

## **ELECTION CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

### **Chapter 1. General provisions**

#### **Article 1. Relations regulated by the present Code**

The present Code shall regulate relations related to the preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter — the Legislative Chamber), members of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter — the Senate), deputies of regional, sub-regional<sup>1</sup> and city Kengashes of people's deputies (hereinafter — local Kengashes) and define the guarantees that provide for freedom of expression of the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

<sup>1</sup> Sub-region in this case and hereinafter means an administrative unit, which is smaller than a region but bigger than a city. The exact translation for the original Russian word is district. But the translator uses the term “sub-region” to avoid the confusion between the District Election Commissions (DEC) (Translator’s notes).

#### **Article 2. Legislation on election**

Legislation on election consists of the **Constitution** of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the present Code and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

#### **Article 3. Basic principles of conducting of elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

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

Elections shall be held open and transparent.

#### **Article 4. Universal suffrage**

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

The right to elect have the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who have reached the age of eighteen on the day of elections (hereinafter — citizens).

Citizens have the equal suffrage regardless of their sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, personal and social status, education, type and nature of occupation.

#### **Article 5. Equal suffrage**

Every citizen participating in the election shall have one vote.

Citizens declared legally incapable by the court, as well as persons being held in a place of detention by order of a court, may not be elected.

Citizens recognized by the court as incompetent, as well as persons held in places of deprivation of liberty by a court verdict for committing grave and especially grave crimes, may be deprived of the right to participate in elections only in accordance with the law and on the basis of a court decision. In any other cases, direct or indirect restriction of the voting rights of citizens is not allowed.

#### **Article 6. Direct suffrage**

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber, deputies of the local Kengashes shall be directly elected by citizens.

#### **Article 7. Secret ballot**

Voting in elections is free and by secret ballot. Control over the will of voters is not allowed.

The secret ballot shall be ensured by creating appropriate conditions that exclude any possibility of control over the will of the voter.

#### **Article 8. Openness and transparency in the preparation and conducting of elections**

Election commissions carry out the preparation and conduct of elections in an open and transparent manner.

Election commissions shall inform citizens about their work, formation of election constituencies, precincts, composition of election commissions, their location and working hours, familiarize them with voters' lists, list of political parties participating in the elections, provide information on candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber, deputies of the local Kengashes, as well as the results of voting and elections.

Mass media shall cover the process of the preparation and the conduct of the elections.

Meetings of election commissions shall be held open. The decisions of election commissions shall be published in mass media or publicly disclosed in accordance with the procedure established by present Code.

Observers from the political parties which nominated the candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber, deputies of the local Kengashes, from citizens' self-governing bodies, representatives of media, overseas observers and observers of the international organizations have the right to be present in all events associated with the preparation and conducting of elections, at voting premises on election day and at the counting of votes.

### **Article 8<sup>1</sup>. Restrictions on holding elections**

During the entire period of the state of emergency imposed on the entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan or in its separate locality, elections are not held.

## **Chapter 2. Constituencies and polling stations**

### **Article 9. Formation of election constituencies**

Election constituencies for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be formed by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter — the Central Election Commission) in the borders of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and Tashkent city.

One hundred and fifty territorial election constituencies shall be formed for conducting elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber. One deputy shall be elected from each election constituency.

Election constituencies for the election of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be formed by the Central Election Commission upon the proposal of the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Kengashes of people's deputies of regions and Tashkent city.

Borders of election constituencies for the election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be determined taking into account the administrative and territorial structure of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and Tashkent city, as a rule, with an equal number of voters throughout the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The following election constituencies shall be formed to elect local Kengashes:

the Kengashes of people's deputies of regions and Tashkent city — no more than sixty election constituencies;

the sub-regional and city Kengashes of people's deputies — no more than thirty election constituencies. One deputy shall be elected from each election constituency.

In accordance with the rules established by the present Code, the number of election constituencies for the elections to the local Kengashes shall be determined by the relevant local Kengash based on the population, the number of voters, the region and other local conditions.

The number of electoral districts for elections to the regional Kengash of people's deputies of a newly formed region is established by the Central Election Commission on the proposal of the Senate, and the number of electoral districts for elections to the district, city Kengash of people's deputies of a newly formed region, city is established by the corresponding regional Kengash of people's deputies, taking into account the requirements of part five and sixth of this article.

Electoral districts for elections to the regional Kengash of people's deputies of a newly formed region are formed by the Central Election Commission on the proposal of the Senate, and

electoral districts for elections to the district, city Kengash of people's deputies of a newly formed region, city — by the corresponding regional Kengash of people's deputies.

Election constituencies for elections of the local Kengashes shall be formed by the relevant regional, sub-regional or city election commission, as a rule, with equal number of voters. The borders of the election constituencies are determined taking into account the administrative and territorial structure of the region, sub-regional and cities.

When forming election constituencies, the maximum permissible deviation in the number of voters in election constituencies shall generally not exceed ten per cent.

The lists of election constituencies with indication of their boundaries, the number of voters and the locations of district election commissions, shall be published by the relevant electoral commission at least seventy-five days before the elections.

### **Article 10. Procedure and norm of formation of the polling stations**

Polling stations for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber and deputies of regional and Tashkent city Kengashes are formed by district election commissions on the nomination of khokimiyats of districts and cities, and for elections of deputies of district, city Kengashes — by district, city election commissions.

