heterogeneous population, the authorities decided to follow the principle of devolution, dividing Kenya into 47 counties, which in turn were divided into subcounties. Local authorities – county governments and county assemblies – are formed at the administrative level of counties.

⁴³ <https://www.iebc.or.ke/uploads/resources/s5MljDJY2m.pdf>

Elections of the President of Kenya

Held under modified TRS

50%+1 vote,

with at least

25% of the vote

in 24 of 47 Kenya's counties in the 1st round

5-year tenure

2-terms limit

the most votes takes place within 30 days. In the 2nd round, a candidate has to receive a simple majority of votes to win.

Kenya's presidential candidates have running mates for the office of the Vice President; thus, people vote for the political tandem.

It is noteworthy that only the Kenyan presidential election provides for out-of-country voting: in particular, 10,444 Kenyan citizens residing in 12 countries (Burundi, Canada, Germany, Qatar, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States) could cast their vote for the candidates.

The term of office of the President and the Vice President is 5 years; nobody is eligible to pursue a third term in the office of the President.

Election of County Governors

County governors shall be elected using the FPTP system in a single constituency, whose boundaries coincide with those of the county. Like in the case of the presidential election, the candidate for the governor runs on a single ticket with the candidate for the deputy county governor; therefore, voters cast their ballots for both simultaneously.

All officially registered voters in a county have the right to vote.

The term of office of the county governor is 5 years; nobody is eligible to pursue a third term in the gubernatorial office.

Election of County Assemblies

The election of the county assembly shall be held under a mixed system, under which 2 methods shall be used – part of the members shall be elected under the FPTP system in the SMDs delimited within the county boundaries; the other part of the county assembly seats shall be distributed among the closed party lists in proportion to the number of seats obtained in the elections to the regional legislatures.

The 2nd group of seats is intended for distribution among party lists of candidates following the gender balance principle, according to which not more than 2/3 of county assembly members may be of the same gender. Seats shall also be reserved for candidates representing the youth and persons with disabilities and special needs.

A total of 1,450 members of county assemblies were elected in the August 9, 2022 general elections.

The term of office of county assembly members is 5 years.

Electoral Legislation

In the Republic of Kenya, the electoral procedures during the August 9, 2022 elections were regulated by the following laws, normative acts and documents:

1. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010;
2. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act No. 9 of July 5, 2011 (as amended in 2012, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020);
3. Political Parties Act No. 11 of August 27, 2011 (as amended in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2022);
4. Elections Act No. 24 of 2011 (as amended in 2012, and 2016);⁴⁴
5. The Election Campaign Financing Act No. 42 of December 24, 2013 (as amended in 2017);
6. The Election Offences Act No. 37 of September 13, 2016 (as amended in 2017).

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

Election Administration and Election Management System

Kenya has a 4-tier vertically integrated election management system under its electoral legislation:

1. Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of Kenya;
 - 1.1. Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee;
 - 1.2. Dispute Resolution Committee;
 - 1.3. Technical Committee;
 - 1.4. Liaison Committee;
2. 47 IEBC county offices;
3. 290 IEBC constituency offices;
4. 46,233 polling stations established on the territory of Kenya and abroad.

Subject to Article 88 of the Constitution of Kenya, the IEBC – a permanent national electoral management body – shall be responsible for all matters relating to the organization and conduct of referenda and elections at all levels.

The IEBC shall also be responsible for supervising the compliance of all participants in the electoral process (candidates, parties, officials, election management system officials and voters) with the rules and regulations set out in the national electoral legislation.

Specifically, the powers of the Commission include:

1. registration of voters, maintaining, revision, and amending the nationwide voter registry and constituency registries;
2. delimitation of constituencies;
3. registration of candidates and parties for elections;
4. monitoring of compliance with the legislation related to the nomination of candidates by parties;
5. monitoring of compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct by candidates and parties during the preelection activities and Election Day;
6. regulation of the political party activities;
7. voter education;
8. facilitation of the observation, monitoring and evaluation of elections;
9. accreditation of national and international voters;
10. regulation of financing party and candidate campaign activities;
11. settlement of electoral disputes, excluding election petitions and disputes subsequent to the declaration of election results.

At the same time, all issues of challenging the results fall under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary

Committee on Elections, the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and judiciary bodies.

Subject to Article 5 of The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act No. 9 of July 5, 2011, the IEBC shall consist of 7 members, including the IEBC Chair and Deputy Chair.

Subject to Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya (Articles 73–80), which sets out qualifications for public officers, and Article 250 of the Constitution of Kenya, which governs the appointment of members to a number of public institutions, including the IEBC, the office of a member of the Commission can be taken by a citizen of Kenya:

1. with a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;
2. with proven experience in electoral practices, management, finance, administration, public administration, and law;
3. selected on the basis of “personal integrity, competence, and suitability” criteria;
4. demonstrating “objectivity and impartiality in decision making”;
5. guided by “honesty in the execution of public duties”.

A candidate for the IEBC Chair shall satisfy the additional requirements: he/she shall meet the qualifications for the office of Judge of the Supreme Court as set out in the Constitution of Kenya.

The IEBC Deputy Chair shall be elected from among the IEBC members at the first sitting thereof or whenever it is necessary to fill a vacancy in the office of the IEBC Deputy Chair. There is also a rule that the IEBC Chair and Deputy Chair shall not be of the same gender.

The IEBC members shall serve on a full-time basis and be paid a remuneration set by the Government of Kenya.

The term of office of the IEBC members is 6 years, and they shall not be eligible for reappointment.

In terms of Schedule 1 of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act, No. 9 of July 5, 2011, the appointment of the IEBC members is as follows: at least 6 months before the lapse of the term of the IEBC Chair or IEBC member or within 14 days of the declaration of a vacancy in the office of the IEBC Chair or IEBC member, the President of Kenya shall appoint a special Selection Panel to select a new IEBC member, or a new IEBC composition.

The Selection Panel shall consist of 7 persons:

1. 2 men and 2 women nominated by the Parliamentary Service Commission;⁴⁵
2. a person nominated by the Law Society of Kenya;
3. 2 persons nominated by the Interreligious Council of Kenya.

Within 7 days of the call for nominations for the office of the IEBC Chair or IEBC member, the listed above organizations shall submit the names of their nominees to the Parliamentary Service Commission for transmission to the President of Kenya for approval.

At its first sitting, the Selection Panel shall elect the Selection Panel Chair and the Selection Panel Deputy Chair from amongst its members. The office of the Parliamentary Service Commission shall provide the secretariat services required by the Selection Panel.

Once the Selection Panel is approved, the qualified persons

⁴⁴ Amendments to Elections Act No. 24 were supposed to be adopted together with the amendments to Political Parties Act No. 11, adopted in January 2022, which legally enshrined the division of electoral associations into parties and coalitions. However, since the amendments were approved only in the National Assembly – the lower house of the Parliament – the legislative developments did not take legal effect, hence the general elections of August 9, 2022 were held under the old rules.

⁴⁵ An independent commission established under Article 127 of the Constitution of Kenya to serve both Houses of the Parliament of Kenya, i.e., the National Assembly and the Senate.

who meet the criteria listed above have 7 days to submit their applications and the package of required documents for consideration.

The application period expired, the Selection Panel publishes the names of all applicants and their education and qualifications in the official government Gazette, 2 private newspapers of national circulation, and on the website of the Parliamentary Service Commission.

The Selection Panel shall then proceed to consider the applications submitted, shortlist, and publicly interview the applicants.

At the end of the selection process, the Panel shall select 2 persons qualified to be appointed as IEBC Chair and 9 persons qualified to be appointed as IEBC members and shall forward the final list of names to the President of Kenya for the nomination of 1 person as IEBC Chair and 6 persons as IEBC members.

The President of Kenya shall, within 7 days, forward the list of nominees he has selected to the National Assembly of Kenya for approval.

If the National Assembly of Kenya approves the nominees, the President shall, within 7 days, formally appoint the IEBC Chair and IEBC members from the list of nominees he selected to these positions.

It is noteworthy that in shortlisting, nominating, or appointing processes all bodies – the Selection Panel, the President, and the Lower House of Parliament of Kenya – shall be guided by the principles of gender equality and regional balance. It shall be ensured that not more than 2/3 of the IEBC members are of the same gender (maximum 5 members) and that the IEBC members are from different regions of Kenya.

Formal IEBC meetings may be held as often as the IEBC Chair may deem necessary, but at least once every calendar month. Decisions at IEBC

meetings shall be made by plurality of votes of the members, provided that a quorum of at least 3 members shall be present for decisions to be made.

The administrative and technical functions are performed by the IEBC secretariat, headed by a secretary of the Commission. The secretary shall be appointed through open competition from among citizens of Kenya who fulfill the following criteria:

1. hold a degree in higher education from a university recognized in Kenya;
2. have at least 5 years of experience in a managerial position;
3. demonstrable experience in the electoral field or management, finance, public administration, law, or political science;
4. meet the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya for public servants as listed above.

The IEBC secretary shall be appointed for a term of 5 years, with the right of reappointment.

Subject to Article 11 of The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act No. 9, the same quota requirements shall apply to the composition of the IEBC secretariat staff as to the IEBC members: not more than 2/3 of the staff must be of the same gender; the following factors shall also be taken into consideration when considering applicants to the office:

1. limited abilities of the applicant;
2. the principle of regional and other diversity, which gives preference to representatives of marginalized and under-represented social groups.

The IEBC of Kenya also embraces a special Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee, which is tasked with monitoring the activities of all participants in the electoral process: nominees, parties, as

well as electoral management system staff.

Subject to Article 15 of The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act No. 9, the Committee shall consist of at least 5 members of the IEBC, from whose midst the IEBC Chair shall, by his/her decree, appoint a head of the Committee; one of the secretaries of the IEBC Secretariat shall be appointed as the secretary of the Committee.

If actions contrary to the Electoral Code of Conduct are identified or a complaint is received against a participant in the electoral process, the Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee issues a summons to the individual, party representative and/or any other person who the Committee believes to have violated the Code, whereupon the faulted person must appear at a special hearing and state their position on the case at hand as part of the hearing. The Committee may also interview the person summoned to appear at the proceedings in the presence of a lawyer or other official legal representative.

Should the Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee be unable to resolve the matter within its authority, the case may be heard by the IEBC Dispute Resolution Committee, which hears all disputed cases within the IEBC's jurisdiction, including complaints of denial of candidate registration.

In addition, a Technical Committee functions under the IEBC umbrella tasked with the introduction of digital technology and monitoring its use in the electoral process, and a Liaison Committee responsible for interaction with party and candidate representatives. Both committees are comprised of IEBC members and staff with the expertise required to carry out these tasks.

Generally, the IEBC is free to establish other committees with specialized functions as may be required, drawing on the members and staff of the Commission and outside experts with relevant expertise.

At lower levels operate IEBC offices in the counties and constituencies, as well as the Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers assigned to them.

Their tasks include exercising the powers of the IEBC of Kenya on the ground as well as verifying voting results at the polling stations established within the counties and constituencies, and transporting election materials to the respective tallying centers

after the ballots are counted by the precinct election commissions (PECs). In addition, the Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers serve as registrars and assistant registrars, respectively, in preparation for the elections.

The polling stations formed both in Kenya and abroad are the last segment in the electoral management system.

Subject to Article 38A of the Elections Act No. 24, the number of voters per polling station shall not exceed 700.

PECs shall consist of 7 polling officers: 5 staffers, a presiding officer, and a deputy presiding officer. All polling staff employees are hired by the IEBC of Kenya

through an open competition among nationals with electoral experience.

Vote Counting System

General election votes are counted in Kenya under a special dedicated four-tier system:

1. National Tallying Center;
2. County Tallying Centers;
3. Constituency Tallying Centers;
4. Polling stations.

When all the 46,233 polling stations are closed, vote count starts for all levels of elections. Specifically, the ballots are counted in the following order:

1. ballot papers cast for the presidential candidates;
2. ballot papers cast for county governor candidates;



PEC members prepare the polling station for opening

3. ballot papers cast for candidates to the Senate;
4. ballot papers cast for candidates to the National Assembly;
5. ballot papers cast for female candidates at the National Assembly elections;
6. ballot papers cast for candidates to the county assembly.

When the polling stations finish counting ballots, the electronic voting results, including scanned copies of the reporting documents, are transmitted using a special application (Kenya Integrated Election Management System, KIEMS) by the polling station staff to the county tallying centers. All voting materials, including physical copies of reports from the polling stations, are transported under escort by Returning Officers and their deputies to the constituency tallying centers.

The subsequent system of transmitting and processing information and materials from the polling stations is as follows: first, voting results of all 6 types of elections are delivered to the constituency tallying centers, where the ballots are counted and the results of the National Assembly election and the county assembly election in a given constituency is announced.

At the same time, all the aggregate information regarding the presidential election in Kenya is transmitted by Returning Officers to the National Tallying Center, where they deliver all the voting materials as well. The National Tallying Center processes and counts the ballots cast at the presidential election, after which a summary table is compiled, and the outcome is officially announced by the National Election Commissioner, whose functions are performed ex officio by the IEBC Chair.

In parallel, the Deputy Returning Officers transfer the collected information and transport



A PEC staffer applies a vote mark on the voter's finger

the voting materials of the gubernatorial and senatorial elections, as well as of the elections of female members to Kenya's National Assembly from the constituency tallying centers to the county tallying centers in the country, where the ballots are processed and counted. The final results are then announced at the county tallying centers and sent to the National Tallying Center.

It is worth noting that information transmission and processing

is divided between the constituency tallying centers of Kenya and the National Tallying Center not only due to the way the electoral system is organized and due to differences between constituency boundaries in all types of elections, but also to speed up the counting of ballots cast at the presidential election.

The final results of all types of elections shall be announced within 7 days, but the deadline can be extended if the outcome is challenged in court.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

Subject to Article 83 of the Constitution of Kenya, active suffrage is granted to capable citizens of Kenya who are at least 18 years old at the time of registration in the Register of Voters, have no criminal record for an election offense during the preceding 5 years and have not been officially declared bankrupt.

The IEBC of Kenya is responsible for compiling the national Register of Voters. The registration of voters is an automatic procedure; however, an extraordinary revision of the Register of Voters to update it shall be carried out before the general elections, which period, according to Article 5 of the Electoral Act No. 24, begins by order of the IEBC Chair and ends 60 days prior to Election Day.

Yet, the register review and updating procedure for the August 9, 2022 general elections was shortened without any objective reason or explanation. Specifically, it began on February 9, 2022 and ended on May 4, 2022, which is 90 days before the date of such election.

The IEBC of Kenya forms special voter registration centers in each constituency in order to revise the Register. The citizens who had not been previously included in the voter list were required to report to one of the registration centers and, having presented their identity card, undergo a registration procedure which, among other things, verifies the biometric data of the voter, including their fingerprint, which is to be used for identification at the polling stations.

⁴⁶ A fee of 10 KES (Kenyan shillings) was charged for checking the registration data by SMS, while the link to the IEBC website was available only to those Kenyan citizens who had access to Internet, consequently there was extra workload on the voter registration centers, where voters could check their data in person.

Where a voter wishes to transfer his/her place of voting, the voter shall notify the IEBC at one of the regional offices not later than 90 days preceding the election, as recorded in Article 7 of the Electoral Act No. 24, after which the voter shall be included in the register of the preferred constituency not later than 60 days preceding the election.

When the extraordinary revision of the Register of Voters was over, citizens of Kenya had the right to check their registration status in person, online, or via SMS within 30 days from May 4 to June 2, 2022.⁴⁶

The final Register of Voters was compiled by the IEBC on June 16, 2022, and released on June 20, 2022. A total of 22,120,458 voters were registered for the August 9, 2022 general election, of whom 10,443 were overseas voters. Women comprised 49.12% and men 51.88%; 18.94% of voters were people with disabilities. It is noteworthy that the number of registered voters was only 74.82% of the total number of adult citizens of Kenya with ID cards.

It should be said that the IEBC of Kenya hired KPMG consulting firm to conduct an independent audit of the Register of Voters and analyze the current system of registration. The independent audit found that there were only minor errors in the register, and the IEBC received recommendations to strengthen control over the database and digital infrastructure to ensure the security of the Register of Voters and citizens' personal data.

Candidate Registration

Registration of candidates and party lists is under the responsibility of the IEBC. Nominees to the

National Assembly and county assemblies, as well as nominees to the office of senators and county governors, were required to submit their applications for registration as a candidate for an election and the package of documents to the Returning Officers at the local IEBC offices, while candidates to the presidential office were required

22,120,458
registered voters,

which is

74.82%
of the total number
of citizens eligible to vote

10,443
out-of-country voters

49.12%
women

51.88%
men

18.94%
people
with disabilities

14,213,137
voters

took part in the elections

64.77%
turnout

to send their applications and package of documents directly to the Commission.

Subject to Article 24 of Elections Act No. 24, an adult citizen of Kenya may become a candidate for election to the National Assembly and the Senate, if the person:

1. is registered in the Register of Voters;
2. is not officially declared bankrupt;
3. is not officially declared incapable;
4. holds a degree in higher education from a university recognized in Kenya;
5. is not a sitting civil servant or a member of the county assembly (however, it is acceptable to be a sitting member of the National Assembly or a senator);
6. has not been an IEBC member during the preceding 5 years;
7. has not served a term of imprisonment within 6 months immediately preceding the time of application for registration as an electoral candidate;
8. has held Kenyan citizenship for at least the 10 years immediately preceding the date of election;
9. who has public service experience, has neither abused nor misused the official powers or public office for personal and/or criminal purposes, nor violated any other principles set out in Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya.

If the candidate is a party nominee, there is no need to collect additional documents and voters' signatures. However, independent candidates must collect at least 1,000 signatures from voters registered in the constituency they plan to run in the National Assembly election; in the case of Senate elections, independent candidates must collect 2,000 signatures from voters in the county they plan to run in the election.

The same criteria with minor changes are true for candidates in the election of members of county assemblies. Subject to Article 24 of Elections Act No. 24, an adult citizen of Kenya may become a candidate for election to county assemblies, if the person:

1. is registered in the Register of Voters;
2. is not officially declared bankrupt;
3. is not officially declared incapable;
4. holds a degree in higher education from a university recognized in Kenya;
5. is not a sitting civil servant (however, it is acceptable to be a sitting member of the county assembly);
6. has not been a member of the IEBC during the preceding 5 years;
7. has not served a term of imprisonment within 6 months immediately preceding the time of application for registration as an electoral candidate;
8. has held Kenyan citizenship for at least the 10 years immediately preceding the date of election;
9. who has public service experience, has neither abused nor misused the official powers or public office for personal and/or criminal purposes, nor violated any other principles set out in Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Candidates to the offices of the President and the Vice-President of Kenya are challenged with stricter requirements. In particular, subject to Article 23 of Elections Act No. 24, an adult citizen of Kenya may become a candidate for presidential election, if the person:

1. is registered in the Register of Voters;
2. is not officially declared bankrupt;
3. is not officially declared incapable;
4. holds a degree in higher education from a university recognized in Kenya;

5. is not a sitting civil servant or a member of a county assembly (however, it is acceptable to be a sitting member of the National Assembly or a senator, President or Vice President of Kenya);
6. has not been a member of the IEBC during the preceding 5 years;
7. has not served a term of imprisonment within 6 months immediately preceding the time of application for registration as an electoral candidate;
8. is a citizens of Kenya by birth and has no allegiance to any other state;
9. who has public service experience, has neither abused nor misused the official powers or public office for personal and/or criminal purposes, nor violated any other principles set out in Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Irrespective of being a political party nominee or an independent candidate, the person needs to collect 2,000 signatures of supporters in at least 24 of the 47 counties of the country.

Along with that the Elections Act does not set separate criteria for candidates to the office of a county governor or deputy governor.

Registration Procedure for Candidates and Party Candidate Lists

Subject to Article 13 of the Elections Act No. 24, political parties shall nominate candidates at least 90 days before the date of the general elections, with a more complex procedure for party lists of candidates.

Thus, 180 days before Election Day, under Article 27 of the Elections Act No. 24, parties are required to send their rules, governing the procedure for selecting candidates to be included on party lists, to the



Representatives of candidates at a polling station on Election Day

IEBC of Kenya. Parties shall provide the IEBC of Kenya with a list of their members at least 120 days before the election.

Parties are then required to hold internal primaries: thus, 60 days before the Election Day, the names of all participants in the intraparty primaries shall be sent to the IEBC of Kenya, after which the Commission is informed of the candidate selection results and the final lists are sent for verification and registration.

For the August 9, 2022 general election, political parties had until April 9, 2022 to provide the Commission with the lists of their members, the names of all those willing to participate in the intra-party selection, and set a date and time for the primaries.

By April 22, 2022, the parties had to form the final list of participants in the primaries and submit it to the IEBC of Kenya, and then complete the intra-party selection procedure by April 28 and form the final list of candidates to be sent to the IEBC.

However, having received the lists of candidates on April 28, 2022, the IEBC found that a significant number of them did not comply with the so-called "two-thirds principle," i.e., the gender-balance requirement in the Constitution of Kenya that no gender may hold more than two-thirds of positions in elected governing institutions. In particular, the IEBC of Kenya extended this principle to party lists, requiring the parties to bring their lists in line with the gender balance standards and giving additional time to do so,

postponing the deadline for submitting the lists first by May 9, 2022, then by May 12, 2022. Only 3 parties had failed to adjust their lists in conformity with the IEBC requirements, however on May 11, 2022, a day before the deadline, the Supreme Court of Kenya ruled that the IEBC of Kenya requirement to ensure gender balance on the candidate lists was mandatory, and the remaining lists were consequently officially registered.

Registration Procedure for Independent Candidates

Independent candidates had to provide the IEBC of Kenya with a special certificate issued by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties stating that the candidate was not a member of

any political association and could be considered an independent candidate, and a symbol the candidate intended to use to identify him/herself on the ballot paper. This was to be done not later than May 2, 2022.⁴⁷

Independent candidates then had until May 13, 2022, to submit the voter signatures collected in support of their nomination as well as other required documents.

Registration Procedure for Presidential Candidates

Both party and independent presidential candidates were required to submit a complete package of documents, including symbols and voters' signatures in support of their nomination, to the IEBC of Kenya not later than May 23, 2022.

Final Decision on Candidate Registration

When the document submission was completed, the IEBC staff and members verified the candidate applications received and published provisional lists. Candidates who were denied registration could appeal the decision to the IEBC Dispute Resolution Committee.

The final decision on the candidate registration for election was passed on June 20, 2022, the same day the final lists of registered candidates for all types and levels of elections were published.

List of Registered Candidates

A total of 16,100 out of 21,865 candidates were registered for all types and levels of election: 11,574 political party representatives (72%) and 4,526 independent candidates (28%). Notably, the IEBC of Kenya registered candidates and candidate lists of 83 political parties out of the

89 officially listed in the Registrar of Political Parties of Kenya.

4 tandems of candidates were registered for the presidential election in Kenya, 266 tandems of candidates for gubernatorial elections in 47 counties, 341 candidates for the election of 47 senators, 2,132 candidates for 290 seats in the National Assembly election, 360 candidates for the election of 47 female members of the National Assembly, and 12,997 candidates for the 1,450 seats in county assembly elections.

The following 4 tandems of candidates were registered for the presidential election:

- 1. William Ruto running with Rigathi Gachagua (Kenya Kwanza Coalition);
- 2. Raila Odinga running with Martha Karua (Azimio la Umoja Coalition);
- 3. George Wajackoyah running with Justina Wamae (Roots Party of Kenya);
- 4. David Waihiga running with Ruth Mutua (Agano Party).

The parliamentary election in Kenya saw the key political alliances represented by 2 coalitions of political parties: The Azimio la Umoja coalition, led by the Orange Democratic Movement under the leadership of presidential candidate Raila Odinga, and the Kenya Kwanza coalition (Kenya Above All), led by the United Democratic Alliance under the leadership of presidential candidate William Ruto.

Moderately popular parties, that were not part of any political coalitions, also participated in the elections to the Kenyan Legislature and still managed to get into the parliament.

Azimio la Umoja Coalition

- 1. Orange Democratic Movement;
- 2. Jubilee Party;

- 3. Wiper Democratic Movement;
- 4. United Progressive Alliance;
- 5. Democratic Action Party;
- 6. Kenya African National Union;
- 7. Pamoja African Alliance;
- 8. Maendeleo Chap Chap Party;
- 9. United Party of Independent Alliance;
- 10. Kenya Union Party;
- 11. United Progressive Alliance;
- 12. Movement for Democracy and Growth Party;
- 13. United Democratic Party;

Kenya Kwanza Coalition

- 1. United Democratic Alliance Party;
- 2. Amani National Congress Party;
- 3. Forum for the Restoration of Democracy Party;
- 4. The Service Party
- 5. Chama Cha Kazi Party;
- 6. The Democratic Party;

Parties outside political coalitions

- 1. National Vision Party
- 2. The National Agenda Party (KENDA)
- 3. National Ordinary People Empowerment Union

Election Observation Institutions

Subject to Article 42 of the Elections Act No. 24, the IEBC of Kenya is officially responsible for the accreditation of national and international observers for the general elections. From March 4, 2022 to June 28, 2022 the IEBC accepted applications from national and international observers (organizations and individual experts) on a special e-portal, after which it reviewed the received applications for accreditation and made decision thereon.

Media representatives, as well as official representatives of parties and/or candidates, whose accreditation was also issued by the IEBC of Kenya, can be present at the polling stations.

16,100 candidates in the elections of all levels

72% political party representatives

28% independent candidates

4 candidates in the presidential election

341 candidates in the Senate election

2,132 candidates in the National Assembly election

360 candidates for the election of female National Assembly members

266 candidates for gubernatorial elections

12,997 candidates for the county assembly elections

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was accredited by the IEBC of Kenya at the August 9, 2022 general elections in the Republic of Kenya as an international observer to monitor the voting procedure and vote counting at the polling stations and tallying centers of all levels.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was represented by Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair of the Commission on Security Issues and Cooperation with Public Observation Commissions under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present in Kenya from August 7 to 10, 2022. On August 7 and 8, 2 days before the elections, the mission exercised watch of a 2-day silence period during which campaigning, political rallies, as well as publishing of campaign materials and opinion polls regarding the forthcoming elections in the mass and social media and Internet are prohibited.

On Election Day, August 9, 2022, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitor arrived to watch the opening of the polling stations. At 5:30 am, half an hour before the official opening of the polls, the observer visited 13 polling stations at Kinyanjui Road Primary School, located in the Dagoretti South constituency (polling stations Nos. 047276137801001-047276137801013).

The said polling stations opened with a delay, at 6:15 am, and the first voters were not able to vote until

6:56 am, almost an hour behind the scheduled time.

Further on, from 7:30 am to 5:50 pm on Election Day, observation was carried out at the polling stations located in the Dagoretti North, Lang'ata, Westlands, Starehe and Kibra constituencies.

In addition, from 2:00 pm to 3:20 pm, the observer mission visited Kenya's IEBC media center where the "Election Night" was being prepared with live broadcast of counting the ballots cast for Kenya's presidential candidates.

Altogether, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited the following polling stations during Election Day:

Dagoretti South constituency

- 1. Kinyanjui Road Primary School (13 polling stations, Nos. 047276137801001-047276137801013);

Dagoretti North constituency

- 2. Kilimani Primary School (20 polling stations, Nos. 047275137100301-047275137100320);

Lang'ata constituency

- 3. Multimedia University of Kenya (7 polling stations, Nos. 047277138100401-047277138100407);
- 4. Massai Manyata Village (1 polling station, No. 047277138403901);
- 5. Lang'ata Road Primary School (8 polling stations, Nos. 047277138301701-047277138301708);

Westlands constituency

- 6. City Park Market (5 polling stations, Nos. 047274136801401-047274136801405);
- 7. Hospital Hill Primary School (9 polling stations, Nos. 047274136701101-047274136701109);
- 8. Westlands Primary School (14 polling stations, Nos. 047274136700901-047274136700914);

⁴⁷ The parties have well-established symbols to identify candidates/lists on the ballot paper, whereas independent candidates had to choose their own symbols.



Voters queuing at polling stations on Election Day

Starehe constituency

9. Moi Avenue Road Primary School (19 polling stations, Nos. 047289143900101-047289143900119);

Kibra constituency

10. Old Kibera Primary School (12 polling stations, Nos. 047278138800501-047278138800512);
11. Olympic Primary School (12 polling stations, Nos. 047278139002101-047278139002112).

The observer remained to monitor their closing and counting procedures at the polling stations established at Westlands Primary

School. It should be noted that these polling stations closed nearly 1 hour late, at 5:50 pm. Moreover, the polling stations at Hospital Hill Elementary School visited prior to these latter ones, also continued to operate after their official closing time.

The counting of votes at Westlands Primary School polls began at 6:10 pm when the PECs began to compute data into the KIEMS system, filling out reports and sealing the unused ballot papers. The actual opening of ballot boxes and vote counting began at 7:10 pm and continued until 00:45 am the next day, August 10, 2022.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

Besides the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the August 9, 2022 general elections in the Republic of Kenya were attended by the observation mission of the European Union (EU EOM), the joint mission of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI), the joint mission of the African Union (AU) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the mission of the Commonwealth Secretariat,

the mission of the East African Community (EAC), the mission of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy (EISA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mission, the Carter Center expert mission, and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) expert mission.

A significant number of domestic NGOs observed the elections: the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHCR) deployed 100 observers countrywide; the Election Observation Group (ELOG) deployed 290 long-term observers and 5,108 short-term observers to all counties in Kenya; the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops deployed about 1,800 short-term observers to polling stations in all constituencies formed throughout the country on the Election Day; the Youth Empowerment Organization deployed about 3,000 election observers; and 86 long-term observers of the Independent Medico-Legal Unit had monitored the situation since March.

During his work in Kenya, Alexander Kholodov, a member of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, met national and international observers at various polling stations, but no working interaction with other election observation missions took place.

Observation Findings on Election Day

The polling stations that opened on Election Day, August 9, 2022, worked for 11 hours – from 6 am to 5:00 pm – on the territory of Kenya. However, in practice, the polling stations opened and closed behind time; thus, their work not being in conformity with the official schedule (from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm).

In particular, as mentioned above, the polling stations in Kinyanjui Road Elementary School, where the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the preparation of the polling stations and their opening, started work of their PECs nearly 1 hour late due to troubles with the KIEMS system technical means. The polling stations at Westlands Primary School also closed about an hour behind the schedule, and ballot counting began another hour after the polling stations closed because of technical difficulties with KIEMS tablets.

According to instructions, in preparation for the opening of the polling station, the PEC presiding officer is to demarcate and zone the space where the poll is located, make sure that all materials necessary for voting are available in sufficient quantity, check the temperature of the polling staff and distribute personal protective equipment, including masks and gloves, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and place hand rub in an accessible place.

Then, from 4:00 am to 5:59 am, the PEC presiding officer shall allow the accredited representatives of the media and candidates, as well as observers, if any, in to monitor the preparation and poll opening procedures. Then the PEC presiding officer fills in reporting forms in a special application on a KIEMS tablet, which correctness is to be confirmed by representatives of the media, candidates, and observers.

After that, the PEC presiding officer is to show everyone present that the ballot box is empty and to seal it up with special security seals with unique numbers, provided by the IEBC of Kenya. It is noteworthy that if candidate representatives or candidates themselves present at the poll opening have their own

seals, they are allowed to use them over the official seals of the IEBC of Kenya.

The PEC presiding officer opens the polling station at 6 am (at 6:15 am in the case of the first polling stations that were observed), and voting begins. The PEC presiding officer stands at the entrance of the polling station and regulates the flow of voters in order to avoid lines inside the premises, as well as to ensure that a safe distance of 1.5 meters between voters is maintained.

When the PEC presiding officer allows a voter in, the latter walks up to a table with the polling station staff, where the voter is identified using a fingerprint scanner and a KIEMS tablet.

In particular, there are several ways to identify the voter: scan a fingerprint, manually enter the voter ID data using a KIEMS tablet, or in the worst case the polling station staff could resort to using a regular hard copy of the voter register, but usually, this practice is not welcome as it is potentially less secure than a centralized voter registration in the electronic system. Nevertheless, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitor noted that the commission staff faced serious difficulties with the KIEMS technology at the overwhelming number of visited polling stations. This consumed a lot of resources and time, resulting in voters lining up to get into the polling stations. Having been successfully identified, the voter was given 6 stamped ballot papers for each type of election, which the voter would take with him/her to the voting booth.

Having marked the ballots, the voter would walk to the table with 6 ballot boxes, where he dropped the relevant ballot papers. In order to facilitate differentiation, the ballot boxes and relevant ballot papers for different types of elections were assigned identical colors. Thus,

ballot boxes and ballot papers for presidential elections were of gray color, those for members of the National Assembly were green, for senators were yellow, for county governors were blue, for female members of the National Assembly were pink, for county assembly members were beige.

Having dropped the ballot papers in the relevant ballot boxes, the voter would go to the next table, where the PEC deputy presiding officer dipped the voter's finger in a jar of indelible ink to prevent a possible double-voting.

The official schedule of polling stations read that voting was to be over at 5:00 pm, but all the voters standing in line at the official closing time of the polling station had the right to vote after 5:00 pm.

This was the situation recorded by the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the polls in Westlands Primary School.

Voting ended at 5:50 pm, the PEC presiding officers in Westlands Primary School promptly rearranged the tables to turn the polling place into a convenient space for counting the ballot papers.

Counting started with the ballot papers available at the polling station, ballots issued to the voters, spoiled and unused ballots, and the information obtained was entered into a hard copy of the report.⁴⁸

It is worth mentioning that this information was sent by SMS to the corresponding Returning Officers

5 times during Election Day: at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, and 5:00 pm.

The spoiled ballot papers, the stubs of tear-off ballots, and a copy of the report stamped and verified by observers, candidates, media, and/or candidate representatives were then individually packaged in special thick envelopes provided by the IEBC of Kenya.

After that, the PEC presiding officer recorded the numbers on the official seals provided by the IEBC of Kenya in the report and opened the ballot boxes to count the cast ballots. As mentioned above, the ballot papers were counted in the following order:

1. ballot papers cast for the presidential candidates;
2. ballot papers cast for county governor candidates;
3. ballot papers cast for candidates to the Senate;
4. ballot papers cast for candidates to the National Assembly;
5. ballot papers cast for female candidates at the National Assembly elections;
6. ballot papers cast for candidates to the county assembly.

During the vote count, the ballot papers that happen to be invalid shall be stamped by the PEC presiding officer with a special stamp "Discarded." If a candidate and/or his/her representative believes that the ballot paper has been discarded incorrectly, he/she has the right to ask the PEC presiding officer to apply the stamp "Objection" to it.⁴⁹ If a candidate and/or his/her representative doubts the validity of a ballot paper that has been counted, they have the right to ask the PEC

presiding officer to apply the stamp "Challenged" to it. If a ballot paper of another type and/or level of election is found in the wrong ballot box, it shall be stamped "Random."

All the ballots were sorted and packed separately in special envelopes provided by the IEBC of Kenya, and the figures were recorded in the final report. The vote count was completed, the PEC presiding officer announced the vote results at the polling station, verified the report with the party and/or candidate representatives as well as the Returning Officer present, and then, depending on the type of election, the election materials were sent to the relevant vote tallying centers of 3 levels.

The Returning Officer was responsible for transportation.

Separately, information on the presidential election results was transmitted electronically via a special KIEMS application directly to the National Tallying Center.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation underlined that the vote counting at the polling stations in Westlands Primary School took quite a long time, not only because of the unstable operation of the KIEMS system but also due to the insufficient professional qualification of the polling staff operating at the lower level of the election administration system.

Complaints and Infringements

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not register any infringements of the electoral



Stacks of tear-off ballots for the elections of the President and members of the National Assembly of Kenya

legislation at the polling stations visited on Election Day in the Republic of Kenya.

At the same time, it was noted that at the majority of polls, the KIEMS tablets used by the PEC presiding officer for voter identification and transfer of electronic information on the voting results did not work

properly, which slowed down the identification procedure and caused long voter line at the polling stations.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that polling

staff was able to satisfactorily handle voting procedures on Election Day despite a relatively high voter turnout along with the unstable operation of the KIEMS system, although the technical difficulties eventually led to delays in the work of a large number of polling stations.

At the same time, it took a long time for PECs to fill in hard copies and e-reports, and even longer to collect and count the ballot papers cast in 6 different types of elections.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also concluded that the general elections were highly competitive, and the law enforcement officers present at the polling stations helped to conduct voting in a peaceful atmosphere, yet some voters were becoming rather aggressive while queuing.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took a favorable view of the scale of efforts undertaken by the IEBC of Kenya to introduce digital technologies into the electoral process; however, the IEBC needs to pay more attention not only to the technical side of the biometric scanners and tablets but also to the stability of the digital infrastructure of the electoral system as a whole.

In addition, it is critical to increase the coverage of digital methods applied to ballot processing and vote counting during the presidential election and to implement them in other types of elections, thus reducing the time it takes to announce the results.

The IEBC of Kenya should also take note of the significant gap between the number of Kenyan citizens eligible to vote and the actual number of registered voters, which will require the IEBC to make additional efforts to streamline the system of updating the Register of Voters and include the missing 25% of voters in democratic procedures.

⁴⁸A spoiled ballot paper is the one that is spoiled by a voter before dropping it in the ballot box. A spoiled ballot paper can be replaced twice at the polling station, and its number is recorded in a special log on the KIEMS tablet.

⁴⁹A ballot paper is considered invalid if it does not have a PEC stamp, has more than 1 candidate or list of candidates marked, has a mark allowing to identify the voter, is not in due form, does not have any marks on it, or the mark on the ballot paper does not allow to understand who the voter's vote was cast for.

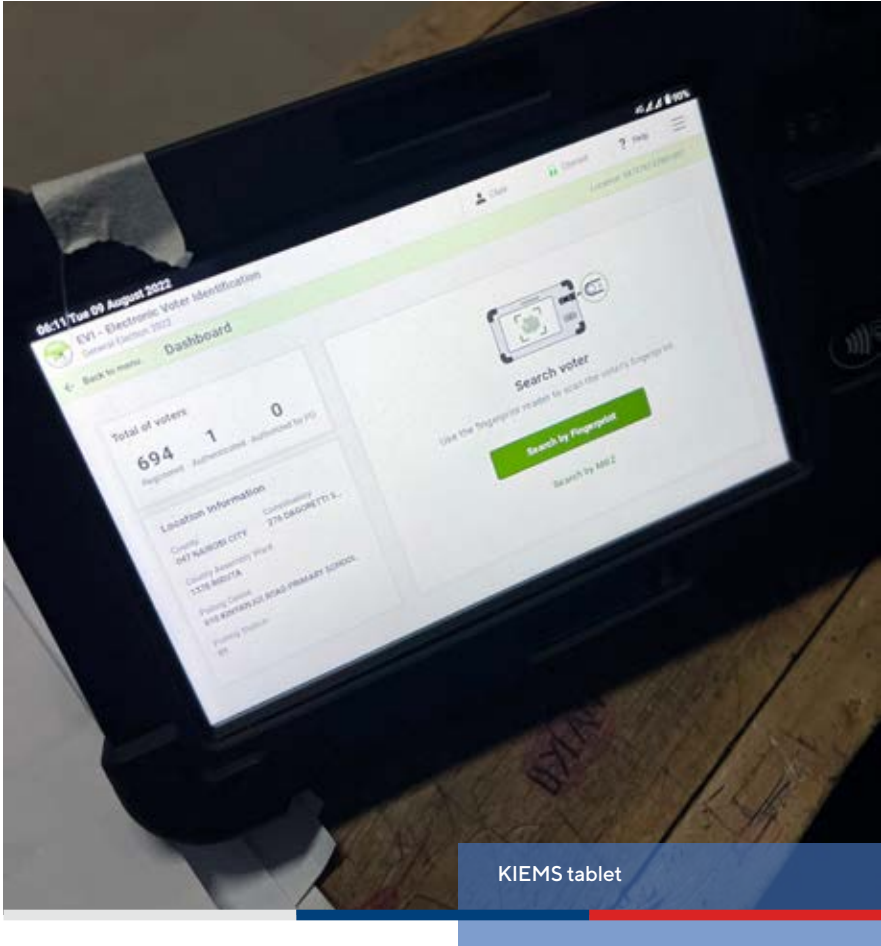
It is equally important that the IEBC of Kenya does not disclose detailed information on the outcome of voting in all types and levels of elections except for the presidential election.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends that attention should be paid to the above deficiencies identified during the Election Day observation on August 9, 2022; if introduced, they will contribute to further development and improvement of the electoral and election administration systems in the Republic of Kenya.

Priority recommendations:

1. Take measures to ensure a proper quality of technical means and digital infrastructure used for voter identification, as well as ballot processing and counting during Election Day;
2. Consider implementing the digital tools used in the presidential election in other types and levels of election in order to optimize information processing



- and protection, as well as to accelerate ballot counting;
3. Explore the available options for optimizing the Voter Register updating procedure to get all potential voters with active suffrage involved in the electoral process;

Other recommendations:

4. Promote the system of photo and video recording of infringements at polling stations;
5. Organize a more detailed disclosure of information on the results of all types and levels of elections.

ANNEX

Results of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya Election, August 9, 2022

Party	Number of seats		Coalition
	Elected	Appointed	
Orange Democratic Movement	89	3	Azimio la Umoja
Jubilee Party	28	1	
Wiper Democratic Movement	26	1	
United Democratic Movement	7	0	
Democratic Action Party	5	0	
Kenya African National Union	5	0	
Pamoja African Alliance	3	0	
Maendeleo Chap Chap Party	2	0	
United Party of Independent Alliance	2	0	
Kenya Union Party	2	0	
United Progressive Alliance	2	0	
Movement for Democracy and Growth	1	0	
United Democratic Movement	1	0	
Subtotal:	168	5	173
United Progressive Alliance	143	5	Kenya Kwanza
Amani National Congress	8	1	
Forum for the Restoration of Democracy	6	1	
The Service Party	2	0	
Chama Cha Kazi	1	0	
Democratic Party	1	0	
Subtotal:	154	7	161
National Vision Party	1	0	-
The National Agenda Party (KENDA)	1	0	-
National Ordinary People Empowerment Union	1	0	-
Independent	12	0	-
Subtotal:	15	0	15
Total	337	12	349

Results of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya Election, August 9, 2022

Coalition	Number of seats		
	Elected	Appointed	Total
Kenya Kwanza	24	10	34
Azimio la Umoja	23	10	33
Total	47	20	67

Results of the Presidential Election in the Republic of Kenya,
August 9, 2022

County	Registered voters	Votes cast					Votes cast				Valid votes	Invalid/blank	Turnout, %
		Raila Odinga		William Ruto			David Waihiga		George Wajackoyah				
			%	Votes	%		Votes	%	Votes	%			
Mombasa	642,362	161,015	58.07	113,700	41.00		482	0.17	2,104	0.76	277,301	3,812	43.76
Kwale	328,316	125,541	70.13	51,918	29.00		413	0.23	1,137	0.64	179,009	1,359	54.94
Kilifi	588,842	204,536	71.64	77,331	27.09		1,067	0.37	2,552	0.89	285,496	3,191	49.03
Tana River	141,110	51,390	54.96	41,505	44.39		198	0.21	412	0.44	93,505	1,068	67.02
Lamu	81,468	26,160	52.25	22,876	45.69		186	0.37	848	1.69	50,070	887	62.55
Taita-Taveta	182,126	81,271	72.89	29,148	26.14		249	0.22	826	0.74	111,494	999	61.77
Garissa	201,513	81,376	74.01	28,111	25.56		77	0.07	396	0.36	109,960	590	54.86
Wajir	207,767	83,486	62.59	49,062	36.78		217	0.16	626	0.47	133,391	1,014	64.69
Mandera	217,034	106,279	78.40	28,351	20.91		259	0.19	676	0.50	135,565	846	62.85
Marsabit	166,944	55,675	48.45	58,782	51.16		144	0.13	303	0.26	114,904	481	69.12
Isiolo	89,535	26,449	44.85	32,302	54.77		52	0.09	175	0.30	58,978	536	66.47
Meru	772,573	103,679	20.47	398,946	78.77		1,053	0.21	2,798	0.55	506,476	4,809	66.18
Tharaka-Nithi	231,966	15,062	9.32	145,081	89.79		461	0.29	974	0.60	161,578	980	70.08
Embu	334,684	31,209	14.12	187,981	85.04		523	0.24	1,335	0.60	221,048	1,899	66.61
Kitui	532,833	235,402	71.53	89,419	27.17		1,412	0.43	2,840	0.86	329,073	3,324	62.38
Machakos	687,691	304,809	74.30	101,456	24.73		1,070	0.26	2,903	0.71	410,238	3,759	60.20
Makueni	479,516	229,213	78.82	59,195	20.35		575	0.20	1,836	0.63	290,819	1,908	61.05
Nyandarua	361,217	49,228	20.46	189,519	78.76		821	0.34	1,048	0.44	240,616	1,622	67.06
Nyeri	482,000	52,052	15.92	272,507	83.37		982	0.30	1,339	0.41	326,880	2,271	68.29
Kirinyaga	376,137	37,909	14.53	220,984	84.70		640	0.25	1,367	0.52	260,900	1,823	69.85
Murang'a	621,027	73,526	17.49	343,349	81.68		1,530	0.36	1,938	0.46	420,343	2,554	68.10
Kiambu	1,275,168	210,580	25.52	606,429	73.49		3,805	0.46	4,377	0.53	825,191	5,635	65.15
Turkana	238,554	96,117	66.97	46,696	32.53		274	0.19	445	0.31	143,532	1,099	60.63
West Pokot	220,042	63,092	36.32	109,944	63.29		194	0.11	375	0.22	173,705	1,258	79.51
Samburu	100,052	41,737	59.33	28,329	40.27		62	0.09	220	0.31	70,348	340	70.65
Trans-Nzoia	399,230	132,440	52.87	116,776	46.61		414	0.17	883	0.35	250,513	2,470	63.37
Uasin-Gishu	506,317	76,009	21.73	272,868	77.99		392	0.11	594	0.17	349,863	2,083	69.51
Elgeyo-Marakwet	213,904	4,893	2.96	160,033	96.86		122	0.07	176	0.11	165,224	1,537	77.96
Nandi	406,393	26,034	8.46	280,813	91.30		281	0.09	447	0.15	307,575	1,492	76.05
Baringo	281,107	41,227	18.99	175,170	80.69		220	0.10	474	0.22	217,091	1,014	77.59
Laikipia	263,273	48,908	28.93	119,142	70.46		432	0.26	602	0.36	169,084	1,336	64.73

County	Registered voters	Votes cast					Votes cast				Valid votes	Invalid/blank	Turnout, %
		Raila Odinga		William Ruto			David Waihiga		George Wajackoyah				
			%	Votes	%		Votes	%	Votes	%			
Nakuru	1,055,515	226,052	32.94	455,864	66.44		1,819	0.27	2,435	0.35	686,170	5,503	65.53
Narok	398,852	159,455	51.70	148,310	48.09		228	0.07	439	0.14	308,432	1,597	77.73
Kajiado	463,389	158,556	51.38	148,449	48.10		686	0.22	933	0.30	308,624	1,647	66.96
Kericho	428,126	15,053	4.50	318,861	95.32		207	0.06	395	0.12	334,516	1,821	78.56
Bomet	377,023	13,383	4.47	285,428	95.27		234	0.08	561	0.19	299,606	1,545	79.88
Kakamega	844,709	357,857	71.04	141,166	28.02		1,237	0.25	3,459	0.69	503,719	5,562	60.29
Vihiga	310,063	114,714	62.23	67,633	36.69		515	0.28	1,471	0.80	184,333	2,115	60.13
Bungoma	646,612	145,280	35.86	255,906	63.16		1,581	0.39	2,384	0.59	405,151	5,516	63.51
Busia	416,818	226,042	81.68	48,801	17.63		473	0.17	1,414	0.51	276,730	2,889	67.08
Siaya	533,602	371,092	98.60	4,320	1.15		208	0.06	734	0.20	376,354	1,894	70.89
Kisumu	607,496	419,997	97.45	10,011	2.32		253	0.06	744	0.17	431,005	2,572	71.37
Homa Bay	551,111	399,784	98.93	3,497	0.87		122	0.03	709	0.18	404,112	2,045	73.70
Migori	469,053	294,136	84.58	52,525	15.10		297	0.09	815	0.23	347,773	1,611	74.49
Kisii	637,111	265,078	65.80	135,326	33.59		754	0.19	1,678	0.42	402,836	4,391	63.92
Nyamira	323,283	129,025	61.84	78,356	37.55		345	0.17	925	0.44	208,651	1,997	65.16
Nairobi City	2,416,551	767,395	57.30	561,775	41.94		4,390	0.33	5,807	0.43	1,339,367	12,869	55.96
Diaspora	10,433	3,727	62.24	2,190	36.57		31	0.52	40	0.67	5,988	44	57.82
Total	22,120,458	6,942,930	48.85	7,176,141	50.49		31,987	0.23	61,969	0.44	14,213,137	113,614	64.77

REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

Memorial of Angola's 1st President,
Agostinho Neto, in Luanda

GENERAL ELECTIONS
AUGUST 24, 2022

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

Pursuant to Articles 112 and 119 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola and Article 3 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” the incumbent President of the Republic of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, following consultations held with the National Electoral Commission of Angola and the Council of the Republic on April 6, 2022, signed an official decree calling the next general elections for August 24, 2022.

The upcoming general elections were to elect new members to the 220-seat unicameral parliament of the country, the National Assembly (pt. Assembleia Nacional), and the President of the Republic of Angola.

Election Significance

The general elections are a major event in Angola’s political life, as they launch a new 5-year political cycle, renew the composition of the Government and the body of the members of the parliament (MPs), and most importantly, determine a new leader of the country. Angola is a Presidential Republic, hence, the key powers are concentrated in the hands of the country’s President.

The August 24, 2022 elections were to decide which political forces would determine and implement Angola’s domestic and foreign policy for the next 5 years.

It is equally important that the 2022 elections launched only

the fifth electoral cycle in the country since the establishment of a multiparty system in Angola in 1991 and the end of the grinding civil war in 2002, which again emphasizes the importance of the August 24, 2022 general elections as a factor of preserving national harmony, further consolidation of representative institutions and higher public confidence in democratic procedures.

It should also be noted that the August 24, 2022 general elections took place against the backdrop of a protracted economic crisis caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the structural economic reforms undertaken by Angola’s President João Lourenço.

Electoral System

National Assembly Elections

Pursuant to Article 144 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola and Articles 24-27 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” the National Assembly shall be elected by a proportional system in 2 stages.

90 MPs are elected by closed party lists in 18 5-seat constituencies, the boundaries of which correspond to the borders of the country’s 18 provinces.⁵⁰ This means that electoral associations (political parties and coalitions of political parties) present separate party lists in each provincial constituency. The seats assigned to each province of Angola are distributed among the parties participating in the elections

according to the vote results in each constituency using the D’Hondt (Jefferson) method.

It is important to note that all the provinces of Angola have uniform representation in the National Assembly regardless of the number of residents and registered voters there, which means that the current division of the constituencies in the context of the number of voters assigned to them is disparate, thus voting power differs from constituency to constituency.⁵¹

The remaining 130 MPs are elected by proportional representation using closed lists in a single nationwide constituency. There is no separate voting for the MPs in the provincial and nationwide constituencies: in particular, all the votes cast for the electoral associations in all provincial constituencies are summed up, the votes of those who voted abroad are added, and then, the seats in the national constituency are allocated based on the total number of ballots cast and using a modified Hare method.⁵²

The term of office of the National Assembly members is 5 years.

Election of the President and Vice President of Angola

The presidential election in Angola is held under a relatively rare system of the double simultaneous vote (DSV), i.e., all votes cast for a closed party list in the single nationwide constituency are automatically counted as votes cast for the presidential candidates.

⁵⁰Pursuant to Article 5 of the Constitution of Angola and Law No. 18/16 of October 17, 2016, “On the Political and Administrative Division,” the country’s territory is administratively divided into 18 provinces, which are divided into 164 municipalities, which in turn are divided into 518 communes.

⁵¹The fewer voters in a district, the fewer votes the candidate list needs to win, the greater the voting power, and vice versa. On average, there are about 800,000 voters per provincial constituency, yet the actual number of registered voters differs from district to district as much as by an order of magnitude. For example, the largest regional constituency, Luanda, officially has 4,670,797 registered voters, while the smallest constituency, North Cuanza, officially has only 249,917 registered voters. Thus, with equal district magnitude, the voting power in Angola’s capital region is about 18.7 times less than in North Cuanza.

⁵²In the case of Angola, the tally using the Hare quota is done slightly differently: the number of votes received by each party list is divided by the Hare quota, plus the number of candidates on the electoral association list in the national constituency.



The members of the polling site commission identify the voter

The presidential candidate in Angola must be listed at the top of the nationwide list of an electoral association, and a vice president nominee must rank second.

To win the presidential election, a presidential candidate and his/her running mate need the party or coalition of parties that nominated them to receive a plurality of votes (FPTP system), with no additional requirements for voter turnout.

The term of office of the President and Vice President is 5 years; nobody is eligible to pursue a third term in the office of the President.

Electoral Legislation

The electoral procedures during the August 24, 2022 elections in the Republic of Angola were regulated by the following laws, normative acts, and documents:

1. The 2010 Constitution of the Republic of Angola;
2. Organic Law No. 12/12 of April 13, 2012, “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission”;
3. Organic Law No. 2/17 of January 23, 2017, “On the Angolan Media Regulatory Entity”;
4. Organic Law No. 36/11 of December 21, 2021, “On General Elections”;

National Assembly of Angola Election

220 members

5-year tenure

90 members

elected by party-list proportional representation in 18 MMDs

130 members

elected by party-list proportional representation in a single nationwide constituency

President of Angola Election

Double simultaneous vote

- all votes cast for a closed party list in the single nationwide constituency counted for the presidential candidates
- leader of the national list is a presidential candidate
- plurality of votes needed to win

5-year tenure

2-terms limit

- 5. Law No. 22/10 of December 3, 2010, "On Political Parties";
- 6. Law No. 10/12 of March 22, 2012, "On Political Parties Funding";
- 7. Law No. 11/12 of March 22, 2012, "The Electoral Observation Law";
- 8. Law No. 81/15 of 15 June 2015, "The Unofficial Voter Registration Law";
- 9. Law No. 2/16 of 15 April 2016, "The Nationality Law";
- 10. Law No. 1/17 of January 23, 2017, "The Media Law";
- 11. Law No. 21/21 of September 21, 2021, "The Official Electoral Registration Law";
- 12. Resolution No. 7/12 of March 23, 2012, "The Electoral Code of Conduct.

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

Pursuant to Article 107 of Angola’s Constitution, Article 2, 7, and 88-95 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” as well as Articles 1-39 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the tasks of electoral management at all levels in the Republic of Angola are entrusted to a 4-tier vertically integrated election administration system:

- 1. National Electoral Commission (pt. Comissão Nacional Eleitoral);
 - 1.1. Plenary (pt. Plenário);
 - 1.2. Administration, Finance, and Personnel Management Directorate

- (pt. Direcção de Administração, Finanças e Gestão de Pessoal);
- 1.3. Electoral Organization and Logistics Directorate (pt. Direcção de Organização Eleitoral e Logística);
- 1.4. Training, Civic and Electoral Education and Information Directorate (pt. Direcção de Formação, Educação Cívica e Eleitoral);
- 1.5. Information Technology and Statistics Directorate (pt. Direcção das Tecnologias de Informação e Estatística);
- 1.6. Legal Office (pt. Gabinete Jurídico);
- 1.7. Internal Audit Office (pt. Gabinete de Auditoria Interna);

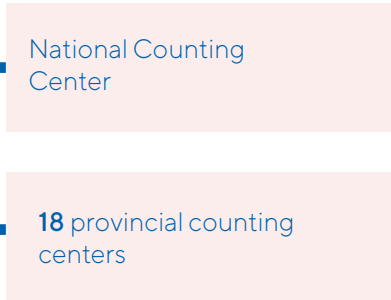


The polling site commission prepares for the opening, witnessed by observers and candidate representatives

Election Administration System



Vote Counting System



administration of elections at all levels, is the main body responsible for election administration.

Pursuant to Article 6 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission” and Article 10 of the Electoral Code of Conduct, the direct tasks of the NEC of Angola shall be as follows:

- 1. prepare and run elections at all levels;
- 2. form proposals for the NEC’s budget and submit them to public authorities for approval and adoption;
- 3. raise awareness of citizens, candidates, political parties, and coalitions of political parties about issues related to the electoral process;
- 4. publish outcomes of general elections and referenda;
- 5. draw rules and set a date for out-of-county voting and a date of early voting in accordance with the law provisions;⁵⁴
- 6. control and coordinate the process of transmitting voting results;
- 7. organize logistics during election administration;
- 8. store and manage voters’ personal data;
- 9. compile voter registers;
- 10. make decisions on appeals and complaints from citizens, political parties, and coalitions regarding the preparation and administration of the general elections;
- 11. ensure equity for all candidates;
- 12. count votes cast in general elections and publish the final vote outcome;

- 1.8. Office of the President of the National Electoral Commission (pt. Gabinete do Presidente da Comissão Nacional Eleitoral);
- 1.9. Documentation and Information Center (pt. Centro de Documentação e Informação);
- 1.10. National Counting Center (pt. Centro de Escrutínio Nacional);
- 2. 18 Provincial Election Commissions (pt. Comissão Provincial Eleitoral) and 18 Provincial Counting Centers (pt. centro de escrutínio provincial);

- 3. 164 Municipal Election Commissions (pt. Comissão Municipal Eleitoral);
- 4. 13,237 polling stations (pt. assembleia de voto), 13,212 of which were established in Angola proper, and the other 25 polling stations operated in Angola’s diplomatic and consular missions abroad.⁵³

National Electoral Commission of Angola

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Angola, a standing independent body with full autonomy in the preparation and

⁵³ In particular, voting abroad was organized in 12 countries: Belgium (1 polling station), Brazil (3 polling stations), France (1 polling station), Germany (1 polling station), the UK (1 polling station), DRC (3 polling stations), Namibia (3 polling stations), the Netherlands (1 polling station), Portugal (2 polling stations), Republic of the Congo (3 polling stations), South Africa (3 polling stations), Zambia (3 polling stations).

⁵⁴ Pursuant to Article 102 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” the following categories of Angolan citizens have the right to vote early: the military (1), the police and other law enforcement officers (2), civil defense and firefighters (3), members and employees of the NEC and its subordinate structures (4), emergency medical services personnel (5), doctors on duty and other health workers (6), hospital inpatients (7), employees of diamond exploration companies (8), employees of oil companies working offshore on Election Day (9), workers in the marine, aviation, rail and road transport (10), citizens who need to travel abroad because of illness or work (11), detained or imprisoned citizens who are not disfranchised (12), professional athletes who need to travel abroad to represent the national team or club in official competitions on Election Day (13).

13. approve the structure and powers of provincial and Municipal Election Commissions;

14. approve the layout of ballots, polling station reports, and other materials used at all stages of the electoral process;

15. approve regulations, guidelines, directives, recommendations, and opinions related to electoral process administration;

16. draw lots for the final lists of candidates registered for the elections;

17. draw and approve maps of election centers and polling stations;

18. promote free, fair, and transparent elections;

19. interact with relevant public authorities to ensure public safety during the elections;

20. promote people’s awareness about issues related to the electoral process through the media;

21. allocate broadcasting time to candidates on radio and television following Angolan electoral legislation;

22. approve terms and conditions for the recruitment, selection, training, and allocation of the polling station personnel;

23. evaluate expenditures of political parties and coalitions on election campaigns and other activities related to their participation in elections in conformity with the electoral legislation of Angola;

24. decide on accreditation of national and international election observers and distribute access areas among them;

25. register representatives of the election lists;

26. test digital technologies used at all phases of the electoral process;

27. divide the territory of Angola into constituencies upon consultations with the provincial and Municipal Election Commissions;

28. organize storage and updating of computer software and files related to the voter register;

29. fulfill other functions attributed by law to the NEC of Angola.

Pursuant to Article 7 and 21 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission”, the NEC of Angola consists of 17 members:

1. President of the NEC, appointed by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary from among the serving judges, following a special certification (once appointed to the office of the NEC President, the approved candidate resigns from the judicial office);⁵⁵

2. 16 members of the NEC, approved by the National Assembly from among the candidates nominated by the parliamentary parties.⁵⁶

According to Article 8 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the term of office of the NEC members is 5 years, reeligible for 1 more term. The new NEC members take office upon being sworn in, which should take place within 30 days after their investiture.

The current NEC of Angola has been in office since February 19, 2020, currently the NEC is headed by Manuel Pereira da Silva. The NEC President, according to Article 18 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” shall perform the following tasks:

1. chair meetings of the Plenary of the NEC of Angola;

2. represent the NEC of Angola;

3. convene the Plenary of the NEC and propose agenda for its meetings;

4. direct activities of the central and local bodies of the NEC of Angola;

5. inaugurate members of the Provincial Election Commissions;

6. sign bylaws of the NEC of Angolan;

7. nominate candidates for leadership positions of Angola’s NEC bodies and dismiss NEC officers from their leadership positions with the approval of the Plenary of the NEC of Angola;

8. sign credentials of members of provincial and Municipal Election Commissions;

9. appoint and dismiss the technical and administrative staff of the NEC of Angola;

10. administer the budget and assets of the NEC of Angola;

11. exercise disciplinary powers in accordance with the provisions of the law;

12. perform other functions assigned to the President of the NEC of Angola by law and the Plenary of the NEC.

Pursuant to Article 11 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the NEC structure is divided into 4 types of management bodies: main, executive, technical, and auxiliary.

⁵⁵ The Supreme Council of the Judiciary (*pt.* Conselho Superior da Magistratura Judicial) is one of the highest bodies of the judicial branch of Angola, headed by the President of the Supreme Court of Angola, which oversees the functioning of the country’s judicial system and the judges’ discipline at all levels.