Polling stations shall be formed taking into account the boundaries of sub-regions, cities, rayons in cities in order to create maximum conveniences for voters. Polling stations shall be also formed in military units and are included in election districts according to the location of units. The borders of the polling stations must not cross the borders of the other election constituencies.

Polling stations can be established under the diplomatic and other representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, in sanatoriums, resorts, hospitals and other permanent medical institutions, in places of residence of citizens located in remote and inaccessible areas, in places of detention and imprisonment. These polling stations shall be a part of the election constituencies by their location. The matter of assigning to an election constituency formed outside the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be decided by the Central Election Commission.

Polling stations in military units shall be formed by district election commissions upon the proposal of the commanders of military units or military structures. Polling stations under the diplomatic and other representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries shall be formed by the Central Election Commission upon the proposal of the Ministry of foreign affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Polling stations shall be formed no less than sixty days before the elections, as a rule, with a minimum number of voters no less than twenty and no more than three thousand. Polling station at military units, diplomatic and other representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, as well as in places of residence of citizens located in remote and inaccessible areas, in places of detention and imprisonment shall be formed within that period, and not later than seven days before the elections in exceptional cases.

The number of polling stations cannot be less than the number of election constituencies.

District election commission shall determine the sequence number of the polling stations and organize a notification of the voters on the boundaries of each polling station with indication of the telephone numbers, location of the relevant polling station's commission and voting premises.

When conducting elections of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber, local Kengashes, single polling stations shall be formed by the district election commissions on election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber.

## **Chapter 3. Election Commissions**

### **Article 11. System of election commissions**

The system of election commissions consists of:

Central Election Commission;

regional, sub-regional and city election commissions;

district election commissions;

precinct election commission.

Election commissions and their members shall carry out their activities independently from any state bodies, public associations and officials.

Interference in the work of election commissions is not allowed and such interference shall be subject to liability in accordance with the law.

Election commissions and their members shall be guided in their activity by the [Constitution](#) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the present Code and other legislative acts.

The consideration of issues and making decisions are collectively carried out by the election commission.

The activity of election commissions are open and transparent.

Representatives of political parties, mass media, observers from citizens' self-governing bodies, other states and international organizations may attend the meetings of the election commission.

Election commissions take the necessary measures to ensure equal conditions for candidates and political parties to conduct the election campaign, the fair distribution of budget funds allocated for the preparation and conducting of elections, and the fairness of the voting and tabulating the elections results.

### **Article 12. Formation of the Central Election Commission**

The Central Election Commission shall be formed by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan consisting of at least fifteen members.

The members of the Central Election Commission shall be elected by the Legislative Chamber and the Senate upon the recommendation of the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and Tashkent city Kengashes of people's deputies.

Chairperson of the Central Election Commission shall be elected from among its members upon the nomination of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the meeting of the commission.

Deputy Chairperson and the secretary of the Central Election Commission shall be elected from the members of the commission at the commission's meeting.

A member of the Central Election Commission shall have a relevant certificate.

The certificate of the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission and his/her deputy are signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the certificate of other members of the Central Election Commission shall be signed by the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber and the Chairperson of the Senate.

### **Article 13. Membership in the Central Election Commission**

A citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan who reached the age of twenty-five, as a rule, has a higher education, a work experience in organization and conduct of elections, has an authority among public and permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least the last five years may be a member of the Central Election Commission.

Citizens whose state of conviction for committing serious and especially serious crimes was not completed or not cancelled, military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employees of the State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, other militarized units, professional staff of religious organizations and associations may not be members of the Central Election Commission.

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

The member of the Central Election Commission who has been registered as a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a candidate for deputy of the Legislative Chamber, a candidate for membership of the Senate or a proxy shall be considered as leaving the membership in the Commission.

Powers of the member of the Central Election Commission may be terminated by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan directly or upon the recommendation of the body which nominated him/her to membership, in the following cases:

submission by him/her of a written application for resignation;

he/she was recognized by the court as incapable;  
entry into force of the court's sentence against him/her;  
systematic failure to perform his/her duties;  
election or appointment to a position, the occupation of which in accordance with the law is incompatible with the exercise of the powers of a member of the Central Election Commission;  
recognition of him/her as missing or declaring dead on the basis of a court decision that has entered into legal force;  
loss of citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan or renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan;  
his/her death.

A new member of the Central Election Commission shall be elected in accordance with the procedure established by the present Code.

A member of the Central Election Commission may work at the Commission on a permanent basis upon the decision of the Commission. The number of members of the Central Election Commission working on a permanent basis consists of not more than seven people.

Members of the Central Election Commission working on a permanent basis may not engage in any other paid activity except for scientific and pedagogical activity.

Members of the Central Election Commission are subject to the rules on immunity applicable to members of the Legislative Chamber, members of the Senate.