⁵⁶ Candidates for the NEC of Angola from parliamentary parties must be elected by an absolute majority of the National Assembly, with the number of nominees in proportion to the number of party seats in the parliament. Besides, the party nominees should not hold any senior offices in administrative and/or parliamentary structures of the political parties. However, the way the national body responsible for managing the electoral process is composed – of party-nominated candidates depending on their representation in the parliament – causes doubt in the principle of impartiality of the members of this body.



Voters and candidate representatives near the tents where polling stations are located

- The Plenary is the main NEC body. It discusses and passes all issues and final decisions related to the preparation and administration of elections and related NEC activities.

The tasks of the Plenary of the NEC, according to Article 13 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” include:

1. organization and administration of general elections, as well as management of other activities in the electoral process within the competence of the NEC of Angola;

2. approve the budget of the NEC of Angola;

3. check the accuracy of the voter register;

4. approve ballot paper layouts;

5. carry out a draw procedure for candidates during general elections to establish the order
6. of their placement on the ballot papers;

6. determine the place of formation and operation of polling stations;

7. approve regulations, guidelines, directives, recommendations, and opinions related to electoral process administration;

8. approve principles for the organization and operation of polling stations, as well as ensure the proper functioning of technologies and digital solutions in use at all stages of the electoral process;

9. approve the regulations on the NEC of Angola, Provincial and Municipal Election Commissions;

10. approve candidates for executive, technical, and auxiliary positions in the NEC of Angola;

11. allocate broadcasting time to candidates on radio and
12. television per Angolan electoral legislation;

12. approve samples of the NEC seal, polling station result records, and any other documents and instruments to be used at all stages of the electoral process;

13. accredit national and international election observers per the Angolan election legislation;

14. allocate the areas of observation during the elections among national and international observers, per the Angolan electoral legislation;

15. sum up the results of general elections and publish the vote outcome;

16. approve voter education programs;

17. approve terms and conditions for the recruitment, selection, training, and allocation of the polling station personnel;

- 18. approve the principles of organizing logistics and rules for the distribution of sets of electoral materials and other means necessary for running elections;
- 19. approve rules for the participation of representatives of the political parties and party coalitions in meetings of the Plenary of the NEC of Angola;
- 20. adjudicate, within the competencies of the NEC of Angola, complaints and appeals lodged against the decisions of the officials in charge of the preparation and administration of elections; evaluate expenditures of political parties and coalitions on election campaigns and other activities related to their participation in elections in conformity with the electoral legislation of Angola;
- 22. draft and publish final reports of the NEC in the Republic's Diary newspaper;
- 23. register representatives of the election lists;
- 24. test digital technologies used at all phases of the electoral process;
- 25. divide the territory of Angola into constituencies upon consultations with the Provincial and Municipal Election Commissions;
- 26. assist in the storage and updating of computer software and files related to the voter register;
- 27. perform other functions attributed by law to the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

As per Article 12 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," the NEC Plenary is composed of all 17 NEC members, as well as the following persons in the capacity of permanent assistants:

- 1. a representative of the executive authorities assisting in the organization of the electoral process;

- 2. up to 5 representatives of parliamentary political parties or parliamentary coalitions of the political parties;
- 3. a representative of each political party or coalition of political parties officially registered for the elections.

Pursuant to Article 16 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," all decisions of the NEC Plenary shall be passed by a consensus vote or, if not possible, by a majority vote of the Plenary members (50% + 1 vote). It is important to note that the right to vote is restricted to the NEC members, with the NEC President having a casting vote. At the same time, permanent assistants have the right to attend and speak at the NEC Plenary sessions without a vote.

The frequency of the NEC Plenary sessions is regulated by Article 14 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission": the NEC Plenary sessions are held regularly every 15 days, there is also a possibility to convene an Extraordinary Session of the NEC Plenary upon a decision of the NEC President or request of half of the NEC members (i.e., at least 9 persons).

The executive bodies of the NEC of Angola include the Administration, Finance, and Personnel Management Directorate, Electoral Organization and Logistics Directorate, Training, Civic and Electoral Education and Information Directorate, as well as the Information Technology and Statistics Directorate.

According to Article 22 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," the Administration, Finance, and Personnel Management Directorate is charged with the following tasks:

- 1. ensure technical and administrative conditions for normal functioning of the NEC of Angola and its bodies;
- 2. draft budget and expenditure reports of the NEC of Angola to the NEC Plenary;
- 3. implement the budget of the NEC of Angola;
- 4. ensure the management and maintenance of the Angolan NEC assets;
- 5. recruit, select and train the staff for the NEC of Angola;
- 6. conduct day-to-day administration of the NEC of Angola;
- 7. other functions assigned by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Pursuant to Article 23 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," the Electoral Organization and Logistics Directorate of the NEC is charged with the following functions:

- 1. track the need for electoral materials sets;
- 2. plan the purchase and distribution of electoral materials sets;
- 3. compile the voter register;
- 4. register representatives of the election lists at polling stations;
- 5. interact with Provincial Election Commissions regarding electoral materials sets;
- 6. update the voter database;
- 7. make recommendations on the location of election centers and allocation of the grassroots staff to polling stations;
- 8. ensure logistics during the preparation and administration of elections, pursuant to the decisions of the Plenary of the Angolan National Electoral Commission;
- 9. organize out-of-county voting in conformity with the decisions of the Plenary of the NEC of Angola;
- 10. organize early voting, in conformity with the decisions of the Plenary of the NEC of Angola;

- 11. organize the process of transmitting voting results, in conformity with the decisions of the Angolan NEC Plenary;
- 12. other functions assigned by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Pursuant to Article 24 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," the Training, Civic and Electoral Education and Information Directorate of the NEC provides for the following:

- 1. selection and training of the staff working in the election management system;
- 2. formation of a training program on elections and voting procedures for voters;
- 3. equity for all candidates;
- 4. other functions attributed by law to the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Pursuant to Article 25 of Organic Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," the Information Technology and Statistics Directorate of the NEC shall fulfill the following functions:

- 1. form and implement a plan for electoral process digitalization of the NEC of Angola;
- 2. process statistical data on Angolan NEC activities;
- 3. ensure the effectiveness of the digital solutions used by the NEC of Angola in the electoral process;
- 4. regularly update the Angolan NEC's website;
- 5. ensure safe storage and efficient processing of analog or digital information from the central and local bodies of the NEC of Angola;
- 6. provide digital technology training to the Angolan NEC staff;
- 7. provide expert opinion on the digital technologies used by the NEC of Angola in the electoral process;
- 8. facilitate decision-making on modern digital technologies;



A stack of tear-off ballots on the table of the election commission members

- 9. purchase and install technical equipment in the offices of the NEC of Angola and its subordinate entities;
- 10. test the digital technologies used at all stages of the electoral process;
- 11. organize storage and updating of computer software and files related to the electoral register;
- 12. other functions assigned by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

The technical bodies of the NEC of Angola include the Legal Office and the Internal Audit Office.

Pursuant to Article 26 of Constitutional Law No. 12/12 "On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission," the Legal Office shall fulfill the following functions:

- 1. work related to the legal aspect of the preparation and administration of elections;
- 2. provide legal advice to the NEC bodies and prepare official legal opinions;
- 3. prepare and keep the legal documentation necessary for the functioning of the NEC of Angola;

4. other functions assigned by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Pursuant to Article 27 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Internal Audit Office is charged with the following tasks:

1. conduct internal audit of the NEC of Angola;
2. ensure the quality and transparency of the financial and administrative management of the NEC of Angola;
3. other functions assigned by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

The auxiliary bodies of the NEC of Angola include the Office of the President of the National Electoral Commission and the Documentation and Information Center.

According to Article 28 of Constitutional Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Office of the President of the National Electoral Commission is charged with the following:

1. handle the correspondence of the President of the NEC of Angola;

2. dispatch letters and other documentation to the Angolan NEC bodies, public authorities of Angola, and private organizations;
3. keep under control documents classified as ‘secret’ and intended for the Angolan NEC President;
4. organize events with the participation of the President of the NEC of Angola;
5. prepare missions and business trips of the President of the NEC of Angola;
6. other functions assigned by the NEC President.

Under Article 29 of Constitutional Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” Documentation and Information Center shall fulfill the following functions:

1. disseminate the strategic vision of the NEC of Angola;
2. integrate and systematize information about the NEC of Angola and its activities;
3. lead information campaigns to promote initiatives or programs of the NEC of Angola;
4. liaise with the media to disseminate information about the Angolan NEC work;
5. contribute to the creation of a specialized library of the NEC of Angola;
6. facilitate the publishing of magazines and other printed and electronic issues on the NEC activities;
7. other functions assigned by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Provincial Election Commissions

Lower down in the election administration system are the Provincial Election Commissions, which operate in all 18 provinces of Angola. Like the NEC of Angola, the Provincial Election Commissions are permanent bodies responsible for the preparation and administration of elections of all levels in a particular province.



Alexander Kholodov, the CCRF EOM member, gives an interview to Public Television of Angola

Pursuant to Article 35 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Provincial Election Commissions are structurally subordinated to the NEC of Angola and work per the decrees, decisions, and other regulations issued by the President and the Plenary of the NEC of Angola. The same article regulates the tasks delegated by the NEC of Angola to the Provincial Election Commissions:

1. appointing members of polling site commissions (PSCs) and publishing their names with subsequent notification;
2. assistance in the preparation and organization of local elections;
3. election tabulation in the provincial constituencies;
4. preparation and publication of reports on provincial election results, in accordance with the regulations, guidelines, and other decisions of the NEC Plenary.

Pursuant to Article 34 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Provincial Election Commissions consist of 17 members, following the pattern of the NEC of Angola:

1. President of the Provincial Election Commissions, appointed by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary from among the 7 judges, following a special certification (once appointed to the office of the President of a Provincial Election Commission, the approved candidate resigns from the judicial office);⁵⁷
2. 16 members of a Provincial Election Commission, approved

by the National Assembly from among the candidates nominated by the parliamentary parties.⁵⁸

The term of office of the members of Provincial Election Commissions is 5 years, reeligible for 1 more term. The induction of members of Provincial Election Commissions takes place at the same time as the induction of members of the NEC of Angola.

Municipal Election Commissions

The next step down in the hierarchy of Angola’s election administration system is taken by Municipal Election Commissions.

Pursuant to Articles 7 and 38 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Municipal Election Commissions fulfill the following functions:

1. register and accredit representatives of election lists and their replacements at each polling site;
2. publish the names of the PSC members and the representatives of the election lists at the polling sites in the daily newspapers, place the lists of the PSC members and representatives of the election lists at the polling sites;
3. inform the Provincial Election Commissions about voting results at the polling stations established within the respective municipalities;
4. send electoral materials to the Provincial Election Commission;
5. other functions attributed by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Under Article 34 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Municipal Election Commissions also consist of 17 members, appointed following the system applied to the members of Provincial Election Commissions mentioned above. Under Article 34 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission,” the Municipal Election Commissions also consist of 17 members, appointed following the system applied to the members of Provincial Election Commissions mentioned above.

Polling Stations and Polling Sites

At the lowest level of the election administration system are located polling stations subdivided into several polling sites (*pt. mesa de voto*). According to the requirements laid down in Article 86 of the Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” no more than 750 voters may be assigned to a single polling site, with all the voters assigned to a polling station being distributed in the alphabetic order of the station’s voter register.

Each polling site of a polling station, pursuant to Article 89 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” is operated by a PSC that administers the voting procedure. The PSCs consist of 4 persons, who wear identification vests of different colors: the PSC chair (light blue vest), the PSC secretary (dark gray vest), and 2 PSC staffers (dark blue vest).

Under Article 89 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” the PSC members must be able

⁵⁷ In the event the Superior Council of the Judiciary fails to appoint a judge to the office of the President of the Provincial Election Commissions, Article 34, paragraph 2 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission” provides for the possibility to elect an Angolan national residing permanently in the relevant province of the country and having relevant professional experience and “good reputation.”

⁵⁸ Like in the case of nominees to the NEC of Angola, candidates to a Provincial Election Commission from the parliamentary parties must be elected by an absolute majority of the National Assembly, with the number of nominees in proportion to the number of party seats in the parliament. Besides, the party nominees should not hold any senior offices in administrative and/or parliamentary structures of the political parties.

to read and write Portuguese, and at least 1 of them must know the predominant language in use in the region where the election center is located.

Polling staff is hired by the NEC of Angola under short-term contracts from Angolan nationals with appropriate training and/or experience in election administration. If necessary, the NEC of Angola may engage active civil servants both in Angola and abroad in the PSC work. However, the PSC members may not be serving military personnel, nonretired officers of paramilitary forces, or representatives of traditional power institutions.⁵⁹

The PSC chair of the first polling site is appointed the polling station head. In addition to the basic functions, according to Article 86, paragraphs 6, 8, and 9 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” the tasks of the PSC chair also include organizing the voting space in the polling station premise, as well as regulating the line and the flow of voters at the polling station and the surrounding area. Large polling stations have a logistics specialist (light gray vest), an employee of the NEC of Angola, who assists the polling station head with managing the line and the flow of voters.

When choosing sites for establishing polling stations, preference is given to school buildings, yet polling stations can also be located in public, municipal, or private buildings, shall they comply with appropriate conditions stated in Article 87, paragraph 3 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections.” It also states that polling stations cannot be located in police stations, in facilities where Angolan armed forces and other

paramilitary units are deployed, in buildings owned or leased by political parties and/or political party coalitions, in buildings where traditional power institutions are located, in places of worship, or in places where alcohol is sold.

Vote Counting System

The vote counting system is arranged as follows: when voting and vote counting is over, the PSC chair shall fill out a report on the voting returns at the respective polling site, after which the polling station head shall make a final report on the returns received from all polling sites.

The final report is then sent to the National Counting Center at the NEC of Angola and to the Provincial Counting Center at the Provincial Election Commission of the respective province, along with all electoral materials sealed in separate envelopes (sorted ballots, voter registers, stubs of stacks of ballots, PSC reports, etc.). In the case of polling stations established abroad, all electoral materials are sent directly to the National Counting Center.

The Provincial Counting Centers aggregate the reports with vote returns at the polling stations, reconcile them with the ballots and vote count reports from the polling sites and verify them. All these feed the final report of the Provincial Election Commission, which, together with the voter register and other reporting documentation, is transmitted to the National Counting Center. It is noteworthy that the sorted and counted ballot papers remain at the Provincial Election Commissions to be stored there for 1 year after the announcement of the final election results.

The National Counting Center at the NEC of Angola collects all verified polling station reports from all Provincial Counting Centers, as well as other electoral materials and reports on voting results from the overseas polling stations, reconciles the Provincial Election Commissions’ reports with the electoral materials received, and then consolidate the votes into tally sheets.

The organization of the National and Provincial Counting Centers, their structure, as well as the transmission procedure for the information on the voting returns and the electoral materials from the polling stations to the National and Provincial Counting Centers are regulated by Articles 11 and 30 of Organic Law No. 12/12 “On the Organization and Functioning of the National Electoral Commission” and Articles 116–137 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections.”

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Constitution of Angola, Articles 4, 8, and 9 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” all Angolan citizens above the age of 18 have suffrage. The exceptions cover those Angolan citizens who, according to Article 9 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections”:

1. are ruled ineligible of the relevant right by a judicial verdict;
2. have mental or cognitive disabilities, confirmed by a court decision or a medical note from a specialized medical institution;
3. have not served a term at detention facilities following a court decision (except for probationers).

Voter registration and compilation of the voter register in Angola are governed by provisions of Law No. 21/21 of September 21, 2021, “The Official Electoral Registration Law,” amending Law No. 81/15 of 15 June 2015, “The Unofficial Voter Registration Law,” adopted earlier. In particular, voter registration is carried out continuously in an automatic mode.

The NEC of Angola bears immediate responsibility for compiling the voter register. The voter registry is updated based on information obtained from the Adult Citizens Database administered by the Ministry of Territorial Administration (*pt.* Ministério de Administração Territorial). The role

of the NEC in compiling the voter registry is actually limited to monitoring and verifying the incoming data.

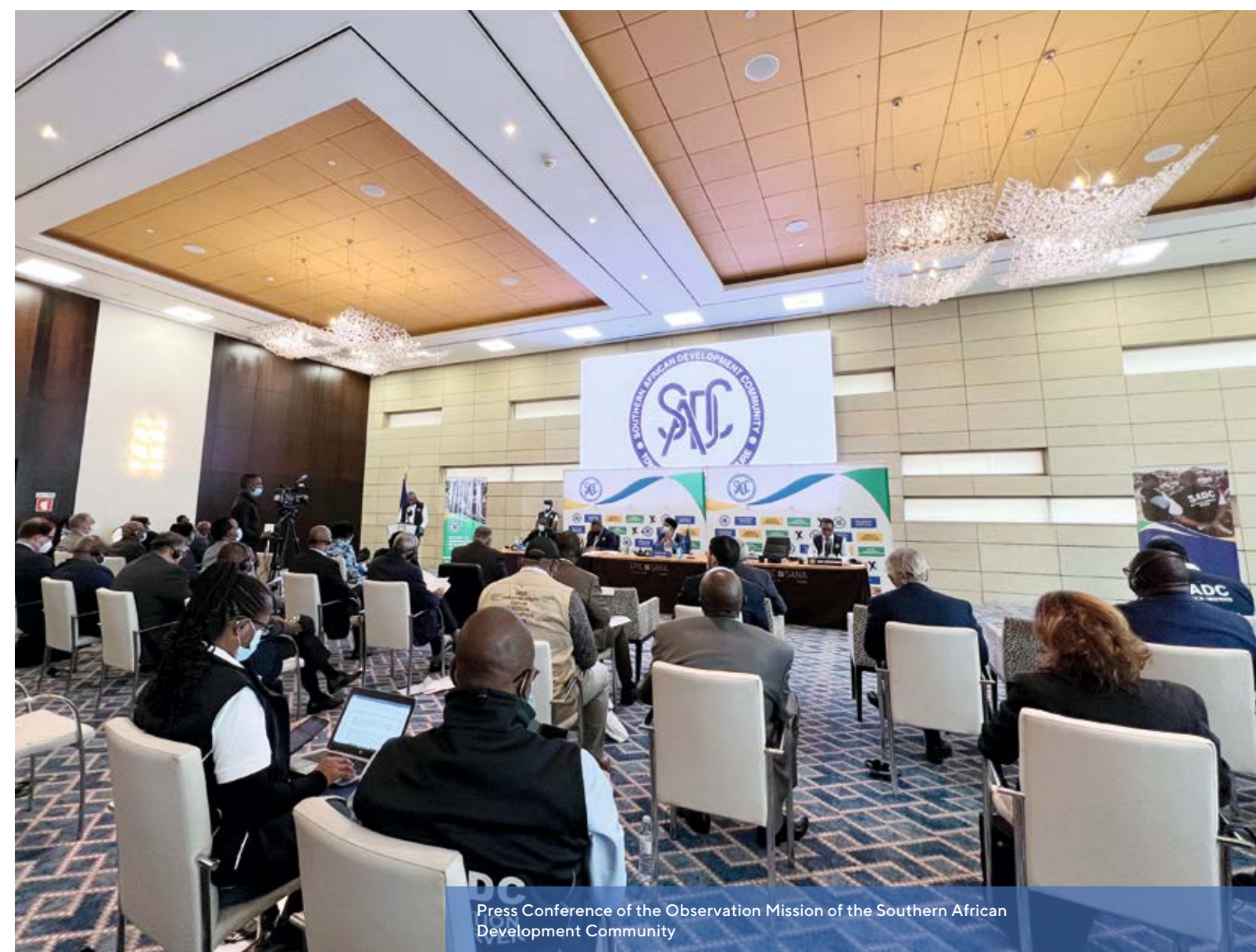
The Adult Citizens Database includes the following entries used when completing the voter register:

1. first and last name;
2. occupation;
3. date of birth;
4. place of birth;
5. sex;
6. place of residence;
7. place of registration;
8. number, date and place of issue of the identity card (ID);
9. citizenship;
10. passport photo;

11. the citizen’s telephone number and other contact information (optionally);
12. digital fingerprint.

These data are also stored on the chip of the Angolan citizen’s biometric ID.

It is worth mentioning that Angolan citizens residing abroad, as well as the Angolan citizens not included in the Adult Citizens Database, should independently contact the Angolan diplomatic or consular missions or local authorities, respectively, in order to enter and/or update their data in the Adult Citizens Database and the voter register.



Press Conference of the Observation Mission of the Southern African Development Community

⁵⁹ Under Articles 223–225 of the Constitution of Angola, the state recognizes “traditional power institutions” in addition to the executive, legislative and judicial powers. These institutions function in those places where the life of local communities is governed by traditional law, i.e., tribal leaders and associated tribal governance institutions.

Pursuant to Article 86, paragraph 5 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” the NEC of Angola is required to publish the lists of voters assigned to each election center and polling station at least 30 days before the elections, so that voters, political parties and political party coalitions could verify the accuracy of the lists and, if necessary, take action to amend them.

As for the August 24, 2022 general elections, the NEC of Angola failed to meet this requirement, enshrined in the electoral legislation, on time.

A total of 14,399,391 voters were officially registered for the August 24, 2022 general elections, including 22,560 out-of-country voters. It is noteworthy that a total of about 450,000 Angolan citizens live abroad. Overall, the number of registered voters was 5 million more than during the previous general elections on August 23, 2017.

6,454,109 officially registered voters, representing 44.82% of the total number of citizens eligible to vote, participated in the elections.

Candidate Registration

Candidate Requirements

Under Article 145 of the Constitution of Angola and Articles 10 and 11 of the Organic Law “On General Elections,” any legally capable adult Angolan citizen listed in the voter register may become a candidate for the National Assembly, if the person:

- 1. has not been sentenced by a court of law to more than 3 years of imprisonment;
- 2. has not resigned and/or been removed from office as a member of the National Assembly;
- 3. has not been officially declared legally incapable;
- 4. is not a sitting judge of any jurisdiction or a civil servant at any level;

14,399,391
registered voters

22,560
out-of-country voters

6,454,109
registered voters
took part in the
elections

44.82%
turnout

- 5. is not a sitting judge of the Constitutional Court or a judge of the Court of Auditors;
- 6. is not a sitting ombudsman or deputy ombudsman;
- 7. is not a member of an election commission at any level;
- 8. is not a serving member of the armed forces or a serving member of the paramilitary forces of Angola;
- 9. in the case of an acquired national status, obtained Angolan citizenship at least 7 years ago.

However, candidates to the National Assembly, nominated by electoral associations, are not required to be their official members.

The requirements for the presidential and vice presidential candidates are stipulated in Articles 110 and 131 of the Constitution of Angola, as well as in Articles 12, 13, 22, and 23 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections.” In particular, an Angolan citizen over the age of 35 who is not disenfranchised may become a candidate for President and Vice President of Angola, if the person satisfies the following requirements:

- 1. has no citizenship other than that of the Republic of Angola;
- 2. received Angolan nationality by birth;
- 3. has not served 2 terms of office as President or Vice President of Angola, respectively;
- 4. is not a former President or Vice President of Angola respectively, who has resigned or has been removed from office through legal procedures;
- 5. has not been sentenced by a court of law to more than 3 years of imprisonment;
- 6. has not been officially declared legally incapable;
- 7. is not a sitting judge of any jurisdiction or a civil servant at any level;
- 8. is not a sitting judge of the Constitutional Court or a judge of the Court of Auditors;
- 9. is not a sitting ombudsman or deputy ombudsman;
- 10. is not a member of an election commission at any level;
- 11. is not a serving member of the armed forces or a serving member of the paramilitary forces of Angola.

Article 111 of the Constitution of Angola and Article 19-23 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections” stipulate that nominees for President and Vice President of Angola shall be the 1st and 2nd members, respectively, of an election association list, whereas the said candidates may not be members of the electoral association nominating them.

All candidates, according to Articles 31 and 34 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” must be listed on closed party lists, which only registered political parties and coalitions of political parties are entitled to nominate.⁶⁰ In addition, pursuant to Article 32 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” a candidate may be listed only on 1 election list.

Registration Procedure for Candidates

The registration of candidate lists of the electoral associations and candidates for President and Vice President of Angola is regulated by Articles 31-60 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections.” Within 20 days after the official announcement of the general election date (i.e., before April 26, 2022), political parties and coalitions of political parties are to submit the necessary documents and the candidate lists for the national and provincial constituencies drawn up in the order of preference of the nominated candidates to the Constitutional Court of Angola (pt. Tribunal Constitucional de Angola) for review.

Noteworthy, parties and coalitions of parties participating in the elections are required to nominate lists of candidates in all constituencies. The maximum number of candidates on the lists is equal to the number of seats assigned to the constituency where the list is nominated.

In addition to candidates, it is also allowed to put substitute or alternate candidates on the election lists – up to 45 individuals in the national constituency and up to 5 individuals in the provincial constituencies.

Each candidate list nominated by a party or a party coalition must obtain the required number of voter signatures: 5,000 to 5,500 signatures for a candidate list in a national constituency and 500 to 550 signatures for candidate lists in provincial constituencies. Each voter has the right to give a signature for a candidate list of only 1 electoral association.

Having received the package of documents and candidate lists from an electoral association, the

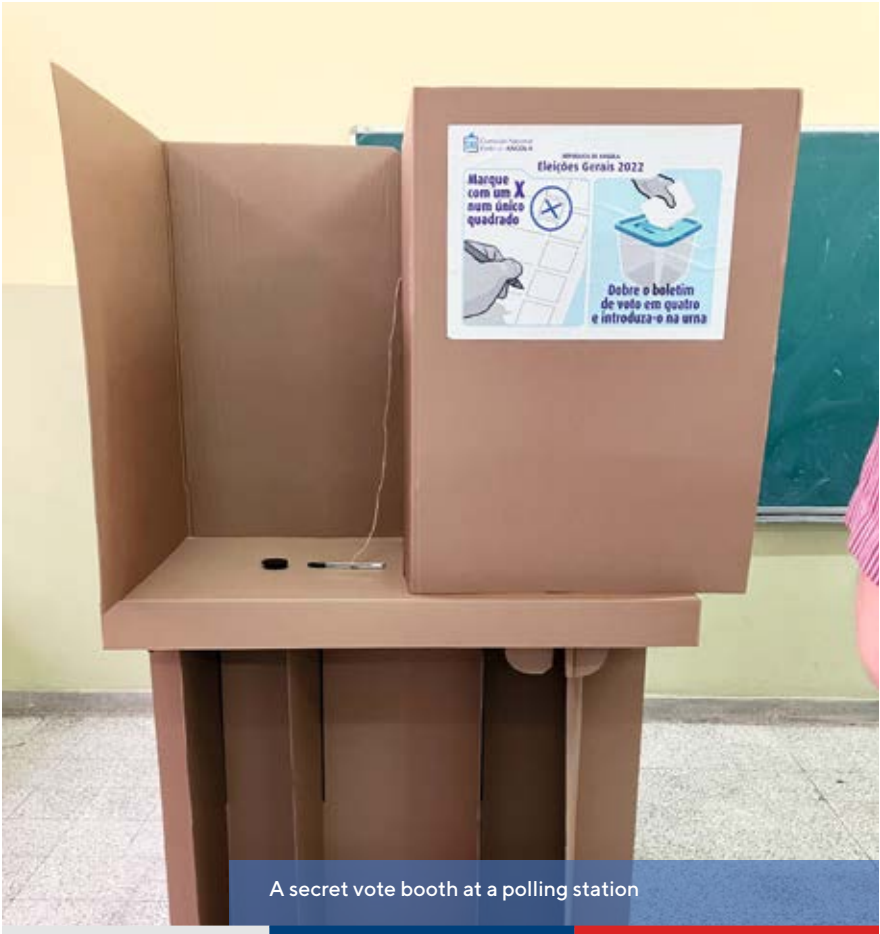
Constitutional Court shall check the authenticity of all submitted data and the eligibility of all nominated candidates.

If the Constitutional Court finds any discrepancies in the documents and/or recognizes that any of the candidates is not eligible for the elections, then it obliges the electoral association to eliminate the identified errors within 10 days after the application deadline (i.e., until May 6, 2022, in the case of the elections in question) and resubmit a corrected package of documents to the Constitutional Court.

Within the next 2 days (i.e., by May 8, 2022), the Constitutional Court shall issue a final decision on the admissibility of the candidate lists, during which period the President of the Constitutional Court may also request additional documents from representatives of the candidates and/or of the nominating electoral association.

If the Constitutional Court has no objections to the documents presented or if the discrepancies identified are successfully corrected, the Constitutional Court decides that the election lists can be registered and sends all the necessary documents to the NEC of Angola. Within 48 hours from the publication of the final lists of candidates of all parties and party coalitions admitted to the elections, the NEC holds the draw and, consequently, the election association lists are assigned a single number which is included in the ballot paper.

If the Plenary of the Constitutional Court decides against the candidate list registration, the candidates or their representatives have the right to appeal the decision within 48 hours after its announcement and official publication.



A secret vote booth at a polling station

⁶⁰ Notably, under Article 33, paragraph 4 of Law No. 22/10 of December 3, 2010, “On Political Parties,” a political party that failed to participate in elections independently or as part of a coalition, or that received less than 0.5% of the vote, must be dissolved.

List of Registered Candidates

All in all, 8 electoral associations were officially registered for the August 24, 2022 general elections. Each of them nominated 5 candidates for 18 provincial constituencies (a total of 90 candidates), a national list of 130 candidates for the nationwide constituency, as well as 1 candidate each for the President and Vice President of the country.

The parties and coalitions registered in the elections are listed below in the order of their placement on the ballot paper:

1. Humanist Party of Angola, PHA (opposition party, presidential candidate – Florbela Malaquias);
2. Nationalist Party for Justice in Angola, P-NJANGO (opposition party, presidential candidate – Eduardo Chingunji);
3. National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA (main opposition party, presidential candidate – Adalberto Costa Júnior);
4. National Liberation Front of Angola, FNLA (opposition party, presidential candidate – Nimi A Simbi);
5. Broad Convergence for the Salvation of Angola – Electoral Coalition, CASA-CE (coalition of opposition political forces: Angolan Free Alliance Majority Party, PALMA, leader – Manuel Fernandes; Party for Democracy and Development of Angola – Patriotic Alliance, PADDA-AP, leader Alexandre Sebastião André; Angola Pacific Party, PPA, leader – Fele António; National Salvation Party of Angola, PNSA, leader – Sikonda Lulendo Alexander; Democratic Party for the Progress of the National Alliance of Angola, PDP-ANA, leader – Simão Makazu; presidential

- candidate – Manuel Fernandes);
6. National Patriotic Alliance, APN (opposition party, presidential candidate – Quintino Moreira);
 7. Social Renewal Party, PRS (opposition party, presidential candidate – Benedito Daniel);
 8. People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola, MPLA (ruling party, presidential candidate – João Lourenço, the incumbent President of Angola).

Election Observation Institutions

All aspects related to the observation of the election organization and administration are regulated by Law No. 11/12 of March 22, 2012, “On Election Observation.”