#### **Article 14. Powers of the Central Election Commission**

Central Election Commission shall:

head the system of election commissions formed for conducting the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, carries out the control over the execution of the present Code throughout the Republic of Uzbekistan, ensure its uniform application;

announce the start of the election campaign on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber and local Kengashes;

provide methodological support for the activities of election commissions, within its powers, adopts resolutions, approves instructions and regulations, provides clarifications on the organization of elections;

provide general guidance and coordination of activities on the implementation of Information management system of the electoral process and the use of a Single electronic list of voters of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter — the Single electronic list of voters);

form election constituencies for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and deputies of the Legislative Chamber;

resolve the matters of assigning polling stations formed under the diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries to the relevant election constituencies;

form the district election commissions for elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and deputies of the Legislative Chamber and publish information about their location;

establish the procedure for introducing amendments to the composition of election commissions;

cancel the decisions of the territorial election commissions either independently or upon the presentation of the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in the case if these decisions contravene with the present Code;

issue mandates to the observers from foreign states, international organizations at elections;  
develop and approve the expenditure budget for the preparation and conduct of elections, distribute funds to election commissions, including the financing of political parties' participation in elections, supervise the provision of election commissions with premises, transport and communication facilities, consider other matters related to material and technical support of elections;

determine a sample mandate for observers of political parties, citizens' self-governing bodies, representatives of mass media, observers from other states, international organizations;

make decision on admission of political parties to participate in the elections on the basis of the submitted documents;

accept relevant documents from the political parties nominating candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and deputies of the Legislative Chamber;

register candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and candidates for deputies of the Legislative Chamber, organize publication of the lists of registered candidates and information on them in the press and issuance of certificates for them;

register the proxies of candidates for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and issue them certificates;

provide equal conditions of participation at the elections for candidates to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and candidates to deputy of the Legislative Chamber;

establish samples and forms of ballot papers on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber and members of the Senate, voter lists, signature lists, protocols of election commissions and other documents, ballot boxes and seals of election commissions, determines their storage order.

determine the procedure for the preparation and delivery of ballot papers to polling stations;

hear the information of representatives of election commissions, political parties, ministries, state committees and agencies, local authorities, other state bodies and public associations on matters associated with preparation and conduct of elections;

summarize the results of elections, determine the total voting results in the Republic of Uzbekistan and publish the information about the number of voters who participated in voting and the number of votes cast for each candidate;

in cases provided for by the present Code, organize repeat voting, holding repeat elections and election for vacant position of retired deputies of the Legislative Chamber or members of the Senate, as well as holding repeat voting and repeat election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

register elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber and members of the Senate and publish their lists in the press and in other sources;

convene the first post-election meeting of the Legislative Chamber, the Senate;

hand on to the elected person a certificate on election as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

issue to the deputy of Legislative Chamber and members of Senate a certificate and a breastplate respectively of the Deputy of Legislative Chamber and Member of the Senate;

shall consider appeals from voters and other participants in the electoral process, with the exception of complaints about actions and decisions of election commissions, and makes decisions on them;

submit materials on violation of requirements of the present Code to the court or law enforcement bodies;

carry out international cooperation with representatives of electoral bodies of other countries, international organizations and foreign states, organize meetings, sign agreements and memorandums;

participate in election observation in foreign countries, including missions of international organizations;

invite international organizations, electoral bodies and representatives of foreign states for election observation;

ensure that the documents relating to the organization and holding of elections are submitted to the departmental archives;

approve the Regulation of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

strengthen and develop relations with public and the mass media;

exercises other powers provided for by this Code and other laws.

#### **Article 15. Chairperson of the Central Election Commission**

Chairperson of the Central Election Commission shall:

carry out the administration of the activity of the Central Election Commission;  
call meetings of the Central Election Commission, preside over them, distribute functions among members of the Commission;

invite representatives and officials of state bodies, political parties and other public associations, organizations to participate in meetings of the Central Election Commission;

act on behalf of the Central Election Commission in relations with the state bodies, international organizations and public associations;

present information to the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on outcomes of the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

sign the resolutions and other documents of the Central Election Commission;

distribute the funds allocated from the State budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for provision of the activities of the Central Election Commission and controls their purposeful use;

open the first meeting of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate respectively, and preside over it until the election of the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber and the chairperson of the Senate.

If the chairperson of the Central Election Commission is unable to execute his/her powers, as well as, in case of absence of the chairperson, the functions of the chairperson are assigned to deputy chairperson or one of the members of the Commission by the decision of the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 16. Meetings and decisions of the Central Election Commission**

The organizational form of the Central Election Commission's work is its meetings, which shall be held upon necessity. A meeting shall be valid if it is attended by at least two thirds of the total number of members of the Commission.

Decisions of the Central Election Commission shall be taken by open vote by the majority of votes of the total number of members of the Commission. In case of equal division of votes, the vote of the chairperson of the Central Election Commission shall be decisive.

At the meetings of the Central Election Commission a protocol shall be kept and signed by the chairperson and secretary of the Central Election Commission.

Members of the Central Election Commission have the right to express their special opinion, which shall be attached to the protocol in written form.

Within the limits of its powers the Central Election Commission shall adopt resolutions, which shall be signed by the chairperson of the Central Election Commission.

Resolutions of the Central Election Commission shall enter into force from the moment of its adoption and shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission on the same day as well as on other sources, if it is necessary.

Decisions of the Central Election Commission adopted within its competence shall be binding on the district and precinct election commission, state bodies, political parties and other public associations, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

#### **Article 17. Secretariat of the Central Election Commission**

A Secretariat of the Central Election Commission shall be established to support the activities of the Commission.

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

The structure, staff and work procedure of the Secretariat shall be approved by the chairperson of the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 18. Regulation of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The procedure of the Central Election Commission's activity shall be determined in its Regulation adopted at the meeting of the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 19. Formation of the regional, sub-regional and city election commissions**

To organize and holding election for local Kengashes there shall be formed:

regional election commission on holding elections for the regional Kengash of people's deputies;

sub-regional election commission on holding elections for the sub-regional Kengash of people's deputies;

city election commission on holding elections for the city Kengash of people's deputies.

Regional, district, and city election commissions, with the exception of the cases provided for in part three of this article, shall be formed by the relevant local Kengashes at least eighty days before the election, consisting of eleven to twenty-one members of the commission and exercise their powers until the announcement of the start of the next election campaign.

In newly formed administrative-territorial units, the regional election commission for elections to the regional Kengash of People's Deputies is formed by the Senate, and district, city election commissions for elections to the district, city Kengash of people's Deputies are formed by the corresponding regional Kengash of people's Deputies at least twenty-five days before the elections, consisting of eleven to twenty-one members of the commission and carry out their powers until the announcement of the start of the next election campaign.

The chairmen of regional, district, and city election commissions are elected from among its members upon presentation of the relevant local Kengash at a meeting of the election commission. In the case provided for in part three of this article, the chairman of the regional election commission is appointed by the Senate.

The deputy chairperson of the Commission and the secretary of the Commission shall be elected from its members at the commission meeting. Regional, sub-regional, city election commissions shall publish information on their composition, address and telephone numbers of the commissions on the official websites and printed publications.

#### **Article 20. Powers of the regional, sub-regional and city election commission**

Regional, sub-regional, city election commission shall:

exercise control over the execution of the present Code in the relevant territory, ensure its uniform application and provide explanations on the organization and conduct of election;

form election constituencies for elections to the respective local Kengashes, assign them names and sequence numbers and publish information on the location of the election commission of that constituency;

form the district election commissions for the elections to the relevant local Council and publish information on the composition of the commission;

direct the activity of the respective election commissions, determine the procedure for making amendments to the composition of them, have an authority to cancel decisions of the district and precinct election commissions either independently or upon the proposal by the regional, sub-regional or city prosecutor, if these decisions contradict the present Code;

accept relevant documents from political parties nominating candidates for the deputies;

register candidates for deputies and issue them certificates;

provide equal conditions for candidates to participate in election campaign;

distribute funds among relevant election commissions, control over the provision of election commissions with premises, transport and communication facilities, and consider other matters of material and technical support of the elections;

approve and prepare forms of ballot papers on the elections of the respective local Kengash, lists of voters, protocols of election commissions, its seals, other election-related documents;

hear reports of political parties, other public associations, local authorities, citizens' self-governing bodies and heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations on the preparation and conduct of elections;

tabulate election results to the relevant local Kengash, register elected deputies, publish information on election outcomes and list of elected deputies in the press;

issue a certificate and a breastplate of a relevant deputy of the local Kengash;

resolve the matters related to the conduct of repeat election;

shall consider appeals from voters and other participants in the electoral process, with the exception of complaints about the actions and decisions of election commissions, and makes decisions on them;

submit materials on the violation of the requirements of the present Code to the court or relevant law enforcement agencies;

ensure the submission of documents related to the organization and conduct of elections to archives and departmental archives.

The district, city (with the exception of the Tashkent city election commission) election commission shall also exercise the powers of the district election commission provided for in [Articles 22, 23, 31, 32, 59, 60](#) and [95](#) of this Code.

### **Article 21. Formation of the district election commissions**

The District Election Commission for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is formed by the Central Election Commission at least seventy days before the election, consisting of the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and eight to eighteen other members of the commission.

The District Election Commission for the election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber is formed by the Central Election Commission, and the district election commission for elections to regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of People's Deputies is formed by the corresponding regional, Tashkent city Election Commission — at least seventy days before the election, consisting of the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and six to eight other members of the commission.

Candidates for members of district election commissions for elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and deputies of the Legislative Chamber are discussed at meetings of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of people's deputies and are recommended for approval by the Central Election Commission.

Members of district election commissions for elections in the Tashkent city and Kengash regions are approved on the recommendation of regional and city Kengashes of people's deputies.

District election commissions for elections to the district, city Kengash of people's deputies (with the exception of the Tashkent city Kengash of people's deputies) are not formed.

Members of the district election commission shall be approved from among the authoritative representatives of the public.

### **Article 22. Powers of district election commission**

District election commission shall:

exercise the control on the execution of the present Code in respective territory;

form polling stations, define their sequence number for the constituency, publish their lists with indication of the address;

coordinate the activity of precinct election commissions;

notify voters of the location of polling stations;

form precinct election commissions and publish the information about their composition;

provide equal conditions for candidates to participate in election campaign;

register the proxies of the candidates for the election and issues them appropriate certificates;

hear the reports of the representatives of political parties, other public associations, citizens' self-governing bodies, heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations on matters related to the preparation and conduct of elections;

observe the forming of voter lists and their presentation to introduce for public;

determine the results of elections over the election constituency and submit them to the Central Election Commission, regional, Tashkent city election commissions;

organize re-voting and repeat election, as well as holding the election of deputies instead of the retired;

shall consider appeals from voters and other participants in the electoral process, with the exception of complaints about actions and decisions of election commissions, and makes decisions on them.

### **Article 23. Formation of the precinct election commission**

Precinct election commission shall be formed by district election commission composed of five to ninety members, including a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and a secretary, not less than forty days before the election.