According to Article 4 of Law No. 11/12 “On Election Observation,” the tasks and functions of observers are as follows:

1. observe whether the NEC of Angola keeps its actions impartial;
2. observe the compliance of the NEC of Angola and its institutions with the provisions of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections” and other regulations governing the electoral process in Angola;
3. evaluate the activity of the national and local executive authorities of Angola concerning the electoral process;
4. evaluate the impartiality and legality of the decisions passed by the competent authorities when settling electoral disputes;
5. monitor the process of nomination and registration of candidates;
6. observe the preelection campaign process;
7. observe the voting process and the procedures stipulated by the electoral legislation;
8. observe the procedure of vote processing and tallying;
9. evaluate the candidates’ equal access to the media and their use for electoral purposes.

Angola’s legislation also provides for different types of observers. In particular, pursuant to Articles 12 and 20 of Law No. 11/12 “On Election Observation,” national and international observers are divided into the following categories:

International Observers

1. observers from regional and international organizations;
2. observers from nongovernmental organizations;
3. foreign governments’ observers;
4. observers from foreign nongovernmental organizations recognized in Angola;
5. individual observers;
6. observers from foreign diplomatic missions officially accredited in Angola.

National Observers

7. officially recognized nongovernmental organizations;
8. officially recognized associations;
9. officially recognized religious organizations;
10. traditional power institutions;
11. individual observers.

Under Article 29 of Law No. 11/12 “On Election Observation,” the NEC of Angola is responsible for accrediting observers. Thus, international observers can be invited by the National Assembly, the Constitutional Court, or one of the political parties or coalitions of political parties registered for the elections, with Article 11 of Law No. 11/12 “On Election Observation” setting the maximum number of international observers invited to the elections by the Plenary of the NEC of Angola.

Both international and national observers can apply for accreditation no later than 60 days prior to Election Day, which will be reviewed by the Plenary of the NEC within 10 days.



Angola’s NEC logistics specialist identifies voters in line using a tablet and issues voting tickets

In addition, the NEC of Angola, according to Article 27 of Law No. 11/12 “On Election Observation,” establishes the deployment area of observers, i.e., the province of Angola which will be monitored by certain national and international observers.

The observation period, when international and national observers can perform their immediate functions, begins with the official start of the election campaign – 30 days before the elections – and ends on the day the official election results are published by the NEC of Angola.

Under Article 32 of Law No. 11/12 “On Election Observation,” national and international observers have the right to:

1. request explanations from all bodies and structures involved in the preparation and administration of the elections on issues related to the electoral process;
2. cooperate with all political parties, coalitions of political parties, and other political and social forces in the country;
3. carry out observation and related activity in the area of observation indicated in their accreditation card;

4. observe how the election campaign, voting, and vote counting are administered;
5. have free access to the documents regulating the electoral process;
6. visit the premises of the Angolan National Electoral Commission in order to assess its work and tools used in the management of the electoral process;
7. have free access to complaints filed concerning the electoral process;
8. address electoral problems to the members of all the bodies and entities involved in the preparation and administration of the elections;



The CCRF EOM members at an election center

9. have free access to all polling stations and tallying centers;
10. send reports and statements on issues that may require urgent attention of the NEC of Angola or other institutions involved in the preparation and administration of elections;

11. issue a statement or report on the findings of the election observation and the vote outcome after the NEC of Angola announces the results.

In addition, official representatives of the candidate lists (*pt. delegado*

de lista) may be present at polling sites on Election Day, as stipulated by Articles 93-95 of Organic Law No. 36/11 "On General Elections."

In particular, 45 days before the elections, the NEC of Angola informs the electoral associations about the

final number of polling stations and polling sites that will be established in Angola and abroad. After that, each electoral association registered for the elections has 15 days to send lists of its official representatives and their replacements (1 representative per polling site) to the NEC of Angola. Then, 10 days before the elections, the NEC of Angola sends the final lists of representatives (and their replacements) of the candidate lists to each standing candidate through the Municipal Election Commissions, and, 3 days before the election, the NEC of Angola publishes these lists in the 3 major newspapers of Angola and on its website. Besides, it displays these lists at the respective polling stations and polling sites.

Representatives of candidate lists have the right to:

1. be present at the relevant polling site and take the seats nearest to the table of the PSC members and the ballot box to be able to observe all actions related to voting and vote counting;
2. inspect the working premises of the polling site before its opening;
3. source any information about actions related to voting and vote counting from the PSC chair;
4. turn to the PSC members regarding all operational issues that arise during voting and vote counting;
5. make any remarks in the PSC report on the voting results at the polling site regarding infringements and/or errors that were not eliminated during voting or vote counting;
6. have access to the voter register;
7. receive a copy of the report on the voting results at the polling site and a copy of the final report on the voting results at the polling station;
8. sign the correct reports on the voting results at the polling site and polling station.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was accredited by the NEC of Angola for the August 24, 2022 general elections in the Republic of Angola as an international observer to monitor the voting procedure and vote counting at polling stations established in the Luanda province.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

1. Andrey Maximov, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government, head of the Election Observation Mission;
2. Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions;
3. Nikita Volkov, international relations officer of the Executive Office of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was present in Angola from August 21 to 25, 2022.

On August 22, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited the headquarters of the NEC of Angola, where they received accreditation cards, special sets of equipment issued for the international observers, and a printed compendium of the Angolan electoral legislation.

Later that day, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of

the Russian Federation attended a press conference of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) dedicated to the launch of the SADC Election Observation Mission.

On August 23, 2022, 24 hours before Election Day, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation exercised watch of a one-day silence period during which campaigning, political rallies, as well as publishing of campaign materials and opinion polls regarding the forthcoming elections in the mass and social media and on the Internet were prohibited.

The same afternoon of August 23, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation held a working meeting with Manuel Domingos Augusto, Secretary of the Political Bureau of Angola's ruling party, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, where they discussed the organization and administration of the elections, the lead-up situation, and the atmosphere on Election Day eve.

The same evening the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation paid another visit to the headquarters of the NEC of Angola and had a working meeting with Eduardo de Souza Megalles, the NEC member. The meeting participants discussed issues related to the election administration system in Angola, in particular, the centralization of the vote counting system and the implementation of modern digital solutions in the ballot processing and voter identification systems.

On Election Day, August 24, 2022, from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited 21 polling stations in multiple districts of the Luanda province (Maianga, Ingombota, Sambizanga, Cacucacu, Belas, Samba, etc.).

Members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation attended the opening of polling stations Nos. 149 and 150, which opened 30 minutes late due to a complicated procedure of preparing the premises for the beginning of voting, but this did not prevent all willing voters from having their ballots cast by the end of Election Day.

Below is the complete list of polling stations visited by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Election Day (listed in chronological order):

1. Polling station No. 149;
2. Polling station No. 150;
3. Polling station No. 28;
4. Polling station No. 34;
5. Polling station No. 51;
6. Polling station No. 105;
7. Polling station No. 291;
8. Polling station No. 292;
9. Polling station No. 270;
10. Polling station No. 271;
11. Polling station No. 314;
12. Polling station No. 315;
13. Polling station No. 382;
14. Polling station No. 390;
15. Polling station No. 399;
16. Polling station No. 400;
17. Polling station No. 1011;
18. Polling station No. 1021;
19. Polling station No. 1102;
20. Polling station No. 1111;
21. Polling station No. 1488.

When voting was over, and the polling stations and sites closed, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the opening of the ballot boxes and vote counting at polling stations Nos. 28 and 51 from 5:00 pm till 7:00 pm.

Interaction with Other Election Observation Missions

Apart from the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the election observation missions of the following institutions were deployed at the August 24, 2022 general elections in the Republic of Angola: the European Union (EUEOM), the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), SADC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Southern African Development Community Electoral Commissions Forum and the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions in Africa (CJFA), as well as the Carter Center.

A total of 2,000 international observers were accredited by the NEC of Angola, which was in line with the limit set by the institution on the number of invited international observers.

Along with that, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation found it impossible to establish the final number of national observers and a list of national institutions accredited by the NEC of Angola for the August 24, 2022 general elections. Neither did the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation encounter national observers during their visits to polling stations in the Luanda province.

As was mentioned earlier, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation attended the press conference of the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) on August 22, 2022, where they familiarized themselves with the presentation of its methodology and exchanged opinions with the SEOM members about the situation on the elections eve.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not interact with the representatives of other international or national election observation missions.

Observation Findings on Election Day

On Election Day, August 24, 2022, the polling stations were open for 10 hours, from 7:00 am till 5:00 pm.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation confirmed that most of the polling stations worked in accordance with the schedule established by the electoral legislation of Angola, yet a number of polling stations with a slight delay (from 10–15 minutes to half an hour). In particular, polling stations Nos. 149 and 150, which were monitored by the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation from 6:30 am – the time the polling stations were preparing to open – till voters started to cast ballots, opened with a 30-minute delay.

There were also reports that some polling stations did not close at 5:00 pm but an hour earlier due to misleading interpretations of Article 105 of the Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections.”⁶¹

⁶¹ Under Article 105, paragraph 2 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections,” voters are allowed to vote until 4:00 pm; however, Article 105, paragraph 3 thereof stipulates the closing time of polling stations at 5:00 pm while providing for the right of voters who arrived at the polling stations before 4:00 pm to vote after the official closing time.



First, during the preparation of the polling sites for opening, the PSC chair inspected the electoral materials (ballot papers, voter registers, ballot boxes, report forms, etc.) in the presence of observers and official representatives of the candidate lists assigned to the polling site, then, the PSC chair showed to everyone present that the ballot box was empty, and sealed it up with special security seals with unique identification numbers.

The mission noted that during their visits to polling stations on Election Day, representatives of all candidate lists were present at each polling site, and the lists with their personal data and the personal data of their replacements were available to everyone.

Having completed the preparation for the polling sites' opening, the PSC chair of the first polling site, i.e., the polling station head, began to usher voters into the polling station premises on a first come, first served basis.

Although it was the polling station head who was responsible for managing the lines and flow of voters, logistics specialists from the NEC of Angola were also present at large polling stations to support the navigation of voters to the polling sites.

Nearly every polling station had an officer with a special tablet used for scanning voters' biometric IDs at the head of the queue and checking them against the register of voters assigned to that polling station. If they successfully passed the initial identification procedure, the voter received a ticket with the number of the polling site which they had been assigned to.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian

Federation noted navigation signs posted at polling station premises demonstrating the location of different polling sites, making it easier for the voters to find their voting place.

Having received a ticket from a specialist at the polling station entrance, the voter headed to the polling site indicated in his/her ticket, where his/her ID was checked again against the voter register. The voter registers, which were available not only to PSC members but also to representatives of the candidate lists, included the number of the voter's ID, date of birth, age, photo, and other personal data from the Adult Citizens Database.

With the identification repeated, the voter was given a tear-off ballot paper which the voter took to the voting booth. Notably, the method of handing out tear-off ballots from a pack with a stub provides an additional possibility to keep a record of the number of used ballot papers and increases the reliability of ballot processing and vote counting systems.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also drew attention to the ballot paper layout: since Angola uses a DSV system, the ballot paper contained the electoral associations (7 parties and a party coalition) in the order determined by the draw, accompanied by their officially registered symbols and the photos and names of their presidential nominees.

Once the ballot paper was marked, the voter rolled it up and dropped it into a transparent ballot box, and then the voter walked up to the PSC table once again and dipped his/her finger into the can with the election ink, i.e., indelible paint designed to prevent double voting.

When voting was over, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the opening of the ballot boxes and vote counting at polling stations Nos. 28 and 51. Both polling stations closed on time; however, it took some additional time (10–15 minutes) for the PSCs to get ready for vote counting. Nevertheless, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively assessed the promptness and professional skills of the polling staff demonstrated during the sorting, validation, and counting of the ballots cast.

First, the PSC members counted the used and unused ballot papers in the presence of the observers and representatives of candidate lists.

Then the PSC chair opened the ballot boxes, took out the ballots, and put them in a sheaf on the table installed in the center of the voting room. After that, the PSC chair took each ballot paper one by one, read out loud the name of the party for which the vote had been cast, and showed the ballot to the rest of the PSC members, observers, and representatives of the candidate lists, and then handed the ballot paper to a PSC member who was sorting them on a separate table. Simultaneously, another PSC member recorded either on a sheet of paper or on a blackboard (if available in the room) the number of valid votes cast for a particular electoral association, as well as the number of spoiled ballot papers and blank votes, if any. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted, that representatives of the candidate lists independently kept their own vote count, checking against the vote count done by the PSC members.



Observers at a polling station

Once vote counting was over, the ballots were counted once again and compared to the number of ballots used. After that, in the absence of objections and complaints from the observers and candidate list representatives, the ballots were sorted and sealed in the envelopes provided by the NEC of Angola, and all the tabulation information was entered into the report forms, copies of which were provided to the candidate list representatives. Information from all polling site reports was then consolidated into a unified polling station report by the polling station head. A copy of the polling station report was handed to the representatives

of candidate lists and sent to the National and corresponding Provincial Counting Centers along with the rest of the electoral materials.

Complaints and Infringements

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not register any infringements of the national electoral legislation at the polling stations it visited on Election Day of August 24, 2022, in the Republic of Angola. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors also testified about the absence of officially filed complaints from the electoral process stakeholders (party

representatives, observers, polling staff, voters, or the mass media).

It was noted that due to the complexity of preparation of the polling stations, special equipment, and electoral materials required for the beginning of voting, several polling stations opened with a delay, which was recorded by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at polling stations Nos. 149 and 150 that opened half an hour behind the official start time of voting.

Nevertheless, according to the assessment of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic

Chamber of the Russian Federation, this did not affect the work of the polling stations or the vote results.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

Based on the election observation findings at the general election in the Republic of Angola, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived at the following conclusions.

Despite the difficulties recorded in some cases, including those related to the lengthy preparation of polling stations for opening, the polling staff operating at the lower level of the election administration system generally handled well the organization of voting procedures on Election Day.

In particular, Angola’s NEC staff demonstrated their ability to efficiently manage lines and flows of voters at the polling stations, promptly identify voters, and sort and count ballot papers when the voting procedure was over.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation registered no problems with the use of technical equipment by the polling staff, which helped effectively control the situation at the polling stations and accelerated the voter identification, voting process, and vote counting.

On the whole, according to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the voting procedure was organized with good quality and at a highly professional level, and the centralized procedure of vote counting with the use of digital solutions made it possible to get



The CCRF EOM members receive their accreditation cards at the NEC of Angola

the voting returns in the shortest possible time. For example, the results for provincial constituencies were known just hours after the polls closed, and the final voting results were published 5 days after Election Day, which is 9 days faster than in the case of the August 23, 2017 general elections, when the vote tallying took 14 days.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian

Federation also concluded that the general elections were highly competitive and that the presence of police and other law enforcement officers in the areas adjacent to the polling stations contributed to maintaining the necessary level of security and conducting the elections in an atmosphere of peace.⁶²

However, it should be noted that at polling stations Nos. 28 and

5, where the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitored the opening of the ballot boxes and vote counting, this problem was not detected.

Additionally, complaints were made regarding the transparency of the voter register audit and its absence in the public domain 30 days before Election Day, which is a violation of Article 86, paragraph 5 of Organic Law No. 36/11 “On General Elections.”

In addition, there were complaints about the impropriety of the vote counting procedure at the level of counting centers, yet the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors were unable to verify the veracity of this complaint as they were not present at the counting centers.

Given the complaints voiced by some stakeholders after Election Day, the NEC of Angola should pay further attention to these problems, disregard their validity, and consider measures aimed at increasing the transparency of technologies and decisions used in the electoral process. Overall, these activities should contribute to strengthening public confidence in democratic procedures in general.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends that attention should be paid to the above deficiencies identified during the general elections observation on August 24, 2022; if corrected this will contribute to further development and improvement of the electoral system in the Republic of Angola.

Priority recommendations:

- 1. Ensure timely publication of the voter register in the future, in accordance with the norms established by the Angolan electoral legislation;
- 2. Take measures to ensure transparency in the process of updating and auditing the voter register, in particular, to consider the option of including stakeholders as observers in the process of updating the voter register;
- 3. Make efforts to enhance the transparency of the vote counting procedure, in particular, get all official representatives of electoral associations involved in observing the processing, verification, and vote counting at the National and Provincial

Counting Centers, and consider an online broadcast of the vote counting procedure and making it available to the widest possible range of interested citizens;

- 4. Explore available options for digitizing tools and ways to transmit data directly from polling centers to tallying centers at all levels to increase the transparency of the vote counting process;
- 5. Help improve the quality of materials used by polling staff to compile polling station reports on voting results;
- 6. Simplify electoral legislation governing the closing time of polling stations;

Other recommendations:

- 7. Promote the system of photo and video recording of infringements at polling stations;
- 8. Consider options for reforming Angola’s current system of party nomination of NEC members in proportion to parliamentary representation, in order to level out the influence of political forces and make the body responsible for managing the electoral process more impartial;
- 9. Promote greater involvement of Angola’s civil society and nongovernmental organizations in the election observation process in the country.

⁶² In particular, representatives of other international election observation missions (AUEOM and SEOM), in their official preliminary statements on the August 24, 2022 general elections in Angola, noted that representatives of the candidate lists deployed at the polling sites complained about the quality of the carbon copy paper used for duplicating polling station reports: i.e., the first 3–4 copies of the reports were of good quality, while the subsequent copies were of poor quality, so they were often difficult or impossible to use for the validation of voting results.

ANNEX

Results of the General Elections in the Republic of Angola, August 24, 2022

County	Votes cast																									Registered voters	Total votes	Turnout	Valid votes		Invalid		Blank		
	MPLA			UNITA			PRS			FNLA			PHA				CASA-CE			APN			P-NJANGO												
	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats		Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats				Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	
Bengo	64,278	55.43	3	45,407	39.16	2	984	0.84	0	1,982	1.70	0	1,214	1.04	0		1,077	0.92	0	666	0.57	0	336	0.28	0	260,470	119,806	45.99	115,944	96.77	1,421	1.18	2,441	2.03	
Benguela	315,086	54.52	3	243,721	42.17	2	3,626	0.62	0	3,639	0.62	0	5,825	1.00	0		1,665	0.28	0	1,570	0.27	0	2,795	0.48	0	1,201,071	591,910	49.28	577,927	97.63	4,819	0.81	9,164	1.54	
Bie	228,089	60.56	3	132,623	35.21	2	3,448	0.91	0	3,110	0.82	0	4,347	1.15	0		1,124	0.29	0	1,597	0.42	0	2,245	0.59	0	783,684	390,800	49.86	376,583	96.36	4,992	1.27	9,225	2.36	
Cabinda	43,669	26.23	1	114,300	68.67	4	1,817	1.09	0	1,662	0.99	0	1,541	0.92	0		1,880	1.12	0	947	0.56	0	624	0.37	0	367,378	168,859	45.96	166,440	98.56	1,332	0.78	1,087	0.64	
Cuando Cubango	81,399	68.87	4	31,832	26.93	1	1,013	0.85	0	833	0.70	0	1,084	0.91	0		794	0.67	0	375	0.31	0	849	0.71	0	292,520	122,592	41.90	118,179	96.40	1,461	1.19	2,952	2.40	
Cuanza Norte	71,145	60.70	3	38,026	32.44	2	1,358	1.15	0	1,956	1.66	0	1,489	1.27	0		1,526	1.30	0	774	0.66	0	930	0.79	0	249,917	121,366	48.56	117,204	96.57	1,109	0.91	3,053	2.51	
Cuanza Sul	233,835	67.99	4	93,253	27.11	1	3,201	0.93	0	3,383	0.98	0	4,806	1.39	0		2,394	0.69	0	1,047	0.30	0	1,995	0.58	0	747,139	365,859	48.96	343,914	94.00	10,076	2.75	11,869	3.24	
Cunene	121,327	82.89	5	20,974	14.33	0	818	0.55	0	760	0.51	0	977	0.66	0		844	0.57	0	355	0.24	0	308	0.21	0	430,899	149,734	34.74	146,363	97.74	1,188	0.79	2,183	1.45	
Huambo	308,731	56.83	3	212,465	39.11	2	4,704	0.86	0	3,948	0.72	0	4,833	0.88	0		2,101	0.38	0	3,132	0.57	0	3,313	0.60	0	1,103,685	561,326	50.85	543,227	96.77	5,645	1.00	12,454	2.21	
Huila	329,751	69.33	4	128,501	27.01	1	3,843	0.80	0	3,069	0.64	0	4,376	0.92	0		2,672	0.56	0	1,731	0.36	0	1,664	0.34	0	1,235,527	492,847	39.88	475,607	96.50	5,431	1.10	11,809	2.39	
Luanda	671,861	33.62	2	1,243,894	62.25	3	10,543	0.52	0	17,699	0.88	0	20,089	1.00	0		19,646	0.98	0	8,499	0.42	0	5,683	0.28	0	4,670,797	2,030,031	43.46	1,997,914	98.41	20,767	1.02	11,350	0.55	
Lunda Norte	102,232	56.55	3	60,374	33.39	2	9,910	5.48	0	2,384	1.31	0	1,693	0.93	0		1,591	0.88	0	1,483	0.82	0	1,106	0.61	0	532,281	188,434	35.40	180,773	95.93	2,906	1.54	4,755	2.52	
Lunda Sul	64,898	52.51	3	42,611	34.47	2	13,060	10.56	0	711	0.57	0	685	0.55	0		605	0.48	0	642	0.51	0	370	0.29	0	276,896	127,214	45.94	123,582	97.14	1,916	1.50	1,716	1.34	
Malanje	119,669	61.29	3	64,093	32.83	2	2,830	1.44	0	1,983	1.01	0	2,485	1.27	0		1,916	0.98	0	1,509	0.77	0	736	0.37	0	509,646	204,074	40.04	195,221	95.66	2,412	1.18	6,441	3.15	
Moxico	118,694	67.28	4	48,275	27.36	1	3,411	1.93	0	1,683	0.95	0	1,442	0.81	0		1,318	0.74	0	775	0.43	0	816	0.46	0	416,122	181,310	43.57	176,414	97.29	1,451	0.80	3,445	1.90	
Namibe	80,881	65.62	4	37,744	30.62	1	845	0.68	0	721	0.58	0	885	0.71	0		844	0.68	0	770	0.62	0	553	0.44	0	264,588	126,311	47.73	123,243	97.57	964	0.76	2,104	1.66	
Uige	197,029	57.75	3	119,825	35.12	2	4,740	1.38	0	6,471	1.89	0	4,433	1.29	0		3,599	1.05	0	3,258	0.95	0	1,793	0.52	0	712,430	355,390	49.88	341,148	95.99	4,318	1.21	9,924	2.79	
Zaire	51,241	36.26	2	73,665	52.12	3	1,182	0.83	0	10,274	7.27	0	1,460	1.03	0		1,784	1.26	0	988	0.69	0	717	0.50	0	321,781	144,801	44.99	141,311	97.58	1,851	1.27	1,639	1.13	
Emigration	5,614	50.53	–	5,203	46.83	–	18	0.16	–	69	0.62	–	85	0.76	–		66	0.59	–	21	0.18	–	34	0.30	–	22,560	11,445	50.73	11,110	97.07	200	1.74	135	1.17	
Total	3,209,429	51.17	57	2,756,786	43.95	33	71,351	1.14	0	66,337	1.06	0	63,749	1.02	0		47,446	0.76	0	30,139	0.48	0	26,867	0.42	0	14,399,391	6,454,109	44.82	6,272,104	97.18	74,259	1.15	10,7746	1.66	
National constituency	67			57			2			2			2				0			0			0			130									
Total seats	124			90			2			2			2				0			0			0			220									

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEPAL



Bhaktapur, an ancient town east of Kathmandu

GENERAL ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Election Announcement
and Setting Election Dates

On December 8, 2022, the term of the current House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, and the Provincial Assemblies, the regional legislative bodies, came to an end.

Under the Election Commission Act, the Cabinet of Ministers of Nepal, assisted by the Election Commission of Nepal, initiated a discussion on the preparation and conduct of upcoming regular general elections, as well as their date.

As a result of the consultations, the Election Commission of Nepal issued a recommendation on July 6, 2022, suggesting a single voting day, which would significantly reduce the cost of preparing and conducting the elections, instead of organizing elections for national and regional legislatures in 2 stages, as was the case in 2017. Chief Election Commissioner Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya also recommended setting the election date for November 18, 2022.

The Cabinet of Ministers reviewed the recommendations prepared by the Election Commission of Nepal and, upon deliberation, thereof, decided on August 4, 2022, to set the election date on November 20, 2022, both for the House of Representatives and the Provincial Assemblies of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Thus, on November 20, 2022 elections were scheduled for

275 members of the House of Representatives and 550 members of the 7 Provincial Assemblies of Nepal.

Election Significance

The November 20, 2022 general elections were conducted for the 2nd time since the adoption of Nepal's new Constitution on September 20, 2015.

The elections took place against the backdrop of a difficult social and economic situation, including the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. In particular, the House of Representatives was dissolved twice, in December 2020 and May 2021, by the ruling coalition but was subsequently reinstated twice by the relevant decisions of the Supreme Court of Nepal.

The November 20, 2022 general elections were also notable for the fact that more than 2 million young Nepalese voted for the first time, creating additional competition for traditional parties, which used to be voted for by the older generation.

Electoral System

House of Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

The election of 275 members to the House of Representatives of Nepal, according to the country's Constitution, is held under a mixed electoral system.

165 MPs are elected in SMDs under FPTP, other 110 MPs are elected by party-list proportional representation in a single nationwide constituency.⁶³

House of Representatives of
Nepal Election

275
members

5-year
tenure

165
members
elected in SMDs
under FPTP

110
members
elected by party-list
proportional representation
in a single nationwide
constituency

3%
electoral
threshold
in the nationwide
constituency

The seat distribution among the parties in the nationwide constituency is determined by a modified Sainte-Laguë (Webster) method.⁶⁴

A 3% electoral threshold is implemented for the election



in a nationwide constituency. It is important to note that voters receive 2 ballot papers to vote separately for the candidates on party lists and for the candidates running in SMDs.

The term of office of the House of Representatives of Nepal is 5 years.

Provincial Assemblies of Nepal

Elections for Provincial Assemblies, the unicameral parliaments of Nepal's provinces, are held in a similar manner. In total, 7 Provincial Assemblies have 550 seats: 330 members are elected in SMDs under FPTP; the remaining 220 members are

elected by party-list proportional representation in 7 provincial constituencies.

The seat distribution among the parties is determined by the modified Sainte-Laguë (Webster) method mentioned above. The electoral threshold for provincial constituency elections is 1.5%.

The term of office for Provincial Assembly members is 5 years.

Constituency delimitation

In 2017, based on the report submitted by the Constituency Delimitation Commission, 165 SMDs were established for the

election of members to the House of Representatives and 330 SMDs for the election of members to the 7 Provincial Assemblies. The constituencies were delimited with the account of the number of people residing in the territory and the geographical features of the districts. In addition, Article 286, paragraph 12 of the Constitution of Nepal stipulates that the constituency boundaries cannot be changed for the next 20 years (until 2037).

Quota Allocation

Among other things, the Constitution of Nepal stipulates gender balance requirements

⁶³ The distribution of 165 seats in the House of Representatives among the provinces of Nepal is as follows: Province No. 1 – 28 seats, Madhesh – 32 seats, Bagmati – 33 seats, Gandaki – 18 seats, Lumbini – 26 seats, Karnali – 12 seats, Sudurpashchim – 16 seats.

⁶⁴ The Sainte-Laguë method is a method of seat allocation in parliaments in party-list proportional representation systems, also called a divisor method. It determines consistently which party will receive which seat assigned to a particular constituency, for each individual seat in the legislature. Thus, the total number of votes cast for each party in a constituency is divided by the number of parliamentary seats that the party has already claimed (initially 0) multiplied by 2, to which 1 is added. In each case, the seat is allocated to the party whose calculated coefficient exceeds the coefficients of other parties. For Nepal, the Sainte-Laguë method has the following modification: divisor 1.4 is used instead of 1 when the first mandate is distributed among the parties, which gives an advantage to the parties with a higher number of votes.

Provincial Assemblies Elections

550

members
in 7 Provincial
Assemblies

5-year

tenure

330

members

elected in SMDs
under FPTP

220

members

elected by party-list
proportional representation
in 7 provincial
constituencies

1.5%

electoral
threshold
in provincial
constituencies



for the composition of both the House of Representatives and the Provincial Assemblies. In particular, Article 84, paragraph 8 of the Constitution of Nepal requires that women shall constitute at least 1/3 of the total number of members of the House of Representatives from each political party, elected both under party-list proportional representation and under FPTP. A similar requirement for the composition of Provincial Assemblies is stipulated in Article 175, paragraph 5 of the Constitution of Nepal. Following this legal requirement, at least 50% of the party list members must be women, which would make up for a possible shortage of party-nominated female MPs elected in SMDs.⁶⁵

Nepal's electoral legislation requires political parties to include not only women on party lists, but also Muslims, residents of

"underdeveloped regions,"⁶⁶ and members of the following ethnic and caste groups: Aadibasi Janajati, Khas Arya,⁶⁷ Madhesi, Tharu.

Electoral Legislation

In Nepal, electoral processes and procedures during parliamentary election are regulated by the following laws, normative acts, and legal documents:

1. Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal of September 20, 2015 (*ne. नेपालको संविधान*);
2. Election Commission Act of February 2, 2017 (*ne. निर्वाचन आयोग ऐन, २०७३*);
3. Electoral Rolls Act of February 2, 2017 (*ne. मतदाता नामावली ऐन, २०७३*);
4. Election (Offense and Punishment) Act of February 10, 2017 (*ne. निर्वाचन (कसूर तथा सजाय) ऐन, २०७३*);

⁶⁵ In the November 20, 2022 general elections, the Election Commission of Nepal also recommended that parties nominate at least 1/3 of women as candidates in SMDs. In practice, however, the Election Commission of Nepal has no procedure to enforce the implementation of such recommendations by parties.

⁶⁶ Under Articles 88 and 175 of the Constitution of Nepal, as well as the official declaration of the Government of Nepal of September 18, 2017, Achham, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Jumla, Dolpo, Bajhang, Bajura, Mugu, and Humla are recognized as underdeveloped regions.

⁶⁷ Khas Arya includes the following ethno-caste communities: Chhetri, Brahmins, Thakuri, and Sanyasi (Dasnami).