A chairperson and a secretary shall be elected if commission is composed of up to seven members.

If necessary, the size of the precinct election commission may be changed.

At the diplomatic and other representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, the functions of chairperson of precinct election commission shall be performed by the head of that representative office.

Candidates for the membership of the precinct election commission shall be recommended by citizens' self-governing bodies, public associations, enterprises, institutions and organizations, which are discussed at the meetings of the district and city Kengashes of people's deputies and are recommended for approval to the relevant district election commission.

### **Article 24. Powers of precinct election commissions**

Precinct election commission shall:

- form a list of voters over the polling station;
- introduce voters with a list of voters, accept and consider applications on errors and inaccuracies in the list, and resolve the matter of making appropriate changes to the list;
- accept ballots in closed envelopes filled out by voters who are unable to be at their place of residence on election day and participate in voting;
- inform the population about election day and voting place;
- provide preparation of the premises with booths or rooms for secret ballot and ballot boxes, as well as other equipment;
- organize voting at the polling station on election day;
- organize vote counting;
- consider the appeals of voters and other participants of the election process, and make decisions on them.

### **Article 25. Membership in the regional, sub-regional, city, district and precinct election commissions**

Members of the regional, sub-regional and city election commissions, district and precinct election commissions can be citizens who have reached the age of twenty-one, have a secondary or higher education, usually have experience in preparing and conducting elections, and enjoy authority among the population.

Members of the regional, sub-regional and city election commissions, district and precinct election commissions cannot be:

- deputy of the Legislative Chamber, deputy of the local Kengash, member of the Senate;
- members of another election commission;
- members of political parties and authorized representatives;
- khokims of regions, districts and cities and their deputies;
- officials of the prosecutor's office, courts;
- candidates, close relatives and proxies of candidates;
- persons who are directly subordinate to candidates;
- citizens who have an outstanding or unexpunged conviction for serious or especially serious crimes.

More than half of the members of the precinct election commission cannot be recommended from one organization, with the exception of precinct election commissions formed at diplomatic and other missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, in military units, sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals and other inpatient medical institutions, places of detention and imprisonment.

A member of the election commission registered as a candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber and local Kengashes or an authorized representative is considered to have retired from the election commission.

The powers of a member of an election commission may be terminated by the body that created the election commission directly or upon the recommendation of the body that recommended him in the following cases:

- submitting a written application for resignation;
- recognition by the court as incompetent;
- the entry into force of a court conviction against him;
- systematic failure to fulfill his duties;
- electing or appointing him to a position, the occupation of which is, by law, incompatible with the exercise of the powers of a member of the election commission;
- recognizing him as missing or declaring him dead on the basis of a court decision that has entered into legal force;
- loss of citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan or renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- his death.

If necessary, a new member of the election commission shall be elected in the manner established by this Code.

#### **Article 26. Organization of the work of election commissions**

The meeting of election commission shall be competent if at least two-thirds of the total number of members of the commission are present. The Commission's decision shall be made by a simple majority of the total number of members of the Commission. The members of commission who disagree with the decision have the right to express their separate opinion, and this opinion shall be attached to the protocol in written form. In the case of a division of votes, chairperson's vote is decisive.

The decision of the election commission adopted within its authority shall be binding on the lower-level election commissions, as well as all heads of state bodies, political parties and other public associations, labour collectives and military units, enterprises, establishments and organizations.

The chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary or other member of the election commission may, by its decision, be relieved from work or official duties during the preparation and conduct of elections, while preserving the average salary at the expense of the funds allocated for the elections.

State bodies and bodies of public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations, officials shall be obliged to assist election commissions in exercising their powers and provide the necessary information for their work.

State bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations shall be obliged to provide the buildings and equipment necessary for the preparation and conduct of elections to election commissions free of charge.

The election commission shall have the right to appeal to the state bodies and public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials on matters related to the preparation and conduct of the elections, they should consider the matter within a maximum period of three days and answer to the election commission.

District and precinct election commissions for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall cease their activity after tabulating the election results of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and respectively, after registration by the Central Election Commission of the elected deputies from the respective election districts.

District and precinct election commissions for elections of local Kengashes shall cease their activity after registration of the elected deputies from the respective election districts by the region, sub-regional and city election commissions.

### **Chapter 4. Making voter lists**

#### **Article 27. Voter lists**

Citizens' surnames who are permanently or temporarily residing in the territory of the polling station during the registration of the list of voters, who are at the age of eighteen before election day or on election day, are included in voter list.

Every voter can be included in only one voter list.

Voter list shall include surname, first name, patronymic, date of birth and home address of each voter.

Voter lists shall be made based on data of Information system on formation of a Single electronic list of voters.

Lists of military personnel in military units, as well as members of the families of military personnel and other voters, if they live in the areas of military units, shall be made on the basis of data provided by the commanders of military units. Military personnel residing outside the military units are included in the voter lists at the place of residence on a common basis.

Voter lists on polling stations, formed in sanatoriums and resorts, hospitals and other permanent medical institutions, in places of detention and imprisonment, are made on the basis of information provided by the heads of these institutions.

### **Article 27<sup>1</sup>. The inclusion of citizens living in foreign countries to the voter lists**

Voter lists at polling stations formed at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries are compiled on the basis of data provided by the heads of these institutions.