5. Constituency Delimitation Act of April 24, 2017 (*ne. निर्वाचन क्षेत्र निर्धारण ऐन, २०७३*);
6. Political Parties Act of April 9, 2017 (*ne. राजनीतिक दल सम्बन्धी ऐन, २०७३*);
7. House of Representatives Member Election Act of September 7, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन ऐन, २०७४*);
8. Provincial Assembly Member Election Act of September 7, 2017 (*ne. प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन ऐन, २०७४*);
9. National Assembly Member Election Act of July 4, 2018 (as amended on March 3, 2019, *ne. राष्ट्रिय सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन ऐन, २०७५*);
10. Electoral Rolls Rules of March 30, 2012 (*ne. मतदाता नामावली सम्बन्धी नियमावली, २०६८*);
11. Election Commission of Nepal Rules of March 27, 2017 (as amended on October 14, 2017, *ne. निर्वाचन आयोग नियमावली, २०७३*);
12. Political Parties Rules of August 26, 2017 (*ne. राजनीतिक दल सम्बन्धी नियमावली, २०७४*);
13. House of Representatives Member Election Rules of September 19, 2017 (as amended on July 1, 2018, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन नियमावली, २०७४*);
14. Provincial Assembly Member Election Rules of September 28, 2018 (as amended on October 13, 2018, *ne. प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन नियमावली, २०७४*);
15. National Assembly Member Election Rules of December 25, 2019 (*ne. राष्ट्रिय सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन नियमावली, २०७६*);
16. Election Code of Conduct of August 29, 2022 (as amended on October 2, 2022, *ne. निर्वाचन आचारसंहिता, २०७२*);
17. Code of Conduct for National Observers at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of September 15, 2017 (*ne. राष्ट्रिय प्रत्यवेक्षकका लागि प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन पर्यवेक्षण आचारसंहिता, २०७४*);
18. Code of Conduct for Officers of the Election Commission of Nepal, 2021 (*ne. निर्वाचन आयोगका पदाधिकारीहरुको आचारसंहिता, २०७७*);
19. Code of Conduct for Employees of the Election Commission of Nepal, 2021 (*ne. निर्वाचन आयोगमा कार्यरत कर्मचारीहरुको आचारसंहिता, २०७७*);
20. Code of Conduct for Observers at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of November 13, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन आचार संहिता अनुगमन, २०७४*);
21. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on Electoral Rolls and Other Matters, 2012 (*ne. निर्वाचन आयोग (मतदाता नामावली संकलन तथा अध्यावधिक कार्यक्रम) निर्देशिका, २०६८*);
22. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on Financing the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections Preparation and Conduct of November 17, 2017 (as amended on December 12, 2017, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा, प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (आर्थिक) निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
23. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on Security Management at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of November 17, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (सुरक्षा व्यवस्थापन) निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
24. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies By-elections of October 23, 2017 (as amended on November 11, 2017, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य उपनिर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७६*);
25. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on the House of Representatives Party-List Proportional Representation Election of August 17, 2022 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य समानुपातिक निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७९*);
26. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on the Provincial Assemblies Party-List Proportional Representation Elections of August 17, 2022 (*ne. प्रदेश सभा सदस्य समानुपातिक निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७९*);
27. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on Security Management at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies By-elections of November 1, 2017 (*ne. उपनिर्वाचन सुरक्षा व्यवस्थापन निर्देशिका, २०७६*);
28. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on the National Assembly Election of December 25, 2020 (as amended on April 29, 2021, May 13, 2021, *ne. राष्ट्रियसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७६*);
29. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on Vote Counting at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of September 12, 2022 (as amended on November 19, 2022, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (मतगणना) निर्देशिका, २०७९*);
30. Directive of the Election Commission of Nepal on Staff Training for the Organization and Conduct of Elections of September 8, 2022 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (जनशक्ती व्यवस्थापन) निर्देशिका (पहिलो संसोधन), २०७९*);
31. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Supervision over the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of September 15, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (मतगणना) निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
32. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Voter Education Program Implementation of September 25, 2017 (as amended on November 5, 2017, *ne. राष्ट्रपति तथा उपराष्ट्रपति निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७४*);

33. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on the House of Representatives Party-List Proportional Representation Election of October 5, 2017 (as amended on December 6, 2017, December 20, 2017, January 31, 2018, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य समानुपातिक निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
34. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on the Provincial Assemblies Party-List Proportional Representation Elections of October 6, 2017 (as amended on October 13, 2017, November 6, 2017, December 20, 2017, *ne. प्रदेशसभा सदस्य समानुपातिक निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
35. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Election Observation at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of October 8, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन अनुगमन निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
36. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Preparation and Conduct of the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of October 15, 2017 (as amended on November 1, 2017, November 12, 2017, December 23, 2017, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
37. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Election Offense Monitoring and Prosecuting at the House of Representatives

- and Provincial Assemblies Elections of November 1, 2017, (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन कसूर तथा सजाय निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
38. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Human Resource Management at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of November 5, 2017 (as amended on November 12, 2017, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (जनशक्ति व्यवस्थापन) निर्देशिका, २०७४*);
39. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Voter Monitoring at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of November 13, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा*



Separate lines for men and women at a polling station

- प्रदेशसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (मतदान) निर्देशिका, २०७४);
40. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Vote Counting at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of September 12, 2022 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (मतदान) निर्देशिका २०७९*);
41. Guidelines of the Election Commission of Nepal on Election Observation at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections of September 11, 2022 (as amended on October 16, 2022, *ne. निर्वाचन अनुगमन निर्देशिका, २०७९*);
42. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Organization of the Hearings and Election Dispute Settlement of August 20, 2019 (*ne. निर्वाचन विवाद (सुनुवाई र नरिपण) सम्बन्धी कार्यवधि, २०७६*);
43. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Financing By-election Preparation and Conduct of September 19, 2019 (*ne. उपनिर्वाचन सञ्चालन आर्थिक कार्यवधि, २०७६*);
44. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Financing the National Assembly Election Preparation and Conduct of December 27, 2019 (*ne. राष्ट्रियसभा सदस्य निर्वाचन (आर्थिक) कार्यवधि, २०७६*);
45. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Financing the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections Preparation and Conduct of August 24, 2022 (as amended on September 19, 2022, December 5, 2022, *ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन सञ्चालन (आर्थिक व्यवस्थापन) कार्यवधि, २०७९*);
46. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Determining Voting Place and Polling Station of January 5, 2021 (*ne. मतदान स्थल तथा मतदान केन्द्र निर्धारण कार्यवधि, २०७७*);
47. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Election Observation Procedure of September 15, 2017 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा तथा प्रदेशसभा निर्वाचन पर्यवेक्षण नीति, २०७४*);
48. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Gender Equality and Inclusiveness in Electoral Management of 2021 (*ne. निर्वाचन व्यवस्थापनमा लैङ्गिक तथा समावेशी नीति, २०७७*);
49. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Human Resources Management in Election Organization and Conduct of January 15, 2021 (*ne. निर्वाचन व्यवस्थापनमा मानव संसाधन नीति, २०७७*);
50. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Social Media at the Elections, 2021 (*ne. निर्वाचन व्यवस्थापनमा सामाजिक सञ्जालको उपयोग सम्बन्धी नीति, २०७७*);
51. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Voter Education, 2022 (*ne. मतदाता शिक्षा निर्देशिका, २०७९*);
52. Resolution of the Election Commission of Nepal on Organization of the Traffic on House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies Elections Election Day of December 27, 2019 (*ne. प्रतनिधिसभा सदस्य तथा प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचनको मतदानको दैनिकी सवारी आवागमन व्यवस्थापन सम्बन्धी मापदण्ड, २०७९*);
53. Supplemental Decree of the Election Commission of Nepal on Accreditation of International Election Observers of August 13, 2022 (*ne. अन्तराष्ट्रिय निर्वाचन पर्यवेक्षण संस्थालाई मान्यता दनि सम्बन्धी पुरक निर्देशिका, २०७९*).
- Election Administration and Election Management Bodies**
- Nepal has a 4-tier system of electoral administration during general elections:
1. Election Commission of Nepal (ECN);

2. 7 Provincial Election Commissions;
3. 77 District Election Commissions;
4. 10,892 voting centers and 22,227 polling stations.

According to the Constitution of Nepal, the ECN is the main institution managing the electoral process in the country. It is also the permanent supervisory body for the electoral process, which is regulated by the Election Commission Act of February 2, 2017.

The functions of the ECN include monitoring the compliance of candidates with the electoral legislation, canceling elections in a constituency or voting at any or all polling stations in that constituency in case of complaints on electoral infringements, accrediting national and international observers, processing complaints filed by observers on electoral infringements, and conducting voter education programs aimed at raising awareness of constitutional electoral rights and peculiarities of Nepal's national electoral system.

The other ECN powers, in addition to the functions and responsibilities set forth under the Constitution, include:

1. drafting, implementing, and overseeing the implementation of election-related policies, government plans, and strategies;
2. taking appropriate measures to identify voters;
3. conducting research and evaluating electoral reforms;
4. consolidating information and data related to elections, maintaining the archive;
5. taking necessary measures to develop the infrastructure of electoral centers;
6. providing expert services related to elections;
7. networking with international organizations and other institutions related to elections.

According to Article 245 of the Constitution of Nepal, the ECN comprises 5 members: the



The CCRF EOM members (from left to right): Andrey Maximov, Sergey Kirishov, Margarita Liange, Alexander Kholodov, Ilya Gerasyov

Chief Election Commissioner and 4 Election Commissioners appointed by the President of Nepal upon the nomination of Nepal's Constitutional Council.

The eligibility requirements for Election Commissioners are as follows:

1. higher education from a university recognized by Nepal;
2. no membership in any political party immediately prior to appointment;
3. age over 45 years;
4. adherence to the high standards of integrity.

The duties of the Chief Election Commissioner include:

1. determining territories of constituencies in accordance with the Constituency Delimitation Act of April 24, 2017;

2. preparing and reviewing voter registers and managing the registration process for all eligible voters;
3. announcement of the election date and schedule after consultation with the Cabinet of Ministers of Nepal;
4. registration of political parties and assigning them a special identifying symbol;
5. appointment of officials responsible for resolving electoral disputes;
6. enforcement of the election code of conduct.

It is important to note that a person who holds the office of the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner may not also be appointed to other public service offices.

The term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner and the 4 Election Commissioners is 6 years, not eligible for 1 more term. However, a person who once held the office of an Election Commissioner may be appointed to the position of Chief Election Commissioner.

The Secretariat is the central administrative management body of the ECN. The Secretariat shall be headed by the ECN Secretary, who shall perform administrative functions required for the day-to-day technical and organizational tasks.

The ECN Secretary shall also perform the following functions, as directed by the Chief Election Commissioner, in addition to the duties set forth under the Election

Commission Act and other regulations:

1. provide for the administrative and managerial work of the ECN;
2. ensure the preparation and presentation of an annual budget, programs, and plans of the ECN;
3. be responsible for the safety of the movable and immovable assets of the ECN;
4. take measures necessary for the unimpeded performance of the ECN functions and duties;
5. implement the policies, programs, and regulations of the ECN;
6. perform other functions prescribed by the ECN.

The ECN may, where necessary, establish branches in the provinces and regions of the country, thus forming provincial, district, and constituency electoral commissions.

The Provincial and District Election Commissions prepare and administer the local election, including the storage and distribution of election materials among the voting centers and polling stations.

Voting centers, with 1 or more polling stations under their umbrella, are at the lowest level of the election administration system in Nepal.

At polling stations, voting is organized and administered by the PECs, after which the sealed ballot boxes and other election materials are forwarded to the tallying centers.

Vote Counting System

General election votes are counted in Nepal under a 2-tier system:

1. Chief Election Commissioner of the ECN;
2. 165 tallying centers.

A notable feature of the electoral process in Nepal is that opening of ballot boxes and vote counting is not done in the voting centers or at the polling stations. Instead, having closed the polls, the PEC

heads, accompanied by police officers, transport the ballot boxes and all the election materials to specialized tallying centers.

A total of 165 tallying centers were established for the November 20, 2022 general elections, 1 for each SMD in the House of Representatives FPTP election.

The tallying centers process and count the ballots cast at all election types and levels, which are brought there from all polling stations formed within the boundaries of the corresponding SMD in the federal-level election.

Each tallying center is headed by a returning officer, an ECN official responsible for organizing the vote counting process, compiling reports, and transmitting the information to the ECN. Candidates and their official representatives may be present during vote counting.

The tallying center staff shall process, count and sort the ballots in the following order:

1. ballots cast for the election of members to the House of Representatives of Nepal in the SMDs;
2. ballots cast for the election of members to the Provincial Assembly in the SMDs;
3. ballots cast for the election of members to the House of Representatives of Nepal in the nationwide constituency;
4. ballots cast for the election of members of the Provincial Assembly in the provincial constituency.

While counting the votes, all the information, including data on blank and spoiled ballots, is recorded in a special report, after which the returning officer enters it into a special program, the Election Results Information System, developed by the ECN.

Based on the aggregated information, seat distribution among the parties in the national

and provincial constituencies is automatically calculated, and after verifying the results, the Chief Election Commissioner of the ECN announces the election results.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

Active suffrage is exercised by legally capable citizens of Nepal over the age of 18 on Election Day. All legally capable Nepali citizens who are 16 years of age or older on the registration date can register as voters (however, they are still not eligible to vote until they come of age).

The ECN is responsible for compiling and updating the voter register. Voter registration is not automatic, so citizens of Nepal have to turn to the relevant authorities in order to be included in the voter roll.

Since September 2010, the ECN has transitioned to computerized voter registration, which includes voters' photographs and fingerprints, in addition to entering personal data into the database.

At the district level, voter registration consists of the following steps: multilevel multimedia voter education; counting the number of people eligible to register (done by going door-to-door); and registration of voters directly at the voting centers near their residence places. At the same time, continuous registration of voters is underway in 77 DEC, which is mainly envisaged for those citizens who, for some reason, failed to register at their place of residence.

The door-to-door visits to citizens at their residence places are paid for 1-2 weeks before opening polling stations. The ECN officer checks the citizenship certificate of those who wish to be registered as voters, helps them fill out the registration form, and gives the voter a confirmation slip that informs them that they need

to bring their citizenship certificate for registration at the polling station.

For registration proper, the citizen must bring the previously received registration slip and the certificate of citizenship to the registration office organized at the polling station at his/her place of residence. Biometric information and personal data, along with the voter's photograph, are entered into the electronic register by the

officer in charge. Citizens who were not earlier registered but have a certificate of citizenship can go to the registration desk to fill out the registration form and register on a first-come, first-served basis.

The registration data collected in each district is aggregated and sent to the ECN headquarters in Kathmandu for further processing.

It takes 30 days since registration for a voter ID card to be produced, and a citizen can receive it at the polling station of his/her place of residence.

If a voter has lost his/her card, the voter on the voter roll can also cast his/her vote on Election Day by presenting the certificate of Nepali citizenship, passport, or national ID card to the PEC.

If citizens wish to register in a constituency other than the one listed on their national ID card, they must present a document that confirms the change of their residence, e.g., a letter from an individual (landlord), municipality, or village development commission confirming the person's actual address of residence, a certificate of ownership of land or house, or an electricity or water bill (or other documents) indicating the new address of actual residence.

It is important to note that this system of voter registration excludes a large percentage of the Nepali population who do not possess a certificate of citizenship from the electoral process: i.e., their share may be as high as 20% of people living in Nepal, according to various estimates.

Nepal's electoral legislation does not provide for out-of-country voting. In 2021, about 2.6 million Nepalese lived and worked outside the country, according to the United Nations Development Investment Fund report.⁶⁸ Thus, 10–12% of the total number of registered voters cannot cast their vote in the election since all Nepali citizens are able to vote at their official place of residence only.

The voter registry was updated prior to the November 20, 2022 general elections, immediately

after the May 13, 2022 municipal election; i.e., from July 15, 2022, to August 4, 2022. During this period, Nepali citizens could register or update their information in the voter registry.

In the November 20, 2022 general elections in Nepal, 17,988,570 voters were officially registered in the national voter registry: 9,140,806 men (50.81%), 8,847,579 women (49.19%), and 185 voters who listed "other" as their sex on the documents.⁶⁹ Of these, 11,126,211 voters participated in the elections. Thus, the turnout was 61.85%, significantly lower than that of the 2013 Nepal Constituent Assembly election and the 2017 general elections.

Candidate Registration

There are several statutory requirements for candidates for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies. In particular, a parliamentary candidate shall:

1. be a citizen of Nepal;
2. be over 25 years of age;
3. have no criminal record or moral offense;
4. be legally capable and have no record of mental illness;
5. not hold a position of high income.

The ECN is also responsible for registering candidates. In the November 20, 2022 general elections, the registration procedure and associated filing deadlines were different for party lists and candidates in single-member constituencies.

For example, political parties which intended to participate in the elections had to submit documents for registration by August 16, 2022, after which they had to compile party lists for the election to the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies and submit

them along with the package of necessary documents to the ECN by September 18–19, 2022.

The party lists registered for the elections were published by the ECN on October 12, 2022.

For candidates nominated in the SMDs, both from parties and as independents, it was necessary to submit the documents to the ECN by October 9, 2022, after which the ECN decided on their registration. The final lists of candidates nominated in the SMDs were published by the ECN on October 26, 2022.

It is important to note that the same candidate could not simultaneously run in an SMD and be a party list member.

List of Registered Candidates

In the November 20, 2022 general elections, 2,412 candidates were registered as candidates for the House of Representatives running in the SMDs, of whom 2,187 were men (90.67%) and 225 were women (9.33%), as well as 2,199 candidates running on party lists in the national constituency, of whom 1,013 were men (46.06%) and 1,186 were women (53.94%).

3,224 candidates were running in the SMDs for the Provincial Assemblies, including 2,943 men (91.28%), 280 women (8.72%), and a candidate of the "other" sex, as well as 3,708 candidates on party lists ran in provincial constituencies, including 1,512 men (40.78%) and 2,196 women (59.22%).

A total of 59 political parties were registered for the elections; 47 of them fielded their candidates both in the nationwide constituency and the SMDs, whereas the other 12 parties nominated their candidates in the SMDs only. The largest political parties

17,988,570
registered voters

9,140,806
men (50.81%)

8,847,579
women (49.19%)

185
voters
who listed "other" as their sex
identity

11,126,211
voters
participated in the
elections

61.85%
turnout

that participated in the November 20, 2022 general elections were:

1. Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) – CPN (UML);
2. Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) – CPN (MC);
3. Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) – CPN (US);
4. Nepali Congress – NC;
5. People's Socialist Party, Nepal – PSP–N;



A PEC staffer keeps records of ballots

⁶⁸ There is no exact data on the number of migrant workers, citizens of Nepal; according to some estimates, their number totals 3.5 million people.

⁶⁹ The legislation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal allows "other" to be listed as the third sex option on official documents.



Work of PEC members on Election Day

6. Democratic Socialist Party – DSP;
7. Nepal Workers’ and Peasants’ Party – NWPP;
8. Public Opinion Party – POP;
9. National Independent Party – NIP;
10. National Democratic Party – NDP;
11. National People’s Front – NPF;
12. People’s Freedom Party – PFP;
13. Our Nepali Party – ONP.

Election Observation Institutions

The legislation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal states that the ECN is in charge of accrediting national and international observers.

National observers can come from the midst of political parties, media, specialized Nepali NGOs, and CSOs.

International observers can be international and intergovernmental organizations, foreign NGOs, delegations of national election management bodies, and other official representatives of foreign countries.

The ECN reviewed applications on a first-come, first-served basis, following the procedure prescribed by the electoral legislation. International observers could apply for accreditation from August 14 to 28, 2022, and national observers from August 24, 2022, to September 8, 2022, but the Election Commission of Nepal subsequently announced an additional application period for international and national observers from September 24 to 27, 2022.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The ECN accredited the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for the November 20, 2022 general elections in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal as an international observer to monitor voting at polling stations and vote counting of votes at specialized tallying centers in 7 provinces of Nepal.

Election Observation Mission Composition

1. Andrey Maximov, Chair, Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local

4,611

registered candidates

in the House of Representatives of Nepal election

2,412

candidates in SMDs

2,187

men (90.67%)

225

women (9.33%)

2,199

candidates on closed party lists

1,013

men (46.06%)

1,186

women (53.94%)

2. Government, Head of the Election Observation Mission; Iliia Gerasyov, Deputy Chair, Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Youth, Volunteerism, and Patriotic Education;
3. Sergey Kirishov, member of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian

Federation on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations;

4. Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair, Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions;
5. Margarita Liange, Deputy Chair, Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations.

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation worked in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal from November 17 to 21, 2022.

On November 17, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation had a working meeting with the ECN representatives, during which they received their accreditation documents of international observers and discussed issues related to the electoral legislation of Nepal, the specifics of voting procedure organization and observation at polling stations, as well as technical aspects ensuring the transparency of the electoral process.

On November 18, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation met with the leadership of the Ministry of Land Policy and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Vice Mayor of Kathmandu, Sunita Dangol, and Mayor of Lalitpur, Chiri Babu Maharjan.

On Election Day, November 20, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation split into 2 groups to parallelly monitor Election Day activities in the Bagmati and Lumbini

6,932

registered candidates

in Provincial Assemblies elections

3,224

candidates in SMDs

2,943

men (91.28%)

280

women (8.72%)

1

candidate who listed “other” as sex identity

3,708

candidates on closed party lists

1,512

men (40.78%)

2,196

women (59.22%)

provinces of Nepal. In total, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors visited 13 voting centers in both provinces during the day.

The 1st group of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observers visited the following voting centers in the Bagmati province (listed in chronological order):

1. Kalamadi 2 Voting Center, National Academy of Nepal Main Building, Pragma Marg, Kalamadi Rd., Kathmandu;
2. Ratna Rajya High School Voting Center, Devkota Sadak, Kathmandu;
3. Sri Nepal Rastra Nirman High School Voting Center, Kageshwari Manohara, Kathmandu;
4. Mahankal High School Voting Center, Kathmandu;
5. Municipal Medical Clinic Voting Center, Kankeshwari Marg, Kathmandu;
6. Vishwa Niketan High School Voting Center, Kathmandu;
7. Sri Mahankal High School Voting Center, Kathmandu;
8. District Administration Office No. 2 Voting Center, Kathmandu.

The 2nd group of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors who carried out observation in the Lumbini province visited the following voting centers during Election Day (listed in chronological order):

1. Voting Center No. 3, Siddhartha Sports Stadium, Siddharthanagar;
2. Voting Center No. 8, Rupandehi Lilaram Neupane M. A. High School, Siddharthanagar;
3. Voting Center No. 9, Bhanu M. V. High School, Goligadh District, Siddharthanagar;
4. Voting Centre No. 12, District Animal Disease Control Department, Siddharthanagar;
5. Voting Centre No. 13, Su Sanskrit High School, Shantinagar, Siddharthanagar.

The 1st team of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observers attended the opening of the polling stations at the Kalamadi 2 voting center in Kathmandu, while the 2nd team observed the opening of Voting Center No. 8 in Siddharthanagar.

Since the votes cast during the November 20, 2022 general elections in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal were counted at tallying centers rather than at polling stations, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited 1 of the 10 tallying centers in Kathmandu, i.e., Constituency 1 Tallying Center, located at the Birendra International Conference Center in New Baneshwar after the polls closed at 5:00 pm.

Interaction with other Observation Missions

Apart from the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the November 20, 2022 general elections in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal were attended by international observers deployed by the national election management bodies of Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, South Korea, and the Republic of Maldives, the election observation missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The ECN also engaged representatives of the foreign diplomatic corps accredited in the country to observe.

In addition, the ECN accredited 4 international and foreign NGOs, including the election observation mission of the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL).

43 Nepali organizations were accredited as national observers by the ECN, as well as official

representatives of the candidates on the electoral lists.

A total of about 20,000 national and international observers were present at the polling stations during voting in the course of the November 20, 2022 general election.

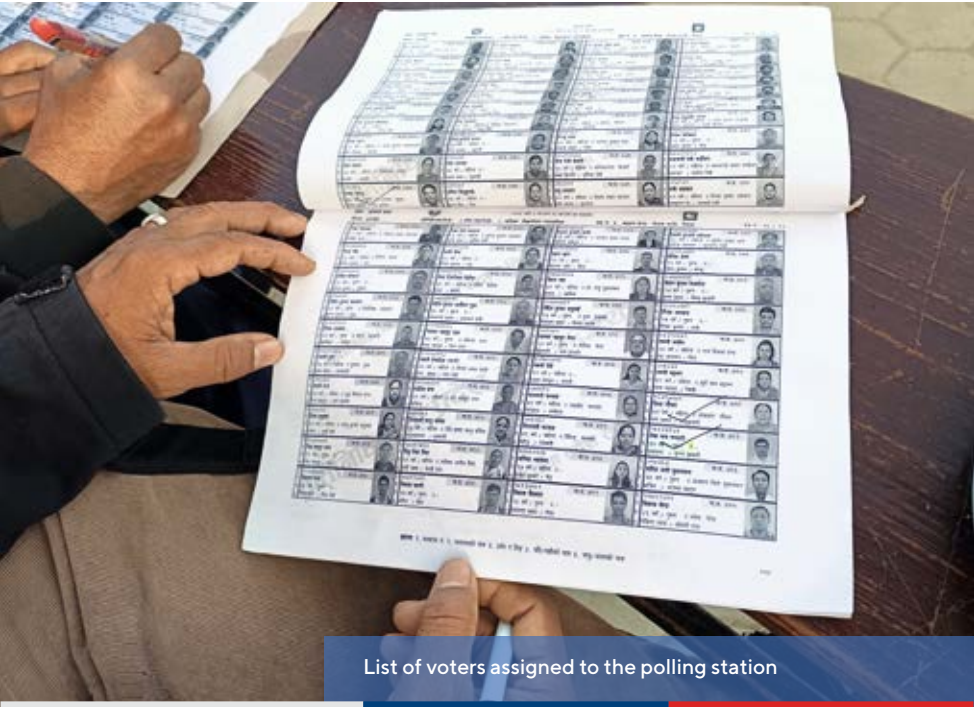
Observation Findings on Election Day

The polling stations that opened on Election Day, November 20, 2022, worked for 10 hours, i.e., from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm, on the territory of Nepal. Almost all polling stations opened on time, except for the polling stations where voting was postponed to the next day due to bad weather conditions.⁷⁰ The closing of polling stations took place mainly according to the established schedule.

Before the opening, the polling stations organized space for voting by installing screens. Ballot boxes were sealed using the official ECN seals with unique identification numbers. In the voting centers of the Bagmati province, the ballot box lids differed in color, while in the Lumbini province, they differed in color and shape.

Once the polling stations opened and voting began, voters had to undergo the identification procedure. First, before entering the voting center, voters were greeted by volunteers – representatives of political parties and other national organizations who acted as observers. The volunteers checked the voter's ID against the voter register, after which they handed out a handwritten coupon indicating the polling station number and the place in a voter line.

Then, upon entering the polling station proper, the voter showed his/her voter ID card to a PEC



List of voters assigned to the polling station

member, which was checked against the register of voters assigned to that particular polling station, and then the voter showed his/her hands so that the PEC members could make sure that the voter had no election ink on the left thumb, i.e., special indelible marks indicating that the voter had not voted earlier.

After checking the voter's ID against the register, a relevant mark about voting was put in the latter, and the voter's left thumb was marked with the election ink of black color. After that, the voter was given a ballot paper for voting for members of the House of Representatives under FPTP.

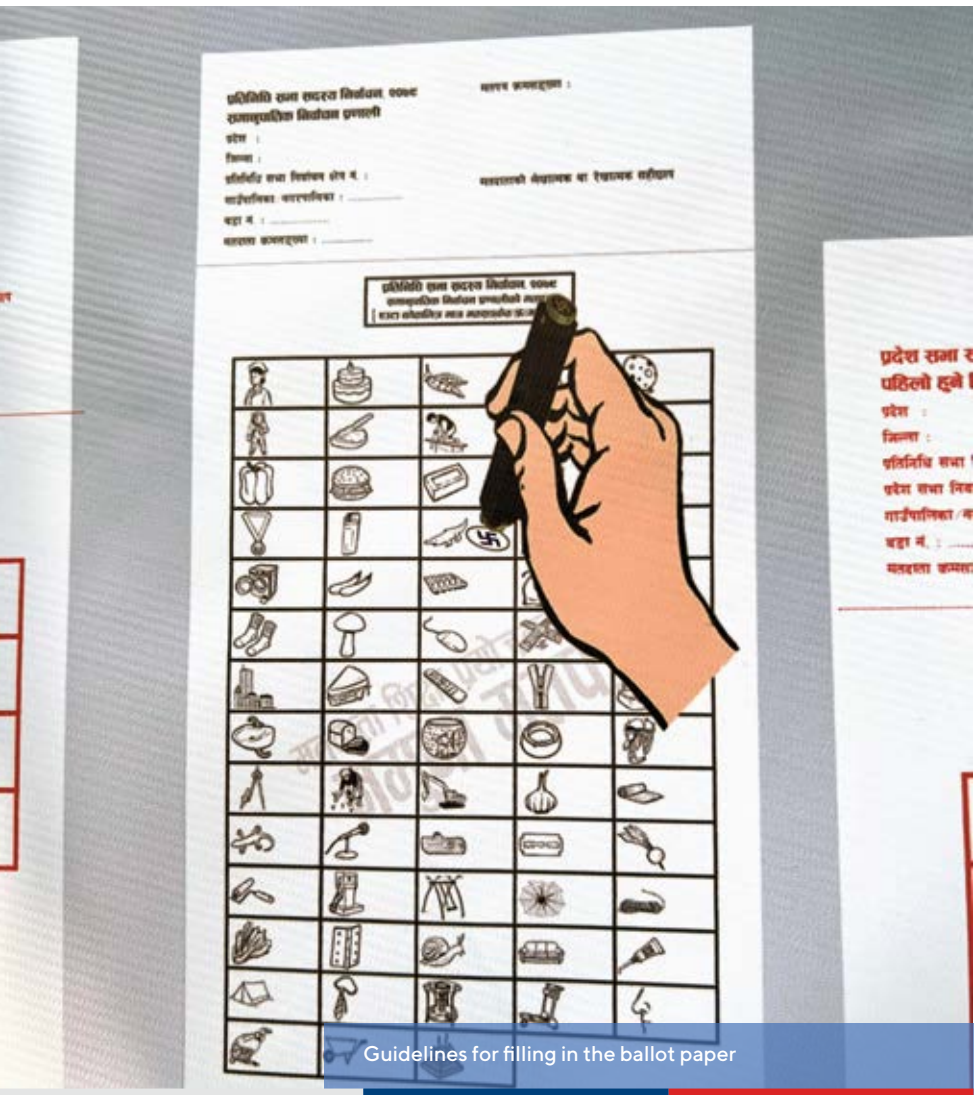
Having put the ballot paper into the ballot box marked with '1', the voter was given a ballot paper to cast for the party lists for the House of Representatives. Having made his/her choice, the voter dropped the second ballot paper into the ballot box marked with the number '2'.

Then the voter was handed a ballot paper to vote for the FPTP candidates for the Provincial Assembly. Having marked the ballot paper, the voter cast dropped it in ballot box '3'.

At the last, fourth stage of voting, the voter was given a ballot paper for the members of the Provincial Assembly to be elected under the proportional system. This ballot paper was dropped, respectively, in the ballot box marked with the number '4'.

To mark the ballots, voters used special blue stamps with the swastika symbol, which were given to voters at each polling station.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took note of the peculiarities of the ballots: The ballots did not contain the names of candidates – only their party affiliation was indicated,



Guidelines for filling in the ballot paper

⁷⁰ These polling stations were not on the itinerary of the Election Observer Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.



Sergey Kirishov with the polling station staff and police at a polling station in Lumbini Pradesh

namely the party logo or a personal symbol assigned to independent candidates by the ECN.