Precinct election commissions formed at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries inform citizens in foreign countries about the method, place and time of familiarization with the voter lists.

Citizens in foreign countries can apply in writing to precinct election commissions formed at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, or electronically through the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to be included in the voter list for fifteen days before the election.

Precinct election commissions formed at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries check the personal data specified in the applications of citizens in foreign countries about their inclusion in the voter list and decide on the inclusion of a citizen in the voter list.

Precinct election commissions formed at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries submit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan information on citizens included in the voter list.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan submits information about citizens included in the voter list to the State Center for Personalization under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan to make appropriate changes to the Unified Electronic Voter List

### **Article 28. Single electronic list of voters**

Single electronic list of voters is a state information resource, containing information about voter citizens, their permanent and temporary residence addresses in accordance with the databases of competent state bodies.

Single electronic list of voters is formed and updated on the basis of the information provided by the competent state bodies, and specified by the relevant precinct election commission during the election campaign.

Each precinct election commission within three days after its formation receives the preliminary list of voters allocated in the Single electronic list of voters.

After receiving the preliminary list of voters, precinct election commission shall take measures to identify the population living in the territory of the polling station by the way of a door-to-door visits.

Precinct election commission may involve public representatives to participate in identifying of voter lists. Sub-regional and city khokimiyats shall assist in identifying lists of voters.

In accordance with the results of door-to-door visits of the population, election commissions can make changes to the voter lists, adjusting the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth and address of residence of the voter in a Single electronic list of voters.

Voter list shall be made by precinct election commission on each polling station and shall be signed by its chairperson and secretary.

On election day, polling stations shall use voter lists from a Single electronic list of voters.

#### **Article 29. Introducing citizens with voter lists**

Citizens will be provided with the opportunity to get acquainted with voter lists in the building of precinct election commission, as well as with the relevant information from voter list related to them on the official website of the Central Election Commission. Citizens in foreign countries are provided with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with data concerning them from the voter list also through the official websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states.

The lists of voters shall be made available to the public fifteen days before the elections, and at polling stations established under diplomatic and other representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign States, in sanatoriums and resorts, hospitals and other permanent medical institutions, in places of residence of citizens located in remote and inaccessible areas, in places of detention and imprisonment, three days before the elections.

Precinct election commission shall notify the place and time for getting acquainted with the list.

Election commissions may also make changes to voter lists after they are presented to public. Making changes to voter lists shall be terminated five days before elections.

#### **Article 30. Challenging the voter lists**

Everyone can appeal to precinct election commission on a mistake or inaccuracy in voter lists. Precinct election commission shall be obliged to consider the appeal within 24 hours and either eliminate a mistake or inaccuracy, or provide a reasonable respond to applicant on rejection of the appeal.

Actions and decisions of the precinct election commission can be appealed to the court.

### **Chapter 5. Ballot paper**

#### **Article 31. Content of a ballot paper**

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

The form and text of the ballot paper for the elections of local Kengashes shall be approved by region, sub-regional and city election commissions.

The candidate's surname, first name, patronymic, indicating the year of birth and the political party that nominated him as a candidate, shall be entered in alphabetical order on the ballot.

Ballot paper shall contain an explanation of the order of its filling.

Ballot papers shall be published in the official language, as well as in the languages spoken by the majority of the population of the respective district upon the decision of district election commission.

Stencils can be made to fill ballots in Braille.

#### **Article 32. Preparation and delivery of ballot papers**

Precinct election commissions shall receive ballot papers from district election commissions at least three days before voting day, as well as before that. The chairperson or deputy chairperson or secretary of the district and precinct election Commission shall confirm the issuance and receipt of ballots with their signature on the relevant document.

Based on the information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the number of voters at polling stations established at diplomatic and other

representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, the Central Election Commission ensures the production and delivery of ballots.

The number of ballot papers received by precinct election commission cannot be more than half a per cent of the number of citizens included in lists of the precinct. In the upper right corner of ballot paper two members of precinct election commission shall sign and signatures shall be confirmed by the seal of precinct election commission. Ballot paper not confirmed by precinct election commission shall not be taken into account when counting votes.

## **Chapter 6. Rights and obligations of observers, authorized representatives of political parties, mass media representatives**

### **Article 33. Observers from political parties, citizens' self-governing bodies, other states and international organizations**

Observers from political parties, citizens' self-governing bodies, as well as from other states and international organizations shall carry out their activities on the basis of mandates granted by respective commissions.

Interested organizations shall inform election commissions on their observers at least ten days before election.

Within five days after receipt of an application from an interested organization, election commission issues a mandate for an observer. Mandates for observers from other countries, international organizations are issued by the Central Election Commission.

Observers shall have the following rights:

to be present at meetings of election commissions;

to participate in meetings on nomination of candidates, meetings of candidates with voters;

to be present at the polling station, to observe the progress of the preparatory work, the placement of booths or rooms for secret voting and the sealing of ballot boxes, the registration of citizens, the issuance of ballots;

to be present at counting of votes and drafting the Protocol of the election commission;

to request and receive copies of documents related to election results approved by the relevant election commission;

to report their observations to the relevant election commission, if there is reason to believe that at the relevant polling station there have been violations of the requirements of the present Code.

Observers are prohibited from:

being present in a booth or room of a secret ballot when voter marks his/her ballot paper;

influencing citizens, distributing any agitation material or literature;

asking voters how they voted, or providing any assistance to voters in marking ballot paper;

interfering in the work of election commissions, including sealing of ballot boxes, their opening and counting of votes.

Observers must notify the precinct election commission at least three days before visiting polling stations formed in military units, places of detention and imprisonment.

### **Article 34. Authorized representatives of political parties**

Political party which has nominated candidates to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, candidates for deputies of the Legislative Chamber and candidates to local Kengashes shall have the right to appoint an authorized representative to attend the meetings of election commission, submit documents, to check the correctness of signature lists, and participate in the counting of votes at the polling station.

Authorized representatives of political parties shall be obliged to present a document proving their identity, a document issued by a political party and the mandate of the respective election commission.

### **Article 35. Representatives of mass media**

Representatives of the mass media have the right to cover all events related to the preparation and conduct of elections, to be present at voting premises on election day, including being present at the counting of votes.

The powers of mass media representatives shall be confirmed by the documents issued by the Central Election Commission, regional, sub-regional and city election commissions.

Mass media representatives from other countries are accredited by the Central Election Commission.

## **Chapter 7. Announcement of the start of the election campaign, the participation of the political parties in the elections**

### **Article 36. Announcement of the start of the election campaign**

The beginning of the election campaign for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of the Legislative Chamber and deputies of local Kengashes is announced by the Central Election Commission in the media no later than three months before the expiration of their term of office, with the exception of cases provided for in Articles 66 and 74<sup>1</sup> of this Code.

### **Article 37. Right to nominate candidates**

Right to nominate a candidate for Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a candidate for deputy of the Legislative Chamber and a candidate for deputy of local Kengashes belongs to political parties.

### **Article 38. The procedure for collecting signatures**

On the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber the Central Election Commission shall issue blanks of signature sheets of established samples for political parties.

The political party on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have the right to collect signatures of voters only after its authorized representative receives the registration certificate. Signatures collected before this date shall not be counted.

Voters have the right to sign in support of one or more political parties or presidential candidates of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the same time, the voter shall indicate his last name, first name, patronymic, year of birth (at the age of eighteen — additionally the day and month of birth), address of residence, series and number of passport or identification ID card, as well as the date of signature. The specified information shall be entered by handwriting. Information about the voter who puts his signature on the signature sheet, at his request, may be entered by the person collecting signatures.

Signature sheet shall be signed by the person collecting signature, indicating his/her surname, name and patronymic, and shall be sealed by the head of the sub-regional or city structure of the respective political party.

The collection of signatures of voters shall be carried out at the place of work, service, study, residence, at election events, as well as in other places where campaigning and collecting signatures are not prohibited by law. Any form of coercion and bribery of voters by the person collecting signatures shall entail liability established by law.

After completion of the collection of signatures, the authorized representative of the political party shall submit to the Central Election Commission the signatures sheets which shall be separately sewn for the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and Tashkent city.

### **Article 39. Examining the correctness of filling of the signature sheets by the Central Election Commission**

Central Election Commission shall examine the correctness of filling of signature sheets submitted by political parties in a five-day period. At least fifteen per cent of the required number of signatures of voters and relevant information on voters who have signed the subscription lists are subject to examination.

The same number of voters' signatures collected in support of each political party or candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be selected for examination by sampling in an equal ratio from each administrative-territorial entity (Republic of Karakalpakstan, region, city of Tashkent).

Central Election Commission may form an expert group, which checks that the signature sheets are correctly filled. The expert group includes experts of internal affairs bodies, justice bodies, as well as representatives of civil society institutions. Authorized representatives of political parties shall participate in the examining of signature sheets.

If, during a random examination by the Central Election Commission of more than a quarter of the signature sheets, it is revealed that the signature sheets were compiled in violation of the law, these signature sheets shall be returned to the authorized representative of the political party, and he shall be given a two-day period for the elimination of the deficiencies. If the number of signatures of supporters (voters) again turns out to be less than the established minimum number, these signature sheets shall be declared invalid in full. In this case, the Central Election Commission denies a political party the registration of a candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan or the right to participate in the elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber.

## **Chapter 8. Registration, legal status of the candidates and their proxies**

### **Article 40. Registration procedure of the candidates**

Candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and deputy of the Legislative Chamber shall be registered by the Central Election Commission, and the registration of candidates of deputies for local Kengashes shall be performed by the respective region, sub-region and city election commissions.

The registered person shall be issued a registration certificate.

Registration of candidates shall be completed thirty-five days prior to election.

Within five days after the registration of candidates the relevant election commission shall publish a notice of registration indicating the name, surname, patronymic, year of birth, party affiliation, position (occupation), place of work and residence, as well as the political party that nominated the candidate.

### **Article 41. Guarantees of candidates' activity**

All registered candidates shall have equal rights.

Candidates for the period of meetings with voters, speeches at pre-election meetings, on television and radio shall have the right to be relieved from work or official duties with the preservation of the average salary.

Candidates after registration have the right to free travel on all types of public passenger transport (except for city passenger transport, taxis and registered flights of other modes of transport) within the constituency, and candidates for Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan — within the Republic of Uzbekistan. A candidate residing outside the constituency has the right to free travel to get to the constituency and return to his/her place of residence.

Business trips and other expenses of the candidates shall be paid at the expense of funds allocated for elections.