Each political party in Nepal had its own electoral symbol: Tree, bee, hammer and sickle, sun, umbrella, buffalo, rooster, kerosene lamp, dolphin, house, etc. The use of such a system, traditional in South Asia, allowed all citizens of Nepal, including the illiterate, to vote and thus exercise their constitutional rights.

Candidates' party and personal symbols were printed in red on both ballots used for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies elections under FPTP, while on the ballots used for party list voting, the same symbols were printed in black.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation emphasized

that, despite the limited resources available, the work of PECs was well organized, and the voter lines moved quickly enough. This was also facilitated by the way the queues were organized: signposts with ranges of voter registration numbers were installed at each polling station to guide voters. In addition, male and female voters' queues were organized, which also contributed to a more comfortable electoral process, taking into account the cultural traditions of Nepal.

Given that most voting centers and polling stations were located in open spaces (outside buildings), special infrastructure for convenient access to polling stations for people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-mobility people was not required. Nonetheless, almost at all polling stations visited by the Election Observation Mission of the

Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, those who needed were provided with a wheelchair.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted that since voting centers were located in open spaces, e.g., in school yards, parks, stadiums and vacant lots, etc., it was possible to organize the voting without introducing strict sanitary and epidemiological requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the polling stations. Nevertheless, a considerable part of people present at the polling stations, i.e., polling staff, observers, and voters, used nearly no masks or other means of personal protection.

Among other things, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation cited the lengthy procedure



The closing of a polling station

of transporting ballot boxes and other electoral materials from the polling stations to the tallying center visited by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors, which seriously delayed the start of vote counting.

Along with that, the tallying center personnel and administration were not informed about the working plan, as a result, dozens of candidates, political party representatives, and observers had to wait for the start of the vote counting procedure at the tallying center entrance.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted the underdeveloped system of collection, processing, and disclosure of statistical information used by the ECN, as well as a rather slow process of manual vote counting, despite the introduction

of a digital information system for recording votes and tabulation of election results.

The abovementioned shortcomings and observations were largely attributed to the lack of resources of the ECN and Nepal's challenging economic situation.

Complaints and Infringements

During Election Day, on November 20, 2022, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not register any officially submitted complaints from voters, candidates, or observers at the voting centers and polling stations visited.

According to the official statement of Chief Election Commissioner Dinesh Kumar Thapalya, the vote

was frustrated in 15 voting centers throughout the country. Voters assigned to the polling stations where voting had been foiled were given an opportunity to vote from November 21 to 22, 2022.

None of the polling stations monitored by the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recorded such incidents.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that the elections took place in a relatively calm atmosphere and in accordance with the norms stipulated by the electoral legislation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Not least of all this was due to the presence of a large number of international and national



Sealed ballot boxes before their transportation to a tallying center

observers at the polling stations throughout the country on Election Day.

Given the numerous political forces competing in the elections, including newly formed political parties, as well as a significant number of independent candidates, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation found the November 20, 2022 general elections in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to be free and highly competitive.

Specifically, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors noted the work of thousands of law enforcement staff who ensured

security in and around the voting centers. Despite these efforts, however, several incidents were not prevented: the ECN reported that a person was killed when police opened fire in the Bajur district after several individuals tried to interfere with the voting process, and at least a dozen people were injured in clashes in different parts of the country.⁷¹

Based on the election observation findings, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors identified a number of drawbacks in the electoral process organization:

1. inaccessibility of the national voter register and lack of external control over the correctness of its compilation;

2. complicated and costly procedures for updating voter rolls and distribution of voter certificates;
3. a slow manual procedure of vote counting, as well as the lack of regulations establishing the time limits for this procedure;
4. lack of detailed disclosure of electoral statistics;
5. exclusion of a large part of Nepal's population from the electoral process, including citizens residing outside the country;
6. lack of a system of photo and video recording of infringements at polling stations;
7. lack of opportunity to vote outside the constituency of official registration.

⁷¹ These polling stations were not on the itinerary of the Election Observer Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends that attention should be paid to the above deficiencies, identified during the general elections observation on November 20, 2022, in order to improve and further develop the electoral system in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Priority recommendations:

1. Take measures to make the national voter register publicly available and increase the transparency of

- its compilation, in particular, to consider a participatory procedure for auditing the register by all stakeholders;
2. Consider moving from the current system of voter register compilation to automatic updates based on official data from the relevant federal and local authorities;
3. Optimize the issue procedure of voter certificates or consider abandoning thereof in favor of more practical solutions;
4. Optimize the manual counting procedure by increasing the number of trained staff at the tallying centers or decentralizing it;
5. Take steps to make more detailed electoral statistics publicly available on the

- ECN resources, including its translation into English;
6. Consider the option and models of embracing persons living in Nepal without the citizenship certificate, as well as Nepali citizens residing abroad, in the electoral process;

Other recommendations:

7. Explore the possibility of introducing an absentee voting card system to facilitate voting away from the voter's place of registration (without having to register at a new polling station) or consider e-voting;
8. Consider the possibility of photo and video recording of infringements at polling stations.



Members of the CCRF EOM (from left to right): Alexander Kholodov, Margarita Liange, Ilya Gerasyov, Andrey Maximov

ANNEX

Results of the House of Representatives of Nepal Election, November 20, 2022

Party	National constituency			Single-member constituencies			Total seats
	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	
Nepali Congress – NC	2,715,225	25.71	32	2,431,907	23.19	57	89
Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) – CPN (UML)	2,845,641	26.95	34	3,233,567	30.83	44	78
Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) – CPN (MC)	1,175,684	11.13	14	982,826	9.37	18	32
National Independent Party – NIP	1,130,344	10.70	13	815,023	7.77	7	20
National Democratic Party – NDP	588,849	5.58	7	549,340	5.24	7	14
People’s Socialist Party, Nepal – PSP-N	421,314	3.99	5	379,337	3.62	7	12
Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) – CPN (US)	298,391	2.83	0	436,020	4.16	10	10
Public Opinion Party – POP	394,655	3.74	5	292,554	2.79	1	6
Independent	–	–	–	584,629	5.57	5	5
Democratic Socialist Party – DSP	167,367	1.58	0	169,692	1.62	4	4
People’s Freedom Party – PFP	271,722	2.57	0	172,205	1.64	3	3
Nepal Worker’s and Peasants’ Party – NWPP	75,168	0.71	0	71,567	0.68	1	1
National People’s Front – NPF	46,504	0.44	0	57,278	0.55	1	1
Our Nepali Party – ONP	55,743	0.53	0	57,077	0.54	0	0
Mongol National Organization – MNO	49,000	0.46	0	42,892	0.41	0	0
Nepal Federal Socialist Party – NFSP	41,830	0.40	0	7,172	0.07	0	0
Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist-Leninist) – CPN (ML)	30,599	0.29	0	18,716	0.18	0	0
National People’s Liberation Party – NPLP	23,934	0.23	0	34,012	0.32	0	0
People’s Progressive Party – PPP	18,059	0.17	0	37,511	0.36	0	0
Nepal Naulo Janwadi Party – Nepal Aama Party – Nepal Sushashan Party – Sachet Napali Party	17,902	0.17	0	18,495	0.18	0	0
Federal Democratic National Forum – FDNF	17,805	0.17	0	11,488	0.11	0	0
Bahujan Ekata Party Nepal	17,080	0.16	0	7,274	0.07	0	0
Nepali Congress (B.P.) – NC (B.P.)	12,502	0.12	0	13,123	0.13	0	0
Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal	12,340	0.12	0	10,087	0.10	0	0

Party	National constituency			Single-member constituencies			Total seats
	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	
Nepali Janata Dal	10,137	0.10	0	1,654	0.02	0	0
Bahujan Shakti Party	9,435	0.09	0	6,710	0.06	0	0
Nepalka Lagi Nepali Party	8,436	0.08	0	3,893	0.04	0	0
Nepal Communist Party – NCP	8,013	0.08	0	313	0.00	0	0
Nepal Loktantrik Party	7,705	0.07	0	3,842	0.04	0	0
Nepal Janata Party	7,518	0.07	0	2,269	0.02	0	0
Communist Party of Nepal Marxist (Pushpa Lal)	7,402	0.07	0	1,760	0.02	0	0
Miteri Party Nepal	7,043	0.07	0	22	0.00	0	0
Janajagaran Party Nepal	6,550	0.06	0	324	0.00	0	0
Aamul Pariwartan Masiha Party Nepal	6,429	0.06	0	1,366	0.01	0	0
Terai Madhesh Laoktantrik Party	5,977	0.06	0	12,203	0.12	0	0
Janasamajbadi Party	5,925	0.06	0	3,030	0.03	0	0
Nepal Dalit PartySamajik Ekata Party—Communist Party of Nepal (Socialist)	5,839	0.06	0	478	0.00	0	0
Pichhadibarga Nishad Dalit Janajati Party	5,105	0.05	0	379	0.00	0	0
Bibeksheel Sajha Party	4,049	0.04	0	2,446	0.02	0	0
Ekikrit Shakti Nepal	3,792	0.04	0	3,026	0.03	0	0
Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Socialist) – CPN (MS)	3,702	0.04	0	766	0.01	0	0
Federal Democratic National Forum (Tharuhat)– FDNF (Tharuhat)	3,406	0.03	0	293	0.00	0	0
Rastriya Mukti Andolan Nepal	3,354	0.03	0	–	–	–	0
Maulik Jarokilo Party	3,256	0.03	0	2,416	0.02	0	0
Nepal Inclusive Party (Nepal Samabeshi Party)	2,963	0.03	0	–	–	–	0
Communist Party of Nepal (Paribartan)	2,220	0.02	0	364	0.00	0	0
Rastriya Nagarik Party	2,150	0.02	0	149	0.00	0	0
Nationalist People’s Party	2,018	0.02	0	1,768	0.02	0	0
Sajha Party Nepal	–	–	–	2,327	0.02	0	0
Nepal Sadbhawana Party	–	–	–	660	0.01	0	0
Nepal Bibeksheel Party	–	–	–	379	0.00	0	0
Aitihasuk Prajatantrik Janata Party Nepal	–	–	–	359	0.00	0	0
Kirat Khambhuwan Sajha Party	–	–	–	278	0.00	0	0
Khambuwan Rastriya Morcha Nepal	–	–	–	162	0.00	0	0
Punarjagarn Party Nepal	–	–	–	141	0.00	0	0

Party	National constituency			Single-member constituencies			Total seats
	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	
Nepalbad	–	–	–	131	0.00	0	0
Tamangsaling Loktantrik Party	–	–	–	85	0.00	0	0
National Socialist Party of Nepal – NSPN	–	–	–	60	0.00	0	0
Social Democratic Party – SDP	–	–	–	56	0.00	0	0
Gandhibadi Party Nepal	–	–	–	60	0.00	0	0
Total	10,560,082	100.00	110	10,487,961	100.00	165	275
Valid votes	10,560,082	94.91		10,487,961	94.94		
Invalid/blank votes	566,144	5.09		559,076	5.06		
Total votes	11,126,226	100.00		11,047,037	100.00		
Total of Voters Registered	17,988,570			17,988,570			
Turnout	61.85			61.41			

Results of the House of Representatives of Nepal Election,
November 20, 2022
Single-Member Constituencies

Province 1
28 constituencies

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Taplejung (ताप्लेजुंग)	Yogesh Kumar Bhattarai	CPN (UML)	21,943
Panchthar (पाँचथर)	Basanta Kumar Nembang	CPN (UML)	32,135
Ilam (इलाम)	Mahesh Basnet	CPN (UML)	25,753
	Subhas Chandra Nemwang	CPN (UML)	30,020
Jhapa (झापा)	Bishwa Prakash Sharma	NC	39,624
	Dev Raj Ghimire	CPN (UML)	28,716
	Rajendra Prasad Lingden	NDP	40,662
	Lal Prasad Sawa Limbu	CPN (UML)	29,315
	Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli	CPN (UML)	52,319
Sankhuwasabha (संखुवासभा)	Deepak Khadka	NC	32,161
Terhathum (तेरहथुम)	Sita Gurung	NC	19,707
Bhojpur (भोजपुर)	Sudan Kirati	CPN (MC)	28,591
Dhankuta (धनकुटा)	Rajendra Kumar Rai	CPN (UML)	30,101
Morang (मोरङ्ग)	Dig Bahadur Limbu	NC	27,297
	Rishikesh Pokharel	CPN (UML)	33,148
	Sunil Kumar Sharma	NC	48,631
	Aman Lal Modi	CPN (MC)	30,612
	Jogendra Mandal	Independent	21,820
	Shekhar Koirala	NC	35,224
Sunsari (सुनसरी)	Ashok Kumar Rai	PSP-N	17,059
	Bhim Prasad Acharya	CPN (UML)	32,024
	Bhagwati Chaudhary	CPN (UML)	40,788
	Gyanendra Bahadur Karki	NC	30,483
Solukhumbu (सोलुखुम्बु)	Manbir Rai	CPN (UML)	19,324
Khotang (खोटाङ्ग)	Ram Kumar Rai	CPN (MC)	31,351
Okhaldhunga (ओखलढुंगा)	Ram Hari Khatiwada	NC	33,556
Udayapur (उदयपुर)	Narayan Khadka	NC	31,270
	Ambar Bahadur Rayamajhi	CPN (UML)	15,251

Madhesh
32 constituencies

Saptari (सप्तरी)	Nawal Kishor Sah Sudi	PSP-N	23,604
	Chandra Kant Raut	POP	35,042
	Dinesh Kumar Yadav	NC	26,166
	Teju Lal Chaudhary	NC	23,491
Siraha (सरिहा)	Ram Shankar Yadav	CPN (UML)	29,462
	Raj Kishor Yadav	PSP-N	24,178
	Lila Nath Shrestha	CPN (UML)	28,064
	Birendra Prasad Mahato	PSP-N	24,102

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Dhanusha (धनुषा)	Dipak Karki	PSP-N	27,431
	Ram Krishna Yadav	NC	20,112
	Juli Kumari Mahato	CPN (UML)	33,388
	Raghubir Mahaseth	CPN (UML)	32,236
Mahottari (महोत्तरी)	Laxmi Mahato Koiri	CPN (UML)	23,402
	Sharat Singh Bhandari	DSP	25,190
	Mahantha Thakur	DSP	16,375
	Mahendra Kumar Roy	NC	25,448
Sarlahi (सरलाही)	Ram Prakash Chaudhary	DSP	24,838
	Mahindra Raya Yadav	CPN (MC)	23,529
	Hari Prasad Upreti	CPN (UML)	32,938
	Amresh Kumar Singh	Independent	20,017
Rautahat (रौतहट)	Madhav Kumar Nepal	CPN (UML)	33,522
	Kiran Kumar Sah	Independent	32,842
	Prabhu Sah	Independent	32,437
	Dev Prasad Timalcina	NC	34,161
Bara (बारा)	Achyut Prasad Mainali	CPN (UML)	39,195
	Ramsahay Prasad Yadav	PSP-N	13,822
	Jwala Kumari Sah	CPN (UML)	20,251
	Krishna Kumar Shrestha	CPN (US)	30,341
Parsa (पर्सा)	Pradeep Yadav	PSP-N	22,537
	Ajay Kumar Chaursiya	NC	28,451
	Raj Kumar Gupta	CPN (UML)	24,319
	Ramesh Rizal	NC	31,224
Bagmati 33 constituencies			
Dolakha (दोलखा)	Ganga Karki	CPN (MC)	36,820
Ramechhap (रामेछाप)	Purna Bahadur Tamang	NC	47,099
Sindhuli (सिन्धुली)	Shyam Kumar Ghimire	NC	30,391
	Lekh Nath Dahal	CPN (MC)	27,517
Rasuwa (रसुवा)	Mohan Acharya	NC	18,235
Dhading (धादिङ्ग)	Rajendra Prasad Pandey	CPN (US)	36,018
	Ram Nath Adhikari	NC	34,736
Nuwakot (नुवाकोट)	Hit Bahadur Tamang	CPN (MC)	26,548
	Arjun Narasingha	NC	28,107
Kathmandu (काठमाडौं)	Prakash Man Singh	NC	7,143
	Rajendra Kumar	NC	14,463
	Sobita Gautam	NIP	15,238
	Santosh Chalise	NC	15,158
	Gagan Kumar Thapa	NC	21,302
	Pradeep Paudel	NC	15,269
	Shisir Khanal	NIP	14,221
	Ganesh Parajuli	NIP	8,743
	Biraj Bhakta Shrestha	NIP	10,112
	Krishna Gopal Shrestha	CPN (UML)	11,956

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Bhaktapur (भक्तपुर)	Prem Suwal	NWPP	42,761
	Durlabh Thapa Chhetri	NC	24,239
Lalitpur (ललितपुर)	Uday Shamsher Rana	NC	23,892
	Prem Bahadur Maharjan	CPN (UML)	15,025
	Toshima Karki	NIP	31,136
Kavrepalanchok (काभ्रेपलाञ्चोक)	Surya Man Tamang (Dong)	CPN (MC)	34,512
	Gokul Prasad Baskota	CPN (UML)	45,345
Sindhupalchok (सिन्धुपाल्चोक)	Madhav Sapkota	CPN (MC)	30,408
	Mohan Bahadur Basnet	NC	39,381
Makawanpur (मकवानपुर)	Deepak Bahadur Singh	NDP	27,851
	Mahesh Kumar Bartaula	CPN (UML)	34,950
Chitwan (चितवन)	Hari Dhakal	NIP	34218
	Rabi Lamichhane	NIP	49300
	Bikram Pandey	NDP	35,060

Gandaki
18 constituencies

Gorkha (गोरखा)	Rajendra Bajgai	NC	33,428
	Pushpa Kamal Dahal	CPN (MC)	26,109
Manang (मनाङ्ग)	Tek Bahadur Gurung	NC	2,575
Lamjung (लमजुंग)	Prithvi Subba Gurung	CPN (UML)	34,985
	Man Bahadur Gurung	CPN (UML)	25,708
Kaski (कास्की)	Bidya Bhattarai	CPN (UML)	16,998
	Damodar Poudel Bairagi	CPN (UML)	22,980
Tanahu (तनहुँ)	Ram Chandra Paudel	NC	25,361
	Shankar Bhandari	NC	30,604
Syangja (स्याङ्जा)	Raju Thapa	NC	31,999
	Dhanraj Gurung	NC	31,466
Nawalparasi (East) — नवलपरासी (बर्दघाट सुस्ता पूर्व)	Shashank Koirala	NC	27,067
	Bishnu Kumar Karki	NC	36,132
Mustang (मुस्तांग)	Yogesh Gauchan Thakali	NC	3,992
Myagdi (म्याग्दी)	Kham Bahadur Garbuja	NC	24,021
Baglung (बागलुङ)	Chitra Bahadur K.C.	NPF	21,464
	Devendra Paudel	CPN (MC)	24,794
Parbat (पर्वत)	Padam Giri	CPN (UML)	29,872

Lumbini
26 constituencies

Gulmi (गुल्मी)	Chandrakant Bhandari	NC	33,744
	Gokarna Raj Bista	CPN (UML)	28,476
Palpa (पाल्पा)	Naryana Prasad Acharya	CPN (UML)	31,103
	Thakur Prasad Gaire	CPN (UML)	28,645
Arghakhanchi (अर्घाखाँची)	Top Bahadur Rayamajhi	CPN (UML)	42,675

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Rupandehi (रुपन्देही)	Chhabilal Vishwakarma	CPN (UML)	24,882
	Bishnu Prasad Paudel	CPN (UML)	27,165
	Dipak Borah	NDP	36,717
	Sarvendra Nath Shukla	DSP	28,000
	Basudev Ghimire	CPN (UML)	36,822
Kapilvastu (कपलिवस्तु)	Balaram Adhikari	CPN (UML)	34,675
	Surendra Raj Acharya	NC	39,014
	Mangal Prasad Gupta	CPN (UML)	22,619
Rukum East (रुकुम पूर्व)	Purna Bahadur Gharti Magar	CPN (MC)	12,262
Rolpa (रोल्पा)	Barsaman Pun	CPN (MC)	41,714
Pyuthan (प्यूठान)	Surya Bahadur Thapa Chhetri	CPN (UML)	41,118
Dang (दाङ)	Metmani Chaudhary	CPN (US)	26,576
	Rekha Sharma	CPN (MC)	26,880
	Deepak Giri	NC	36,911
Banke (बाँके)	Surya Prasad Dhakal	CPN (UML)	25,026
	Dhawal Shamsher Jung Bahadur Rana	NDP	29,577
	Kishore Singh Rathore	NC	29,097
Bardiya (बर्दिया)	Sanjay Kumar Gautam	NC	30,611
	Lalbir Chaudhar	Independent	26,520
Nawalparasi (West) — नवलपरासी (बर्दघाट सुस्ता पश्चिमि)	Binod Kumar Choudhary	NC	29,519
	Dhubra Bahadur Pradhan	NDP	34,764

Karnali
12 constituencies

Salyan (सल्यान)	Prakash Jwala	CPN (US)	35,707
Dolpa (डोल्पा)	Dhan Bahadur Buda	CPN (US)	11,292
Mugu (मुगु)	Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri	NC	14,706
Jumla (जुम्ला)	Gyan Bahadur Shahi	NDP	22,819
Kalikot (कालिकोट)	Mahendra Bahadur Shahi	CPN (MC)	23,727
Humla (हुम्ला)	Chhiring Damdul Lama	CPN (MC)	14,371
Jajarkot (जाजरकोट)	Shakti Bahadur Basnet	CPN (MC)	34,151
Dailekh (दैलेख)	Amar Bahadur Thapa	CPN (US)	18,297
	Dikpal Kumar Shah	NC	20,183
Surkhet (सुर्खेत)	Purna Bahadur Khadka	NC	42,607
	Hridya Ram Thani	NC	34,625
Rukum West (रुकुम पश्चिमि)	Janardan Sharma	CPN (MC)	39,549

Sudurpashchim
16 constituencies

Bajura (बाजुरा)	Badri Prasad Pandey	NC	31,786
Achham (अछाम)	Sher Bahadur Kunwor	CPN (US)	19,534
	Pushpa Bahadur Shah	NC	22,954
Bajhang (बझाङ्ग)	Bhanu Bhakta Joshi	CPN (US)	28,413
Doti (डोटी)	Prem Bahadur Ale	CPN (US)	27,210

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Kailali (कैलाली)—	Ranjeeta Shrestha	PFP	30,404
	Arun Kumar Choudhary	PFP	21,871
	Ganga Ram Chaudhary	PFP	23,120
	Bir Bahadur Balayar	NC	26,275
	Dilli Raj Pant	NC	21,392
Darchula (दार्चुला)	Dilendra Prasad Badu	NC	28,515
Baitadi (बैतडी)	Damodar Bhandari	CPN (UML)	33,611
Dadeldhura (डडेलधुरा)	Sher Bahadur Deuba	NC	25,534
Kanchanpur (कनूचनपुर)	Tara Lama Tamang	CPN (UML)	24,943
	Narayan Prakash Saud	NC	28,136
	Ramesh Lekhak	NC	30,575

Results of the Provincial Assemblies of Nepal Elections,
November 20, 2022
Single-Member Constituencies

Province 1

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Taplejung (ताप्लेजुंग) 2 constituencies	Til Kumar Menyangbo Limbu	CPN (UML)	12,772
	Khagen Singh Hangam	NC	10,496
Panchthar (पाँचथर) 2 constituencies	Kamal Prasad Jabegu	CPN (US)	16,849
	Indra Bahadur Angbo	CPN (MC)	15,685
Ilam (इलाम) 4 constituencies	Govinda Giri	NC	16,658
	Khinu Langwa Limbu	CPN (US)	13,371
	Ram Bahadur Magar	CPN (UML)	13,754
	Shemsher Rai	NC	12,780
	Gopal Tamang	NC	23,045
Jhapa (झापा) 10 constituencies	Hikmat Kumar Karki	CPN (UML)	22,530
	Bhumi Prasad Rajbanshi	NC	20,770
	Yakraj Karki	CPN (UML)	18,758
	Radha Krishna Khanal	CPN (UML)	13,951
	Hom Bahadur Thapa	CPN (UML)	24,129
	Tilchan Pathak	CPN (UML)	20,200
	Chhabilal Chudal	CPN (UML)	19,875
	Bhakti Prasad Sitaula	NDP	19,045
	Sabina Bhajgai	NDP	13,612
	Rajendra Karki	CPN (MC)	13,433
Sankhuwasabha (संखुवासभा) 2 constituencies	Bidur Kumar Lingthep	CPN (UML)	15,482
	Kishor Chandra Dulal	CPN (UML)	10,072
Terhathum (तेरहथुम) 2 constituencies	Durga Prasad Chapagain	CPN (MC)	8,398
	Rajendra Kumar Rai	CPN (US)	16,118
Bhojpur (भोजपुर) 2 constituencies	Binod Rai	NC	13,590

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Dhankuta (धनकुटा) 2 constituencies	Niraj Rai	CPN (UML)	17,018
	Indra Madi Parajuli	CPN (UML)	15,797
Morang (मोरङ्ग) 12 constituencies	Man Bahadur Limbu	NC	19,749
	Jeevan Acharya	CPN (MC)	19,455
	Jay Prakash Chaudhary	CPN (UML)	15,464
	Ganesh Prasad Upreti	CPN (MC)	15,033
	Gyanendra Mandal Gangai	NC	14,843
	Umakanta Gautam	CPN (UML)	13,531
	Lila Ballabh Adhikari	CPN (UML)	17,752
	Gyanendra Subedi	CPN (UML)	17,428
	Amrit Kumar Aryal	NC	16,102
	Khadga Bahadur Basnet	CPN (UML)	14,539
	Bhim Parajuli	NC	11,479
	Kedar Karki	NC	10,450
Sunsari (सुनसरी) 8 constituencies	Rohit Bahadur Karki	CPN (UML)	18,641
	Sadanand Mandal	NC	15,198
	Rewati Raman Bhandari	CPN (UML)	14,537
	Ramesh Kumar Basnet	CPN (UML)	11,102
	Ramdev Yadav	CPN (UML)	19,479
	Ram Prasad Mahato	CPN (UML)	18,209
	Ishrail Mansuri	NC	14,358
	Bijay Kumar Rai	CPN (UML)	12,465
Solukhumbu (सोलुखुम्बु) 2 constituencies	Gombu Sherpa	CPN (MC)	10,033
	Buddhi Kumar Rajbhandari	CPN (UML)	10,128
Khotang (खोटाङ्ग) 2 constituencies	Pancha Karna Rai	CPN (UML)	13,157
	Bhupendra Rai	NC	16,496
Okhaldhunga (ओखलढुङ्गा) 2 constituencies	Pradip Kumar Sunuwar	NC	14,916
	Baburam Gautam	CPN (MC)	15,738
Udayapur (उदयपुर) 4 constituencies	Rajan Kiranti	CPN (MC)	15,092
	Narayan Bahadur Magar	CPN (MC)	8,105
	Himal Karki	NC	14,979
	Ram Kumar Khatri	NC	12,627
Madhesh			
Saptari (सप्तरी) 8 constituencies	Satish Kumar Singh	POP	16,734
	Raj Kumar Lekhi	CPN (UML)	14,291
	Govinda Bahadur Neupane	CPN (US)	11,429
	Mohammad Samim	NC	10,630
	Sakil Miya	POP	16,155
	Mahesh Prasad Yadav	POP	13,325
	Shambu Kumar Shah	POP	10,862
	Anirudha Kumar Singh	Independent	9,985

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Siraha (सिराहा) 8 constituencies	Manoj Kumar Singh	CPN (UML)	15,886
	Sanjay Kumar Yadav	POP	12,171
	Rajendra Chaudhary Tharu	CPN (UML)	11,721
	Tribhuvan Shah	POP	8229
	Raj Kumar Gupta	PSP-N	16,239
	Shatrudhan Prasad Singh	CPN (UML)	13,797
	Pramod Kumar Yadav	CPN (US)	9,976
	Ram Babu Yadav	DSP	9,763
	Ram Saroj Yadav	NC	17,029
Dhanusha (धनुषा) 8 constituencies	Shesh Narayan Yadav	NC	14,055
	Lakhan Das Tatma	CPN (UML)	11,581
	Sanjay Kumar Mahato	NC	10,955
	Hari Narayan Mahato	CPN (UML)	17,302
	Ramchandra Mandal	CPN (UML)	13,575
	Ram Ashish Yadav	PSP-N	10,614
	Dipendra Kumar Thakur	CPN (UML)	8,220
	Jayenul Rayin	DSP	11,424
	Saroj Kumar Yadav	CPN (UML)	10,536
Mahottari (महोत्तरी) 8 constituencies	Abhiram Sharma	DSP	9,892
	Sarada Devi Thapa	CPN (UML)	8,304
	Saroj Kumar Singh	PSP-N	11,506
	Surita Kumari Shah	Independent	8,568
	Bahrat Prasad Shah	CPN (MC)	8,371
	Rani Kumari Tiwari	DSP	6,414
	Jawaharlal Kushwalha	Independent	16,591
	Birendra Prasad Singh	NC	15,693
	Upendra Mahato	DSP	12,265
Sarlahi (सरलाही) 8 constituencies	Jangilaal Raye	NC	8,290
	Bechi Lunggeli	CPN (US)	13,677
	Sanjay Kumar Yadav	PSP-N	13,190
	Kaushal Kishor Raye	NC	9,626
	Farik Mahato	CPN (MC)	8,033
	Yubraj Bhattarai	CPN (MC)	15,368
	Mohammad Jaid Aalam	CPN (UML)	13,532
	Keshav Raye	Independent	12,255
	Nagendra Shah	NC	10,502
Rautahat (रौतहट) 8 constituencies	Sunil Kumar Yadav	NC	16,877
	Krishna Prasad Yadav	NC	12,489
	Kanis Patel	CPN (US)	10,442
	Sekh Abulkalam Azad	PSP-N	8,741

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Bara (बारा) 8 constituencies	Trilok Prasad	CPN (UML)	16,798
	Devnarayan Tharu	CPN (UML)	13,632
	Sarada Shankar Prasad Kalwar	Independent	9,295
	Rabindra Das Shrestha	CPN (UML)	8,195
	Saroj Kumar Yadav	PSP-N	15,927
	Jitendra Prasad Sonar	DSP	13,626
	Bachha Raut Ahir	PSP-N	10,302
	Mohammad Samir	CPN (UML)	8,323
Parsa (पर्सा) 8 constituencies	Shyam Prasad Patel	NC	13,784
	Shankar Prasad Chaudhary	NC	12,182
	Rahabar Ansari	CPN (MC)	7,817
	Pramod Kumar Jaiswal	Independent	7,390
	Singhasan Sa Kalwar	PSP-N	15,435
	Janardan Singh Chhetri	NC	10,195
	Ramesh Prasad Kurmi	DSP	9,471
	Laal Babu Raut	PSP-N	7,545
Bagmati			
Dolakha (दोलखा) 2 constituencies	Kundan Raj Kafle	NC	23,247
	Bharat Bahadur K.C	CPN (UML)	19,429
Ramechhap (रामेछाप) 2 constituencies	Tara Narayan Shrestha	CPN (MC)	17,148
	Yub Raj Chaulagai	CPN (MC)	22,979
Sindhuli (सिन्धुली) 4 constituencies	Chetra Bahadur Bamjan	NC	16,835
	Matrika Prasad Bhattarai	CPN (MC)	15,853
	Ram Kumar Pahadi	NC	15,621
	Ganga Narayan Shrestha	CPN (MC)	13,001
Rasuwa (रसुवा) 2 constituencies	Prabhat Tamang	NC	8,186
	Indra Prasad Gotame	CPN (MC)	8,533
Dhading (धादिङ्ग) 4 constituencies	Govinda Lamsal	NC	19,474
	Madhu Kumar Shrestha	NC	17,877
	Salik Ram Jamkattel	CPN (MC)	19,929
	Dambar Tamang	NDP	14,519
	Radhika Tamang	CPN (MC)	16,169
Nuwakot (नुवाकोट) 4 constituencies	Ram Prasad Dhungana	CPN (MC)	12,110
	Bahadur Singh Lama (Tamang)	NC	17,249
	Ramesh Kumar Mahat	NC	13,727

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Kathmandu (काठमाडौं) 20 constituencies	Pukar Maharjan	NC	10,082
	Shreeram Lamichhane	NC	7,125
	Sunil K.C	NDP	6,602
	Dipendra Shrestha	NC	6,300
	Basant Prasad Manandhar	CPN (US)	5,866
	Shailendra Man Bajracharya	ONP	5,470
	Nuraj Bajracharya	NDP	4,653
	Chiring Dorje Lama	NC	4,558
	Hariprabha Khadgi	NC	4,361
	Rajendra Prajapati	NDP	4,304
	Raju Bist	NDP	12,172
	Bimal Thakuri	NC	10,617
	Jayram Thapa	CPN (UML)	10,417
	Shyam Bahadur Khadka	NC	9,742
	Keshav Prasad Pokharel	CPN (UML)	8,459
	Aman Kumar Maskey	CPN (UML)	8,066
	Ram Ale Magar	CPN (US)	5,818
	Prakash Shrestha	CPN (UML)	5,218
	Suraj Chandra Lamichhane	NC	4,510
	Jayram Thapa	NDP	3,349
Bhaktapur (भक्तपुर) 4 constituencies	Kiran Thapa Magar	CPN (UML)	15,242
	Suresh Shrestha	NC	9,424
	Surendra Raj Gosai	NWPP	29,704
	Rajendra Maan Shrestha	CPN (US)	8,341
Lalitpur (ललितपुर) 6 constituencies	Madhu Sudan Poudel	CPN (UML)	11,299
	Radhu Nath Maharjan	CPN (UML)	9,766
	Rameshwor Shrestha	CPN (UML)	8,298
	Min Krishna Maharjan	NC	13,378
	Prem Bhakta Maharjan	CPN (UML)	9,058
	Ram Krishna Chitrakar	NC	6,995
Kavrepalanchok (काभ्रेपलाञ्चोक) 4 constituencies	Ratna Prasad Dhakal	CPN (MC)	20,720
	Laxman Lamsal	CPN (US)	19,408
	Kanchan Chandra Bade	NC	26,035
	Tirtha Bahadur Lama	NC	19,280
Sindhupalchok (सिन्धुपाल्चोक) 4 constituencies	Yubraj Dulal	CPN (MC)	20,906
	Masina Khadka	NC	14,667
	Krishna Kumar Tamang	NC	17,791
	Saral Sahayatri Poudel	CPN (MC)	17,283
	Kumari Muktan	CPN (MC)	19,906
Makawanpur (मकवानपुर) 4 constituencies	Prem Bahadur Palami	CPN (MC)	19,733
	Indra Bahadur Baniya	NC	18,731
	Eka Laal Shrestha	CPN (UML)	14,247

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Chitwan (चितवन) 6 constituencies	Gir Bahadur Tamang	NDP	17,819
	Jaganath Thapaliya	CPN (UML)	17,705
	Krishna Prasad Silwal	CPN (UML)	16,503
	Krishna Prasad Sharma Khanal	CPN (US)	15,536
	Thakur Prasad Dhakal	CPN (MC)	15,466
	Uttam Joshi	NC	13,325
Gandaki			
Gorkha (गोरखा) 4 constituencies	Krishna Prasad Dhital	CPN (MC)	15,457
	Fadindra Devkota	PSP-N	12,418
	Surendra Raj Pandey	NC	16,887
	Nanda Prasad Neupane	NC	16,265
Manang (मनाङ्ग) 2 constituencies	Munindra Jung Gurung	NC	1,255
	Rajib Gurung	Independent	0 (non-alternative election)
Lamjung (लमजुङ्ग) 2 constituencies	Tak Raj Gurung	NC	18,514
	Bhes Bahadur Poudel	NC	19,560
Kaski (कास्की) 6 constituencies	Khajraj Adhikari	CPN (UML)	15,623
	Ganeshman Gurung	CPN (UML)	14,473
	Bhim Bahadur Karki	CPN (UML)	10,531
	Bed Bahadur Gurung	CPN (UML)	12,661
	Prakash Baral	NC	12,367
	Bindu Kumar Thapa	NC	9,280
Tanahu (तनहुँ) 4 constituencies	Shyam Raja Mahat	CPN (UML)	15,665
	Ashok Kumar Shrestha	NC	15,392
	Jit Prakash Ale Magar	NC	13,860
	Hari Bahadur Chuman	CPN (MC)	13,283
Syangja (स्याङ्जा) 4 constituencies	Bhoj Raj Aryal	NC	15,161
	Sita Kumari Sundas	CPN (UML)	14,690
	Mahesh Bhattarai	NC	18,788
	Sudhir Kumar Poudel	CPN (UML)	17,441
Nawalparasi (East) नवलपरासी (बर्दघाट सुस्ता पूर्व) 4 constituencies	Padma G.C.	CPN (UML)	19,396
	Mahendra Dwaj	NC	15,137
	Laxman Bahadur Pandey	CPN (UML)	18,822
	Roshan Bahadur Gaha Thapa	CPN (UML)	17,823
Mustang (मुस्ताङ्ग) 2 constituencies	Namdu Gurung	NC	1,048
	Bikal Sherchan	NC	2,723
Myagdi (म्याग्दी) 2 constituencies	Hari Bahadur Bhandari	CPN (MC)	12,740
	Resambahadur Jugjali	CPN (MC)	9,454
Baglung (बागलुङ्ग) 4 constituencies	Jit Bahadur Serchan	NC	15,128
	Dipendra Bahadur Thapa	NC	13,898
	Dilli Ram Subedi	NC	13,379
	Dorna Kumar Kunwar	NC	12,421
Parbat (पर्बत) 2 constituencies	Bhakta Bahadur Kunwar	CPN (UML)	16,825
	Mitralal Basyal	CPN (UML)	14,132

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Lumbini			
Gulmi (गुल्मी) 4 constituencies	Chintamani Pandey	CPN (UML)	15,127
	Dilliram Bhusal	CPN (UML)	14,285
	Dhanendra Karki	NC	18,596
	Dinesh Panti	CPN (UML)	13,929
Palpa (पाल्पा) 4 constituencies	Raju Prasad Shrestha	CPN (UML)	17,642
	Bir Bahadur Rana	NC	16,039
	Khem Bahadur Saru	CPN (UML)	14,296
	Tula Ram Gharti Magar	CPN (MC)	13,992
Arghakhanchi (अर्घाखाँची) 2 constituencies	Chet Narayan Aacharya	CPN (UML)	20,525
	Ramji Prasad Ghimire	CPN (UML)	22,789
Rupandehi (रुपन्देही) 10 constituencies	Bhumishor Dhakal	CPN (UML)	19,078
	Aashish Kumar ChaudharyArun Kumar Choudhary	NDP	17,796
	Lila Giri	CPN (UML)	17,637
	Kanhaiya Baniya	DSP	15,155
	Santosh Kumar Pandey	DSP	14,928
	Tulsi Prashad Chaudhary	CPN (UML)	16,394
	Bhoj Prasad Shrestha	CPN (UML)	16,351
	Chandra Kesh Gupta	POP	12,941
	Abdul Rajak Gadhi	NC	12,137
	Wasi Udin Khan	NC	11,305
Kapilvastu (कपलिवस्तु) 6 constituencies	Nabraj Lamichhane	CPN (UML)	21,136
	Bishnu Prasad Panthi	CPN (UML)	20,247
	Arjun Kumar K.C.	CPN (UML)	11,743
	Sudhakar Pandey	NC	14,185
	Madhusudan Sharan Chaudhary-Kurmi	CPN (UML)	11,748
Rukum East (रुकुम पूर्व) 2 constituencies	Janaki Prasad Yadav	NDP	8,582
	Surul Pun	Independent	4,465
Rolpa (रोल्पा) 2 constituencies	Dhan Bahadur	NC	4,862
	Jhokh Bahadur Mahara	CPN (MC)	19,425
Pyuthan (प्यूठान) 2 constituencies	Dipendra Kumar Pun Magar	Independent	14,927
	Tulsi Ram Sharma	CPN (UML)	20,210
Dang (दाङ्ग) 6 constituencies	Saroj Thapa	NC	22,519
	Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary	NC	19,867
	Raju Khanal	NC	15,619
	Indra Jit Tharu	CPN (MC)	13,507
	Dhan Bahadur Maski	CPN (MC)	22,362
	Prachanda Bikram Neupane	NC	17,482
	Anurag Khadka	NC	16,237

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Banke (बाँके) 6 constituencies	Ratna Bahadur Khatri	CPN (UML)	13,180
	Bhandari Lal Ahir	PSP-N	11,504
	Krishna K.C.	CPN (MC)	9,103
	Durga Prasad Chaudhary	CPN (UML)	15,657
	Badshah Kurmi	NC	13,450
	Aadesh Kumar Agrawal	PSP-N	8,246
Bardiya (बर्दिया) 4 constituencies	Janmajaya Timilsina	NC	17,251
	Bhuwaneshor Chaudhary	NC	17,026
	Darma Bahadur Chaudhary	PFP	20,127
	Raj Kumar Chaudhary	PFP	13,230
Nawalparasi (West) नवलपरासी (बर्दघाट सुस्ता पश्चिम) 4 constituencies	Biswa Prem Pathak	NC	15,452
	Khadak Basnet	Independent	12,449
	Bajinath Kalwar	NC	11,782
	Devkaran Prasad Kalwal	NC	11,297
Karnali			
Salyan (सल्यान) 2 constituencies	Bhim Prakash Sharma	CPN (MC)	22,254
	Suresh Adhikari	NC	20,424
Dolpa (डोल्पा) 2 constituencies	Sher Bahadur Budha	CPN (UML)	4,743
	Bir Bahadur Shahi	CPN (MC)	5,295
Mugu (मुगु) 2 constituencies	Jit Bahadur Malla	CPN (UML)	6,618
	Mangal Bahadur Shahi	CPN (MC)	8,439
Jumla (जुम्ला) 2 constituencies	Devendra Bahadur Shahi	Independent	9,654
	Tek Raj Pachai	CPN (UML)	7,827
Kalikot (कालिकोट) 2 constituencies	Durg Bahadur Rawat	CPN (MC)	9,014
	Hikmat Bahadur Bista	NC	13,783
Humla (हुम्ला) 2 constituencies	Ran Singh Pariyar	CPN (MC)	6,481
	Jivan Bahadur Shahi	NC	7,056
Jajarkot (जाजरकोट) 2 constituencies	Bed Raj Singh	NC	18,543
	Rajib Bikram Shah	NC	16,040
Dailekh (दैलेख) 4 constituencies	Ghanshyam Bhandari	NC	10,822
	Purna Bahadur Khatri	NC	9,482
	Krishna Kumar	NC	10,545
	Binod Kumar Shah	CPN (UML)	9,480
Surkhet (सुर्खेत) 4 constituencies	Yam Lal Kadel	CPN (UML)	18,561
	Khadak Bahadur Pokhrel	NC	18,264
	Krishna Bahadur G.C.	CPN (MC)	21,734
	Bind Man Bista	CPN (MC)	13,909
Rukum West (रुकुम पश्चिम) 2 constituencies	Mahendra K.C.	CPN (MC)	19,033
	Raj Kumar Sharma	CPN (MC)	20,160

District	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
Sudurpashchim			
Bajura (बाजुरा) 2 constituencies	Naresh Kumar Shahi	CPN (US)	10,973
	Padam Bahadur Shahi	NC	20,119
Achham (अछाम) 4 constituencies	Megh Raj Khadka	NC	12,337
	Akkal Bahadur Rawal	CPN (MC)	11,220
	Jhatpat Bahadur Saud	CPN (MC)	12,115
	Man Bahadur Rawal	NC	11,216
Bajhang (बझाङ्ग) 2 constituencies	Prithivi Bahadur Singh	NC	17,112
	Bhim Bahadur Bhandari	CPN (MC)	13,879
Doti (डोटी) 2 constituencies	Chakra Bahadur Malla	CPN (UML)	15,279
	Shiva C Oli	CPN (MC)	14,047
Kailali (कैलाली) 10 constituencies	Kailash Chaudhary	PFP	15,101
	Ghanshyam Chaudhary	PFP	13,923
	Dhirga Bahadur Sodari	CPN (US)	13,511
	Kamal Bahadur Shah	NC	10,433
	Ramesh Singh Dhami	CPN (MC)	9,387
	Prakash Bahadur Bam	NC	12,473
	Laxman Kishor Chaudhary	PFP	11,318
	Rameshor Chaudhary	PFP	10,665
	Prakash Bahadur Deuba	NC	9,591
	Khusi Ram Dagaura Tharu	PFP	7,539
Darchula (दार्चुला) 2 constituencies	Bikram Singh Dhami	NC	15,127
	Man Bahadur Dhami	CPN (MC)	13,171
Baitadi (बैतडी) 2 constituencies	Surendra Bahadur Pal	CPN (UML)	12,831
	Shiva Raj Bhatta	NC	17,153
Dadeldhura (डडेलधुरा) 2 constituencies	Khagaraj Bhatta	CPN (MC)	12,112
	Tara Prasad Joshi	Independent	11,162
Kanchanpur (कनूचनपुर) 6 constituencies	Bir Bahadur Thapa	CPN (UML)	12,385
	Om Bikram Batta	CPN (MC)	10,938
	Prakash Rawal	CPN (US)	8,734
	Bel Bahadur Rana Magar	NC	16,172
	Bahadur Singh Thapa	NC	10,688
	Diwan Singh Bista	NC	8,545

TUNISIAN REPUBLIC

Al-Zaytuna Mosque
in Tunis

ASSEMBLY OF THE
REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PEOPLE ELECTION
DECEMBER 17, 2022

Election Announcement and Setting Election Dates

On March 30, 2022, at a meeting of the National Security Council, Tunisian President Kais Saied announced the dissolution of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People, the national legislature of Tunisia, and set the new election for December 17, 2022.

A year earlier, on July 25, 2021, the President used the current state of emergency and the extraordinary powers granted to him to dismiss the government and suspend the Tunisian Parliament.⁷²

Then on September 22, 2021, Kais Saied extended the suspension of the Parliament by his Decree No. 117-2021, transferring its legislative powers to himself, and also suspended most of the provisions of the Tunisian Constitution, with the exception of the fundamental articles guaranteeing basic human rights, thus obtaining additional legislative powers.⁷³

On July 25, 2022, the country held a referendum which adopted a new Constitution that changed the configuration of the parliament. The previous legislature in Tunisia was a unicameral 217-seat parliament. However, as per the newly adopted Constitution, the Assembly of the Representatives of the People has become the lower house of the Parliament, with the number of seats reduced to 161, while the newly established National Assembly of Regions and Districts has become the upper house.

The December 17, 2022 election was intended to elect a new Assembly of the Representatives of the People.

Voting at the polling stations abroad was scheduled for December 15-17, 2022.

Election Significance

The importance of election to the lower house of the Tunisian Republic was based on the need to consolidate political forces to address the challenges facing the country.

However, the coalitions of opposition forces, the National Salvation Front and the Coordination of Social Democratic Parties, as well as a number of CSOs and NGOs, refused to participate in the elections and called on the population to boycott what they called the “illegitimate” election.

Electoral System

According to the old version of Organic Law No. 2014-16 of May 26, 2014, “On Elections and Referenda,” 217 members of the unicameral parliament – the Assembly of the Representatives of the People of Tunisia – were elected under the proportional representation system in 33 MMDs, of which 27 constituencies were formed in Tunisia, and other 6 constituencies were formed abroad.

Candidate lists were drawn up by the parties and electoral associations in line with the gender parity principle (mandatory alternation of candidates of different sex on the lists) and quotas for women and the youth (the top 4 positions on the candidate lists mandatorily reserved for candidates of different genders under the age of 35 in the constituencies assigned with more than 4 seats).

Assembly of the Representatives of the People, the Lower House of the Parliament of Tunisia

161
members

elected in

161
SMDs under TRS
(50% + 1 vote)

151
constituencies
in Tunisia proper match
the boundaries of
administrative units

10
out-of-country
constituencies

The seat distribution among the parties and electoral associations elected to the parliament was carried out using the largest remainder method.

However, 3 months before the parliamentary election of December 17, 2022, Organic Law No. 2014-16 “On Elections and Referenda” was amended

022 حفل الافتتاح الرسمي للمركز الإعلامي الخاص بانتخابات مجلس نواب الشعب
CÉRÉMONIE D'OUVERTURE OFFICIELLE DU CENTRE DES MÉDIAS
ÉLECTIONS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DES REPRÉSENTANTS DU PEUPLE 2022



The CCRF EOM members with the ISIE members at the opening ceremony of the media center

by Decree Law No. 2022-55 of September 15, 2022. The amended electoral law entailed profound changes in the electoral system and procedure of electing members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People of Tunisia.

Under Decree Law No. 2022-55, the election of members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People is conducted under TRS in 161 SMDs.

Thus, the candidate with the majority of votes (50% + 1 vote) wins in the 1st round. If none of the

candidates obtains the majority of votes, then 2 weeks after the publication of the results of the 1st round, a 2nd round is scheduled between the 2 candidates with the most votes.

To win in the 2nd round, a candidate needs to get a plurality of votes.

According to Article 109 of Decree Law No. 2022-55, if only 1 candidate runs in a constituency, the election is held on a nonalternative basis. In such a case, the candidate wins regardless of the number of votes obtained.

Decree Law No. 2022-55 also changed the constituency delimitation, which was officially submitted only a month before the official start of candidate registration for the Assembly of the Representatives of the People election.⁷⁴

In particular, under Decree Law No. 2022-55, Tunisia proper is divided into 151 in-country SMDs, which are distributed among the wilayats or governorates of Tunisia as follows:

1. Governorate Ariana – 8 constituencies;
2. Governorate Béja – 4 constituencies;

⁷² The state of emergency was first declared on November 24, 2015, under Article 80 of the Constitution of the Tunisian Republic, to counter terrorist threats after the Bardo National Museum terrorist attack. Since then, it has been repeatedly extended by the heads of state and is still in force. In particular, Tunisian President Kais Saied has extended the state of emergency several times since coming to power on October 23, 2019. His last decree of December 30, 2022, extended the state of emergency until January 30, 2023.

⁷³ Once additional legislative powers had been concentrated in the hands of the President of Tunisia, he became empowered to issue decree laws equivalent de facto to the status of constitutional laws. It is just as important that decree laws are not subject to constitutional review. Under the circumstances, a decree law can modify the existing constitutional laws and the Tunisian Constitution itself.

⁷⁴ New constituency boundary delimitation for the parliamentary elections of December 17, 2022, regulated by the amended Organic Law No. 2014-16, generated a number of questions both from the expert community and from the stakeholders. First, the amended Organic Law No. 2014-16 neither clearly specified criteria for determining the constituency boundaries nor public discussion was held on the issue. Second, the boundaries of the new constituencies coincide completely with the boundaries of 1 or more mutamadiyats or administrative districts, disregarding the number of people residing there or the number of officially registered voters. Since Tunisia's official population as of 2022 is 11,859,238, a calculation shows that a member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People represents approximately 78,500 people, according to the amended Organic Law No. 2014-16. The principle of equal representation dictates, following established electoral practices, that the deviation in the number of voters from constituency to constituency should not exceed 10% on average or 15% in exceptional cases. In practice, however, the number of voters in the new constituencies varies greatly: while the Carthage – La Marsa constituency (governorate Tunis) officially has 127,167 residents, the Dhiba – Remada constituency (governorate Tataouine) has only 14,630 residents. Thus, the MP from the Carthage – La Marsa constituency represents approximately 8.7 times more residents than the MP from the Dhiba – Remada constituency. Such an evident voter-per-seat ratio disparity makes the voting power in the latter case several times higher.

3. Governorate Ben Arous – 9 constituencies;
4. Governorate Bizerte – 7 constituencies;
5. Governorate Gabès – 5 constituencies;
6. Governorate Gafsa – 4 constituencies;
7. Governorate Jendouba – 5 constituencies;
8. Governorate Kairouan – 7 constituencies;
9. Governorate Kasserine – 6 constituencies;
10. Governorate Kebili – 3 constituencies;
11. Governorate Kef – 3 constituencies;
12. Governorate Mahdia – 6 constituencies;
13. Governorate Manouba – 5 constituencies;
14. Governorate Medenine – 7 constituencies;
15. Governorate Monastir – 8 constituencies;
16. Governorate Nabeul – 11 constituencies;
17. Governorate Sfax – 13 constituencies;
18. Governorate Sidi Bouzid – 6 constituencies;
19. Governorate Siliana – 3 constituencies;
20. Governorate Sousse – 9 constituencies;
21. Governorate Tataouine – 3 constituencies;
22. Governorate Tozeur – 3 constituencies;
23. Governorate Tunis – 13 constituencies;
24. Governorate Zaghouan – 3 constituencies.

Also, Decree Law No. 2022-55 allocates 10 SMDs for diaspora candidates:

1. France-1;
2. France-2;
3. France-3;
4. Italy;
5. Germany;
6. Other European Countries;
7. Arab Countries;
8. Asia and Australia;
9. Africa;
10. Americas.

The term of office of the members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People remained unchanged, i.e., 5 years as it was under Organic Law No. 2014-16.

However, Article 39 of Decree Law No. 2022-55 additionally introduced the procedure for mandate revocation of the elected members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People.⁷⁵

Equally important, the High Independent Authority for Elections of the Tunisian Republic issued a series of decrees supplementing and clarifying various subjects of Decree Law No. 2022-55. In particular, it concerns the procedure for awarding victory to candidates with an equal number of votes, as well as the regulation of additional procedural requirements for the collection of voter signatures and publishing electoral platforms of candidates for the Assembly of the

Representatives of the People of Tunisia.⁷⁶

This fact testifies to ill-devised Decree Law No. 2022-55, which has major innate gaps to be filled. Neither was it possible to timely convey the meaning and regulatory requirements of such hastily adopted amendments to citizens. As a consequence, the High Independent Authority for Elections had to interpret one of the basic national laws, which may be beyond its mandate and authority.

Electoral Legislation

The electoral process and procedures for the December 17, 2022 elections in the Tunisian Republic were governed by the following laws, normative acts, and legal documents:

1. The Constitution of the Tunisian Republic of July 25, 2022;
2. Organic Law No. 2012-23 of December 20, 2012, “On High Independent Authority for Elections”;
3. Organic Law No. 2014-16 of May 26, 2014, “On Elections and Referenda”;
4. Decree Law of the President of Tunisia No. 2022-22 of April 21, 2022, “On Amending and Supplementing Organic Law No. 2012-23 of December 20, 2012, “On the High Independent Authority for Elections”;

⁷⁵ A mandate revocation procedure can be initiated by filing a petition with evidence of the MP’s dishonesty, breach of integrity, or violation of obligations, in particular, his/her insufficient efforts in implementing the election platform. The law prohibits filing more than 1 petition against the same MP and initiating the procedure during the first parliamentary session and the last 6 months of the term. The law does not detail clear validity criteria for initiating the mandate revocation procedure. The petition must be signed by at least 1/10 of the number of voters registered in the constituency where the MP was elected. The High Independent Authority for Elections of the Tunisian Republic may accept or reject the petition, informing the MP and the Assembly of the Representatives of the People of its decision. The decision of the High Independent Authority for Elections may be challenged in court by the MP against whom the petition was filed or by the petitioners. If the petition is approved, a by-election is called, in which the stripped of the mandate MP is entitled to run again.

⁷⁶ In the first case, the younger candidate is declared the winner, as required by the directives issued by the ISIE of the Tunisian Republic. In the second case, candidates for the Assembly of People’s Representatives of Tunisia have to make their electoral agenda public, explain it to their 400 supporters and obtain their signatures confirming that they have read the program document and share the ideas.



Opening of a ballot box by PEC members after the closing of the polling station



The CCRF EOM members meet with the Tunisian ISIE leadership

5. Decree Law of the President of Tunisia No. 2022-55 of September 15, 2022, "On Amending Organic Law No. 2014-16 of May 26, 2014, "On Elections and Referenda";
6. Decisions, decrees, and directives of the High Independent Authority for Elections of the Tunisian Republic.

Election Administration and Election Management Bodies

Tunisia has a 3-tier vertically integrated system of election administration:

1. High Independent Authority for Elections (ISIE) of the Tunisian Republic;
 - 1.1. The ISIE Board;
 - 1.2. The ISIE Executive Secretariat;

- 2.1. 27 permanent regional offices of the ISIE;
- 2.2. 37 Independent Regional Authorities for Elections (IRIEs);
3. 4 691 voting centers and 11 485 polling stations.

The ISIE is in charge of organizing and supervising national presidential and parliamentary elections and referenda, as well as regional and municipal elections. The ISIE is responsible for ensuring regularity, fairness, and transparency of the electoral process.

The ISIE consists of a governing body, the Board, and an executive body, the Executive Secretariat.

According to Article 5 of Organic Law No. 2012-23, "On the High Independent Authority for Elections," as amended by the

Decree Law No. 2022-22, the ISIE Board is comprised of 7 members, who are appointed by a presidential decree for a 4-year term and are not eligible for reappointment.⁷⁷ Members of the ISIE Board are elected as follows:

1. 3 members selected by the President of Tunisia from among the ex-ISIE members;
2. a judge with at least 10 years' experience, selected by the President of Tunisia from among 3 magistrates proposed by the Supreme Judicial Council;
3. an administrative court judge with at least 10 years' experience, selected by the President of Tunisia from among 3 magistrates proposed by the Council of the Administrative Magistrature;

⁷⁷ Before the electoral legislation reform and adoption of a new Constitution of the Tunisian Republic, the ISIE Board consisted of 9 members, including the ISIE President, appointed by the Assembly of the Representatives of the People for a 6-year nonrenewable term. The President of Tunisia reduced the number of ISIE Board members and the term of their mandate by Decree Law No. 2022-22 of April 21, 2022. At the same time, as per Article 137 of the Constitution of Tunisia of 25 July 2022, the ISIE Board yet consists of 9 members appointed for a 6-year nonrenewable term. Such a legislative collision, as well as the absence of a transition period for changing the ISIE Board composition, creates legal uncertainty and requires clarification.

4. a judge of the financial order with at least 10 years' experience, selected by the President of Tunisia from among 3 magistrates proposed by the Council of the Financial Magistrature;
5. an IT security engineer with at least 10 years' experience, selected by the President of Tunisia from among 3 candidates proposed by the National Center for Information Technology.

Pursuant to Article 6 of Decree Law No. 2022-22, the ISIE President shall be appointed by decree of the President of Tunisia from the ex-ISIE members, who were selected to the ISIE Board. Within 10 days of the appointment, the ISIE President shall choose a Vice President from among the ISIE Board members.

The ISIE Board members must be independent and unbiased and must have proven experience in their respective professional fields.

Decisions are taken by a majority of the ISIE Board members present; in the event of a tie vote, the ISIE President has the casting vote.

The ISIE Executive Secretariat is composed of several directorates dealing with administrative, financial, and technical matters, under the supervision of the ISIE Executive Director, who in turn is appointed by and reports to the ISIE President.

Moving down to the next level, there are 27 permanent regional offices of the ISIE, headed by regional directors, who report to the ISIE Executive Director.

Inter alia, ISIE regional offices are responsible for ballot paper processing and counting since each regional office operates a tallying center on Election Day. Accordingly, when Election Day is over, the ballot papers from the voting centers and polling stations are counted at 27 tallying centers, after which all information from the tallying centers is aggregated by the ISIE.

Also, Article 21 of Decree Law No. 2022-22 reads that, when preparing for the election, the ISIE Board may additionally create interim regional election commissions – the IRIEs. The IRIEs are headed by commissions consisting of 3 persons, i.e., the IRIE chair and 2 IRIE members, appointed by the ISIE Board from among former IRIE members, magistrates, as well as computer security engineers.

The IRIEs have only those functions and powers that are given to them by the ISIE Board. Specifically, for the December 17, 2022 parliamentary election, the IRIEs' functions included:

1. control of voter registration and related issues;
2. regulation of the candidate nomination process;
3. oversight of the funding and running of election campaigns;
4. accreditation of candidate representatives;
5. organization of voting, vote counting, and presentation of vote results.

For the 2022 parliamentary elections, 27 IRIEs were established in-country and 10 IRIEs overseas.

At the lower level of the election administration system function voting centers comprised of 1 or more polling stations. A total of 4,691 voting centers (4,551 centers in Tunisia proper and 140 overseas) and 11,485 polling stations (11,310 in Tunisia proper and 175 overseas) were established for the December 17, 2022 elections.

A voting center is headed by a chair, who is assisted by an ISIE inspector. The tasks of the voting center chair are to maintain order on its territory during Election Day, coordinate the flow and lines of voters, and provide logistical support to the precinct election commissions (PECs) operating polling stations.

PECs, in their turn, are made up of 3 people: the PEC chair and 2 PEC staffers.

Voter Registration, Number of Eligible Voters, and Voter Turnout

As per the Constitution of the Tunisian Republic and Article 5 of Decree Law No. 2022-55, active suffrage is granted to adult Tunisian citizens who:

1. are not deprived of civil or political rights (i.e., not disenfranchised);
2. has not been declared legally incapable;
3. are listed in the voter register;
4. have not been convicted of a criminal offense;
5. are not under investigation or in custody;
6. are not active personnel of the armed forces, including conscripts;
7. are not serving law enforcement officers (national security, national police, national guard, civil protection, prison officers, security guards of high officials) or law enforcement officers undergoing professional development training.

The ISIE is responsible for compiling the national voter register. According to Decree Law No. 2022-55, the voter register is updated automatically based on the data on the place of residence of voters indicated in their identity cards. In the case of family members, i.e., wives, husbands, parents, grandparents, and children, active voter registration is also permitted. Tunisian citizens living abroad can apply to get registered in the national voter register via a specialized online platform.

On September 26, 2022, the ISIE published preliminary voter lists, after which it offered voters an opportunity to contact the authorized bodies themselves from September 26, 2022, to October 13, 2022, and from October 28, 2022, to November 20, 2022, to update their personal data. In particular, voters could obtain information about the voting centers and polling stations which they were assigned to and, if necessary, choose a voting center located at a different address. This could be done on the

ISIE website, by calling a specified telephone number, or by contacting PEC, including those formed to operate overseas in the embassies and consulates abroad.

On November 24, 2022, the ISIE compiled a final voter register, followed by the November 30, 2022 publication of a breakdown of lists of voters per voting centers. The ISIE stated that the newly introduced system of automatic voter registration increased the total number of registered voters by 2,335,238 and came up to 9,339,756, including 8,981,463 voters residing in Tunisia and 155,035 voters registered abroad. Of these, women totaled 4,637,385 (50.76%) and men 4,499,117 (49.24%).

Nevertheless, contrary to the requirements of Tunisian electoral legislation, the ISIE failed to make the final voter register public.

The main feature of these elections was an unprecedentedly low voter turnout, which, according to preliminary data from the ISIE, was 8.8%, but with additional information processed, the turnout went up to 11.2%. Nevertheless, the number of Tunisians who went to the polls on December 17, 2022, was the second-worst turnout in history since 1945.⁷⁸

Candidate Registration

Pursuant to Articles 19, 20, and 21 of Decree Law No. 2022-55, a candidate for the Assembly of the Representatives of the People of Tunisia shall meet the following criteria:

- 1. be a Tunisian national born to a parent of Tunisian citizenship (i.e., citizenship by birth) and hold no nationality other than Tunisian;⁷⁹

⁷⁸ The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) has been keeping statistical records since 1945. Before the Tunisian elections, the abysmal low turnout was held by Jamaica in the 1983 elections with 2.73%, Haiti ranked second with 17.82% in 2015, and the Gambia held third place with 19.44% in 2012.

⁷⁹ Decree Law No. 2022-55 allows candidates running in overseas constituencies to have dual nationality.

⁸⁰ Decree Law No. 2022-55 requires that the list of voter signatures in support of a candidate's nomination must include 200 signatures each from men and women, with 25% of the list being signatures from voters under the age of 35. In addition, voters are allowed to support not more than 1 candidate.

9,339,756

registered voters

50.76%

women

49.24%

men

8,981,463

voters in Tunisia proper

155,035

out-of-country voters

1,025,418

voters participated in the elections

11.2%

turnout in the 1st round

- 2. be at least 23 years of age at the time of applying for nomination;
- 3. be registered in the voter register in the constituency where the individual plans to stand as a candidate;
- 4. permanently reside in the territory of the constituency where the individual plans to run as a candidate;
- 5. have no criminal record;
- 6. not be under investigation;
- 7. not deprived of civil or political rights (i.e., not disenfranchised);
- 8. not hold certain governmental, public, and/or spiritual positions for at least 1 year prior to being nominated (e.g., not be a sitting member of the Government, head of a state agency or executive authority, judge, head of a Tunisian diplomatic or consular mission abroad, imam, and/or head of a sports association);
- 9. pay mandatory state and local taxes in a timely manner;
- 10. collect 400 notarized signatures of voters registered in the constituency in support of their candidacy.⁸⁰

Candidates could submit their registration papers within the week starting with October 17 and till October 24, 2022, yet after consultation with directors of the ISIE regional offices and IRIE chairs, the ISIE Board extended the deadline for submitting applications for 3 days more, until October 27, 2022.

The 37 IRIEs were responsible for collecting candidates' documents, processing the incoming applications, and forwarding them, after verification, to the ISIE, which



A voter is being identified at the PEC table

made a decision regarding the candidates' registration for the election.

The week after, the ISIE reviewed the received documents, after which, on November 3, 2022, it published a preliminary list of registered candidates for the election.

With the provisional lists published, the ISIE's decisions could be challenged by candidates in the territorial offices of the administrative court. Appeal claims were filed within 2 days of notification about the ISIE's decision. Decisions of the first instance may be appealed against at the Central Administrative

Court located in Tunis, whose decisions are final.⁸¹

The deadline for court decisions (including hearings, deliberations, and adjudication) is set at 5 days maximum for the first instance and 6 days for appeals.

A total of 54 appeal claims were received by the territorial offices of the Administrative Court regarding the December 17, 2022 election, of which only 4 were approved. There were 15 appeal claims to the Central Administrative Court against decisions of the first instance courts, of which 13 were rejected, and 2 were approved. Thus, 2 previously unregistered candidates were allowed to participate in the election.

⁸¹ If a candidate who wished to challenge the ISIE's decision was running in a constituency formed abroad, he/she had to send the complaint directly to the Central Administrative Court of Tunisia.

List of Registered Candidates

During the official candidate registration period for the December 17, 2022 parliamentary election, 1,427 individuals filed their nomination papers, including 1,213 men (85%) and 214 women (15%).

The final list of registered nominees was published by the ISIE on November 22, 2022, when the official challenge period of the ISIE decisions was over.

The ISIE registered a total of 1,055 candidates for the elections, including 882 men (84%) and 173 women (16%). Of these, 1,052 candidates ran in 151 in-country SMDs, and 3 candidates ran in 3 overseas constituencies.

Noteworthy, there were no candidates in 7 out of 10 overseas constituencies; only 1 candidate each was standing in 10 constituencies (3 in-country and 7 overseas SMDs), therefore, the election was held on a nonalternative basis; and only 2 candidates each were registered in 8 in-country SMDs.

Thus, the parliamentary elections of December 17, 2022 were held only in 154 constituencies, and in the 7 remaining overseas constituencies, a by-election will be organized later due to the lack of candidates.

Even though political parties could not participate in the parliamentary elections as institutions and most Tunisian political forces decided to boycott the election, 7 political parties and movements fielded their candidates in SMDs:

- 1. Tunisia Forward (ar. تونس إلى الأمام);
- 2. Democratic Patriots' Unified Party (ar. حزب الوطنيين الديموقراطيين الموحد);

3. Tunisian National Party
(الحزب الوطني التونسي);
4. July 25 Movement
(حراك 25 جويلية);
5. Third Republic Party
(حزب الجمهورية الثالثة);
6. For the People to Triumph
(لينتصر الشعب);
7. People's Movement
(حركة الشعب).

In total, about 11.2% of the candidates running in the elections were affiliated with political parties and movements, according to various estimates. Even fewer candidates, 61 individuals, formally requested permission from the ISIE to use the colors and symbols of political parties or movements in their election campaigns.

Election Observation Institutions

The electoral legislation of the Tunisian Republic provides for the election observation institution. The ISIE examines requests for accreditation from both international and domestic observers on an equal footing.

Requests for accreditation from all relevant international, foreign, and domestic organizations and individual observers shall be submitted to the ISIE at least a week before Election Day as per the ISIE decision. Thus, all applications from observers for the December 17, 2022 parliamentary elections were accepted until December 9, 2022.

In addition, Decree Law No. 2022-55 establishes a distinct category of candidate agents, who may be deployed 1 per each polling station in the relevant constituency.

At the same time, Decree Law No. 2022-55 envisages a denial of accreditation of national observers to official representatives of political parties or other electoral associations.

Description of the Election Observation Mission Mandate

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was accredited by the ISIE at the December 17, 2022 parliamentary election in the Tunisian Republic as an international observer to monitor all stages of the electoral procedure at the voting centers and polling stations, as well as and tallying centers.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was the only representative of Russian institutions and organizations at the December 17, 2022 parliamentary elections in Tunisia.

Composition of the Election Observation Mission

1. Mikhail Anichkin, First Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions, Head of the Election Observation Mission;
2. Alena Bulgakova, Deputy Chair of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for Public Oversight over Voting;
3. Alexander Kholodov, Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Security and Cooperation with Public Supervisory Commissions.
4. Andrey Maximov, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government;
5. Nikita Volkov, international relations officer of the Executive Office of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation;
6. Ilya Zotov, Deputy Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Territorial Development and Local Government.

1,055
registered
candidates

173
women

882
men

Timetable and Itinerary of the Election Observation Mission

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation arrived in the Tunisian Republic on December 15, 2022, 2 days before Election Day.

On December 15, 2022 evening, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation took part in the official opening ceremony of the ISIE Media Center, where the Election Day coverage subsequently took place.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were informed about the preparation for the voting day and had an opportunity to communicate with the other accredited observers during the ISIE Media Center opening ceremony.

During the day of silence on December 16, 2022, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not record any violations of the restrictions prescribed by the electoral legislation regarding public political rallies in the streets of Tunis.



Head of the CCRF EOM Mikhail Anichkin gives an interview at the Tunisian ISIE media center

The same day the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also had a working meeting with Farouk Bouasker, the ISIE President, and other ISIE Board members, during which they exchanged opinions on the situation on the eve of Election Day, discussed technical and legal issues of preparation and holding elections in Tunisia, and touched upon bilateral cooperation between Russia and Tunisia in the electoral sphere.

On Election Day, December 17, 2022, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observed voting in 7 constituencies established in 3 governorates of the Tunisian Republic, i.e. Ariana, Bizerte, and Tunis, from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation attended the opening of the polling stations in the Carthage – La Marsa constituency, as well as the closing of the polling stations and

the vote counting procedure in the La Goulette and Bab El Bhar – Sidi El Bechir constituencies.

In total, the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation visited 9 voting centers and 63 polling stations (listed in chronological order):

Carthage – La Marsa Constituency
1. Rosa Street Primary School Voting Center (10 polling stations);

- Bizerte North Constituency**
2. Spain Street Primary School Voting Center (11 polling stations);
 3. Greece Street Primary School Voting Center (9 polling stations);
 4. January 18 Elementary School Voting Center (4 polling stations);

Ariana Medina Constituency
5. Riadh Al-Andalus Primary School Voting Center (8 polling stations);

Omrane – Omrane Superieur Constituency

6. El Manar 1 Primary School Voting Center (7 polling stations);

Medina – Bab Souika Constituency

7. Kotteb Louzir Primary School Voting Center (5 polling stations);

La Goulette Constituency

8. El Amarat Primary School Voting Center (6 polling stations);

Bab El Bhar – Sidi El Bechir Constituency

9. Russia Street Lyceum Voting Center (3 polling stations).

At the end of Election Day, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation split into 2 groups to observe the closing of the polling stations and the vote counting procedure in 2 voting centers. Thus, Mikhail Anichkin, Alena Bulgakova, and Nikita Volkov went to the El Amarat



The CCRF EOM members at a polling station

Elementary School voting center, while Ilya Zotov, Andrey Maximov, and Alexander Kholodov monitored the Russia Street Lyceum voting center.

Since all polling stations assigned to the abovementioned voting centers closed on time, the vote count was monitored from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Interaction with other Observation Missions

The election observation missions of the African Union, the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean were deployed in Tunisia, in addition to the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

The election was also observed by a number of foreign NGOs, e.g., the Carter Center (USA), Advanced Democracy for Sustainable Peace (Lebanon), etc., and multiple national NGOs and CSOs, e.g., the Tunisian Mediterranean Center, the Mourakiboun (*ar. مراقبون*), election observation network, Youth Without Borders, the Tunisian Organization for the Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Chahed Observatory for Election Monitoring (*ar. مرصد شاهد لمراقبة الانتخابات*), etc.

A total of 460 international and 4,000 national observers were accredited for the election, according to the ISIE.

On December 15, 2022, at the official opening ceremony of the ISIE Media Center, members of the observation

mission of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation met and exchanged opinions with accredited observers deployed by the Advanced Democracy for Sustainable Peace and the Mourakiboun.

Observation Findings on Election Day

On Election Day, December 17, 2022, the polling stations were open for 10 hours, from 8:00 am till 6:00 pm. Members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation confirmed that the polling stations they visited operated in accordance with the schedule envisaged by the electoral legislation of the Tunisian Republic, without delays or tardiness. This was mainly due not only to the fairly

good level of polling staff training but rather because of low voter turnout. Low voter turnout was recorded by the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at all polling stations visited on Election Day.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation observed the opening of polling stations at the Rosa Street Primary School Voting Center in the Carthage – La Marsa constituency.

In preparation for the opening of the polling stations, the PEC chairs made a record of the election materials (ballots, seals, blank protocols, etc.) in the presence of observers and candidate agents (if any) and demonstrated the ballot boxes so that those present could make sure they were empty. After that, the ballot boxes were sealed with special locks with unique numbers, so each of them could be identified and tracked.

As soon as ballot boxes were sealed, the actual time of polling station opening was entered in the report form, and PECs began their work.

On average, 600 voters were assigned per polling station (the deviation was within 10-15%), and the voter lists were posted on the wall at the polling station entrance.

According to the Tunisian electoral legislation, the voting center chair is responsible for managing the queues and the flow of voters at the voting center premises, assisted by 1 to several ISIE inspectors.

Notable, people with disabilities were given the right to vote out of turn shall the voter line form at the polling stations.

Before voting, each voter had to undergo the identification procedure by presenting the identity card to a PEC member.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also noted that voters could find the polling station they were assigned to via SMS notifications.

Having found the voter's name in the list, a PEC member put his/her mark against it and asked the voter to put his/her signature. Then the voter dipped his/her finger into a can with indelible election ink and received a ballot paper, which was stamped with a special rubber stamp on the corners of the back side by the PEC chair.

It was explained to the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation that ballot papers without the PEC stamp were considered invalid, and although 1 stamp was enough, the recommendation prescribed that PEC members put stamps on all 4 corners of a ballot paper.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation also paid attention to the ballot paper layout: at the top was the constituency name, and at the bottom, from right to left, were located photos and names of candidates without any additional information. Color coding and graphic highlighting were not used for visual distinction of sections containing candidate information; instead, candidate names on the ballot paper were separated from each other by thick purple lines.

During voting, ballot papers were torn from a stack with a stub, a solution allowing for additional revision of the number of ballots used on Election Day.

Having received a ballot, the voter went to the polling booth, marked the ballot in the box next to the name and photo of the preferred candidate, folded it 2 times, and dropped it into the ballot box. School desks with fixed cardboard

privacy shields featuring the ISIE logo on them were used as voting booths in the polling stations visited by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation monitors.

Current figures on voter turnout were collected from the polling stations every 2 hours during Election Day; i.e., data was aggregated by voting center chairs and then transmitted to the ISIE via the system of regional offices and IRIEs. This measure made it possible to promptly obtain and publish relevant statistics.

The policing of the voting centers and the surrounding area was the responsibility of the Tunisian police and national guard, who were on duty at the perimeter of the voting centers without going inside.

As mentioned above, when Election Day was over, members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation followed the ballot box opening and vote counting at the polling stations located in the El Amarat Primary School and Russia Street Lyceum voting centers. The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation noted specifically that voting center entrances and exits were restricted after polling station closing until the end of the vote-tallying procedure.

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively noted the speed and professionalism of the polling staff during the ballot sorting, validation, and counting, yet, in general, the number of ballots was small, so the tallying procedure was quite simple and took place in a calm atmosphere. On average, it took 1.5 hours to process and count the ballots, sort and pack them in special envelopes, and fill out the corresponding reports.

Under the vote-tallying procedure, the numbers of voters who cast ballots at the polling station on Election Day are counted first using the register and the respective marks there, after which their number is checked against the number of used ballots. After that, the ballot box is opened, and the ballots are counted and sorted. In particular, the ballots are split into valid (cast for candidates), invalid (ballots with unspecified marks or without the PEC stamp on the back), and blank (without any marks).

All information is entered in the polling station report on vote results, and the sorted ballots are packed in special envelopes and sent to the vote-tallying centers at the ISIE regional offices along with the rest of the electoral materials.

Complaints and Infringements

On Election Day Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation did not register any complaint or violation either by voters, candidates, and their agents, or national observers, media, and ISIE representatives during voting and vote counting at the visited polling stations and voting centers.

Election Observation Mission Conclusions

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation concluded that the election took place in a calm atmosphere without serious violations. This was facilitated, inter alia, by the deployment of police officers and the national guard of the Tunisian Republic at the voting center entrances. In addition, it is necessary to underline a high level of organization of the security system at the voting centers and in the surrounding area.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation positively assessed the quality of organizing the electoral process, including the technical aspects of the voting and counting procedures and the technologies used by the electoral management system, which allowed for reducing the possibility of ballot stuffing, double voting, and other violations that may affect the election results.

The members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation particularly emphasized the precise and well-coordinated work of the grassroots level of the national system of the electoral process management in the Tunisian Republic. PECs, which were composed of many students, were able to organize the voting on the ground competently and efficiently, specifically, thanks to combining more experienced staff with novice staffers working on the PECs.

Nevertheless, the members of the Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation identified several shortcomings, which, however, were related not so much to the election conduct as to the regulatory framework and decisions made in the process of its preparation.

In particular, the adoption of Decree Law No. 2022-55 only 3 months before the election did not allow the nationals who wanted to participate in the election, as well as the key political forces, to promptly respond and develop new strategies of electoral behavior in response to the new rules of the electoral system.

Moreover, the need for the ISIE to issue a number of decrees and directives aimed at interpreting and supplementing Decree Law No. 2022-55 indicates the crudity of the key electoral law and significant legal gaps in the current regulatory framework governing the electoral process in the Tunisian Republic.

Obviously, some articles of Decree Law No. 2022-22 contradict the provisions of the new Constitution of the Tunisian Republic. Besides, there is no regulated transition period for the restructured ISIE, still operating under the old mandate, which raises questions regarding the integrity of basic national laws.

Equally questionable is the current delimitation of constituency boundaries, which does not comply with the principles of equal representation of regions and/or electoral districts, and lacks substantiation of the principles of implemented delimitation.

Considering the reaction of social and political forces in the Tunisian Republic to the reform of the electoral system, the lack of standing candidates in some constituencies, as well as cases of nonalternative elections held and a generally low voter turnout, it is recommended that the ISIE and the executive and legislative bodies of Tunisia should pay attention to these deficiencies and take measures aimed at eliminating them and increasing overall public confidence in democratic procedures.

Recommendations on Electoral Regulations and Procedures Improvement

The Election Observation Mission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation recommends



The PEC members prepare a ballot box for opening

that attention should be paid to the above shortcomings identified during the general election observation on December 17, 2022; if corrected, this will contribute to further development and improvement of the election administration system in the Tunisian Republic.

Priority recommendations:

1. Take measures to finalize the current electoral legislation of the Tunisian Republic in order to resolve current legal collisions and eliminate gaps requiring additional clarification and/or interpretation.
2. Consider the possibility of organizing a broad public dialogue with the participation of Tunisian political parties to finalize the current electoral legislation of the Tunisian Republic.

Other recommendations:

3. Promote the system of photo and video recording of infringements at polling stations.
4. Organize a more detailed disclosure of information on voting results in constituencies, with subsequent placement of this information on the ISIE resources.

ANNEX

Results of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People Election, December 17, 2022 Constituencies with Winning Candidates Only

Ariana Medina (Constituency No. 1)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Mohamed Ghassan Al-Shabi	1,683	25.17
Najla El Lehyani	5,001	74.83
Valid votes	6,684	
Invalid	411	
Blank votes	355	
Total votes	7,450	
Registered voters	136,613	

Soukra 1 (Constituency No. 3)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Faten Al-Nusaibi	1,383	100
Valid votes	1,383	
Invalid	91	
Blank votes	187	
Total votes	1,661	
Registered voters	29,456	

Raoued 1 (Constituency No. 4)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Ayman Al-Boughdiri	1,134	61.03
Al-Judi Rawafi	724	38.97
Valid votes	1,858	
Invalid	114	
Blank votes	115	
Total votes	2,087	
Registered voters	28,242	

Raoued 2 (Constituency No. 5)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Abdul Halim Bousma	1,689	100
Valid votes	1,689	
Invalid	152	
Blank votes	320	
Total votes	2,161	
Registered voters	35,727	

Kalaat El Andalous – Sidi Thabet (Constituency No. 6)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Faycel Sghir	1,975	51.23
Rami Dridi	1,086	28.17
Hatem Al-Haddad	794	20.60
Valid votes	3,855	
Invalid	133	
Blank votes	57	
Total votes	4,045	
Registered voters	34,296	

El Mourouj – Bir Kassa (Constituency No. 36)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Maher Boubaker El Hadary	2,336	100.00
Valid votes	2,336	
Invalid	183	
Blank votes	384	
Total votes	2,903	
Registered voters	71,482	

El Mourouj – Farhat Hached (Constituency No. 37)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Hanan Bibi	842	47.40
Wajdi El Ghawi	934	52.60
Valid votes	1,776	
Invalid	121	
Blank votes	96	
Total votes	1,993	
Registered voters	37,840	

Rades – Mégrine (Constituency No. 40)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Riad Al-Tabarqi	1,470	22.11
Makram Al-Sabri	1,479	22.24
Ibrahim Bouderbala	3,700	55.65
Valid votes	6,649	
Invalid	270	
Blank votes	130	
Total votes	7,049	
Registered voters	63,483	

Fouchana (Constituency No. 42)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Mourad El Khozami	2,231	55.82
Sawsan Jabali	1,766	44.18
Valid votes	3,997	
Invalid	245	
Blank votes	145	
Total votes	4,387	
Registered voters	49,011	

Jendouba North – Fernana (Constituency No. 51)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Mohsen Harami	3,524	51.89
Adel Ayadi	1,040	15.31
Ali Hazi	822	12.10
Adel Qalamami	811	11.94
Murad Traideh	594	8.75
Valid votes	6,791	
Invalid	486	
Blank votes	190	
Total votes	7,467	
Registered voters	84,710	

Douar Hicher (Constituency No. 56)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Ali Bouzouzia	2,317	54.93
Shihab Al-Yahmadi	1,901	45.07
Valid votes	4,218	
Invalid	194	
Blank votes	126	
Total votes	4,538	
Registered voters	61,246	

Medina – Bab Souika (Constituency No. 70)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Ahmed Bou Mlouka	1,325	43.74
Amal Meddeb	1,704	56.26
Valid votes	3,029	
Invalid	181	
Blank votes	125	
Total votes	3,335	
Registered voters	65,821	

Bab Bhar – Sidi El Bechir (Constituency No. 71)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Adel Bousselmi	2,658	100.00
Valid votes	2,658	
Invalid	156	
Blank votes	487	
Total votes	3,301	
Registered voters	79,937	

Sidi El Heni – Kalaa Sghira (Constituency No. 83)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Almoez Obaid	1,633	45.06
Mahmoud Al-Amiri	1,991	54.94
Valid votes	3,624	
Invalid	123	
Blank votes	107	
Total votes	3,854	
Registered voters	34,525	

Zaouia – Ksiba – Thrayat (Constituency No. 85)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Lutfi Ramadan	1,186	31.80
Youssef Al-Toumi	2,543	68.20
Valid votes	3,729	
Invalid	88	
Blank votes	56	
Total votes	3,873	
Registered voters	20,165	

Bizerte North (Constituency No. 100)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Sami El Sayed	2,565	59.53
Fatima Al-Rubaie	1,744	40.47
Valid votes	4,309	
Invalid	292	
Blank votes	186	
Total votes	4,787	
Registered voters	113,270	

Beni Khedache (Constituency No.115)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Abdul Salam Al-Hamrouni	1,332	100.00
Valid votes	1,332	
Invalid	54	
Blank votes	85	
Total votes	1,471	
Registered voters	19,987	

Djerba Houmt Souk (Constituency No.118)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Mohamed Tarabelsi	1,235	22.94
Ghassan Yamoun	2,756	51.20
Ilyes Kotrsi	604	11.22
Ali bin Hassan	788	14.64
Valid votes	5,383	
Invalid	129	
Blank votes	112	
Total votes	5,624	
Registered voters	56,792	

La Goulette (Constituency No. 125)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Hisham Hosni	1,588	100.00
Valid votes	1,588	
Invalid	90	
Blank votes	323	
Total votes	2,001	
Registered voters	28,570	

El Khadra – El Menzah (Constituency No. 127)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Thabit Al-Abed	2,956	100.00
Valid votes	2,956	
Invalid	223	
Blank votes	605	
Total votes	3,784	
Registered voters	76,847	

France 2 (Constituency No. 152)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Omar Barhoumi	521	100.00
Valid votes	521	
Invalid	10	
Blank votes	61	
Total votes	592	
Registered voters	73,599	

France 3 (Constituency No. 153)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Riad Jaidan	665	100.00
Valid votes	665	
Invalid	16	
Blank votes	72	
Total votes	753	
Registered voters	31,308	

Italy (Constituency No. 154)

Candidate	Votes cast	
	Votes	%
Sami bin Abdul Ali	644	100.00
Valid votes	644	
Invalid	14	
Blank votes	31	
Total votes	689	
Registered voters	50,128	

INTERESTING FACTS

ABOUT ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS OF HOST COUNTRIES

Number of Ballot Papers

In **Angola**, in presidential and parliamentary elections, voters received only **1 ballot paper**, while in parliamentary elections in **Senegal**, voters were given **8 ballot papers** at once.

Running on a Single Ticket

In the **Republic of the Congo** and **Senegal**, candidates in parliamentary elections are nominated with their running mates, the so-called **alternates**. In the case of **mandate revocation, inability to perform duties**, etc., the MP's seat is to be taken over by the alternate who ran with him/her on a single ticket. In **Kenya**, candidates for the **President** run in tandem with candidates for the **Vice President**.

Turnout Threshold

Of all host countries, only **Abkhazia** and **South Ossetia** have a voter turnout threshold. In the parliamentary election in **Abkhazia**, a turnout threshold of **25%** is set for **each constituency** in the **1st round**. In the presidential election in **South Ossetia**, the turnout threshold for the **1st and 2nd rounds** is **50% and 30%**, respectively.

Number of Candidates

Kenya had the **highest number of standing candidates** – 16,100 nominees – in the general elections.

Sex Identity of Candidates and Voters

In **Nepal**, candidates and voters are allowed by law to indicate '**other**' as the **3rd sex option** on official documents. There were **185 such voters** and **1 candidate** registered for the general elections.

Quotas

In **Serbia**, the **3% electoral threshold** was lifted for the ethnic minority parties, and if a ethnic minority party collected **less than 3% of votes**, its electoral quotient for seat distribution was **increased by 35%**. Besides, **at least 40%** of candidates on the electoral list in Serbia must be women.

In **Lebanon**, to maintain a **balance between Muslims and Christians**, a system of **confessional quotas** was implemented to allocate **128 seats** among constituencies based on the religious affiliation of the population as recorded in the **1932 Register of Lebanese citizens**.

In **Senegal**, there is a vertical rank-order system for distributing **candidates of different sexes** on the **main and alternate** electoral lists.

In the **Republic of the Congo**, candidate lists in elections of councils of departments and communes must include **at least 30% of women**.

Out-of-Country Voting

In **Serbia**, in the **National Assembly** election, voters can cast ballots abroad if they are included in the national voter register, and there must be applications from **at least 100 voters** to establish a polling station at the consular or diplomatic mission.

In the **South Ossetian** presidential election, out-of-country voting was available at **1 of 4 polling stations** established abroad: **3 in Russia** and **1 in Abkhazia**.

In **Lebanon**, in the **parliamentary election**, voters residing abroad can vote for standing candidates in those constituencies where voters are officially registered. However, according to the Electoral Law, in the future, the diaspora will be represented by **6 MPs** elected in a **distinct constituency**.

In **Nepal**, at least **1/3 of the members of the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies** must be women; thus, at least **50%** of candidates on the party lists must be female.

In **Kenya**, candidates of the **same sex** cannot hold **more than 2/3 of positions** in all elected bodies. There are also **47 seats** reserved for women in the **National Assembly**, and **12 seats** are reserved for youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups. In the **Senate**, **16 seats** are reserved for women, **2 seats** are reserved for persons with disabilities, and **2 seats** are reserved for youth.

In **Tunisia**, the abolition of the proportional electoral system eliminated the **quota system for women and youth** on electoral lists but extended the quota to the signatures required for a candidate's registration: **400 signatures**, of which **200 from men** and **200 from women**, with **at least 25%** of the total number of signatures collected from persons **under the age of 35**.

In **Kenya**, voters living abroad can only participate in the **presidential election**.

In **Senegal**, the diaspora is represented by **15 members of the National Assembly** elected in **8 overseas constituencies**.

In **Tunisia**, the diaspora elects **10 members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People**, who run in overseas constituencies.

In **Nepal**, there is no provision for out-of-country voting, so **10-12% of the population**, who work and reside abroad, cannot participate in elections.

Number of Voters and Turnout

In **Kenya**, there were **22,120,458 registered voters**, only **74.82% of the total number of adult Kenyan citizens** entitled to vote.

In **Nepal**, **17,988,570 voters** were registered, with **up to 20% of the country's population not on the voter roll** as they had no certificate of citizenship.

In **Lebanon**, **3,967,507 voters** were registered for the **Parliament of Lebanon** election: **3,741,883** within the country and **225,624** abroad. Yet the **Lebanese diaspora** is estimated between **4 and 14 million people**, according to various sources.

The **lowest voter turnout** was recorded in the **Tunisian parliamentary election** – only **11.2%** in the **1st round**, which was the **2nd worst** turnout in history since **1945**.

Equal Number of Votes

In case of a tie, in the election of the **Assembly of the Representatives of the People of Tunisia**, the **younger candidate** is declared the winner, while in the election of the **National Assembly of Senegal**, the preference among the tied candidates is given to the **older one** or, in the case of a candidate list, to the candidates whose **average age exceeds the average age of their contenders**. In **Abkhazia**, this issue in the parliamentary election is resolved in a different way – shall candidates receive an **equal number of votes**, the election is **declared invalid** and held anew.

Mandate Revocation

In **Tunisia**, it is possible to revoke the mandates of the members of the **Assembly of the Representatives of the People** by a petition of **1/10 of the voters** registered in the constituency where the MP was elected.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANFREL	Asian Network for Free Elections	IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya
AU	African Union	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
CCRF	Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation	IRI	International Republican Institute
CEC of Abkhazia	Central Election Commission of the Republic of Abkhazia	IRIE	Independent Regional Authorities for Elections of the Tunisian Republic
CEC of Russia	Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation	ISIE	High Independent Authority for Elections
CEC of the RSO	Central Election Commission of the Republic of South Ossetia	KIEMS	Kenya Integrated Election Management System
CENA	Autonomous National Electoral Commission of Senegal	KNHCR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	LEC	Local Election Commission
CJFA	Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions in Africa	MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CNEI	National Independent Electoral Commission of the Republic of the Congo	MFAE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	MMD	Multi-Member District
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries	MOI	Ministry of Interior
CSO	Civil Society Organization	MOIM	Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization	MP	Member of Parliament
DEC	District Election Commission	NDI	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
DGAE	Directorate General of Electoral Affairs	NEC	National Electoral Commission of Angola
DGE	Directorate General for Elections	NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
DGPAR	Directorate General of Political Affairs and Refugees	ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
DGPS	Directorate General of Personal Status	OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
DSV	Double Simultaneous Vote	PBV	Party Block Vote
EAC	East African Community	PEC	Precinct Election Commission
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	PRC	Primary Registration Committee
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal	PSC	Polling Site Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	REC	Republic Electoral Commission of Serbia
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
ELOG	Election Observation Group	SADC	Southern African Development Community
EOM	Election Observation Mission	SCE	Supervisory Commission for Elections
EU	European Union	SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
FPTP	First-Past-the-Post	SMD	Single-Member District
HRC	Higher Registration Committee	TRS	Two-Round System
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region	UN WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
		WHO	World Health Organization