Candidates for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan may not be prosecuted, arrested or subjected to administrative penalties imposed on them without the consent of the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In case of such consent is given, the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall notify the Central Election Commission immediately.

It is not allowed to coerce, as well as inspect personal belongings, luggage, transport, residential and office space of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

### **Article 42. Disqualifying the candidate status. Withdrawal by the candidate of his/her candidacy**

A political party shall have the right to cancel its decision to nominate a person who may be disqualified of the candidate status by the relevant election commission not later than fifteen days

before the election. Before the expiration of the term of nomination of candidates political party can make to the respective election commission proposal on the registration of a new candidates.

The termination of a political party deprives the candidate of the right to participate in elections from that party.

The candidate may withdraw its candidacy at any time before the election. To do this, he/she shall apply to the relevant election commission.

In case of death, deprivation of voting rights or recall of a candidate before the elections, the line with the candidate's surname, name and patronymic is crossed out in the printed ballots. The votes cast for such a candidate during the early voting process are considered invalid by the precinct election commission during the counting of votes.

#### **Article 43. Candidates' proxies**

A candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have the right to have up to fifteen, a candidate for Deputy of the Legislative Chamber — up to ten, a candidate for Deputy of the regional Kengash — up to five, a candidate for Deputy of the sub-regional and city Kengash — up to three proxies who shall assist him/her in the conduct of election campaign, agitation of the election, represent his/her interests in relations with the state bodies, public associations and election commissions.

Proxies of the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan upon his/her proposal shall be registered by the Central Election Commission. The Central Election Commission shall issue them respective certificates.

After registration, a candidate for deputy shall, at his/her own discretion, appoint his/her proxies and inform the respective election commission about them. Election commission shall register the proxies and issue them certificates.

Candidate can disqualify his/her proxies' powers at any time and replace with another, notifying about this the relevant election commission. The proxies may withdraw at any time his/her office.

Proxies may not be a member of election commission.

Travel expenses within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan of proxies of candidates shall be paid at the expense of funds allocated for the election.

### **Chapter 9. Pre-election agitation**

#### **Article 44. Conducting pre-election agitation**

Pre-election agitation is an activity carried out during the election campaign and aimed at encouraging voters to vote for a candidate or a political party.

Pre-election agitation (hereinafter - agitation) begins on the next day after the deadline for registration of candidates. Agitation shall not be permitted on election day and the day before voting.

It is forbidden to conduct agitation accompanied by the distribution of goods, services (except for information) to voters free of charge or on preferential terms, as well as by the payment of funds.

It is forbidden to disseminate misleading information, as well as the information defaming the honor and dignity of candidates.

It is forbidden to conduct pre-election campaigning:

heads of government and administrative bodies, local government bodies;

servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employees of the State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, other paramilitary formations, law enforcement agencies, judges;

members of election commissions;

officials of religious organizations.

Officials of government and administration bodies, local executive bodies during the pre-election campaign are prohibited from using their authority and official position in favor of or against any political party or candidate.

#### **Article 45. Types, forms and methods of agitation**

Agitation shall be carried out as follows:

dissemination of information about the program and (or) pre-election platform of the political party by encouraging to vote for its candidates for deputies;

dissemination of information about the program and (or) election platform of the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan by encouraging to vote for the candidate;

dissemination of information about the candidate to encourage to vote for him/her.

Agitation can be conducted in the form of: open public debates, discussions, press conferences, meetings of citizens, interviews, speeches, placement of videos in the media.

Agitation shall be carried out through:

mass media, telecommunication networks, as well as through the Internet;

publishing and distributing printed, visual, audio-visual and other promotional materials (posters, leaflets and other materials);

meetings with voters.

Other types, forms and methods of agitation that are not prohibited by the present Code may be used during the period of agitation.

#### **Article 46. Conducting agitation through mass media**

During the campaign, equal conditions of access to the state media shall be ensured by providing the same amount of broadcasting and print space free of charge.

State media can also allocate broadcasting time and publishing space for a fee.

Non-governmental media may allocate broadcasting time and publishing space in accordance with legislation.

The terms and conditions of the mass media for broadcasting time and publishing space and other requirements shall be equal and same for all.

The procedure, volume and time of free use of mass media for campaigning purposes are determined by the relevant election commission, taking into account the opinion of political parties.

#### **Article 47. Conducting agitation by publishing and distributing printed, visual, audio-visual and other promotional materials**

Equal conditions for candidates and political parties to publish and distribute printed, visual, audio-visual materials, phonograms, electronic forms of printed products and other agitation materials shall be provided. The agitation materials should be prepared in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Printed, visual, audio-visual and other agitation materials must include the following:

name, the location (postal address) and other information of the legal entity that prepared the materials (surname, name and last name of physical person);

name of the legal entity (surname, name and last name of the physical person) that ordered the agitation materials;

information about the circulation, date of release of the agitation materials.

#### **Article 48. Conducting agitation through meetings with voters**

Candidates and political parties are provided with a level playing field for campaigning through meetings with voters.

Meetings with voters are held by candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, candidates for deputies, political parties independently. The district or precinct commission is notified of the place and time of meetings with voters.

Mass events, such as meetings with voters, shall be held with written notification to the relevant district (city) khokimiyats of the place and time of their holding at least three days in advance. At the same time, permission to hold mass events is not required.

State and economic management bodies, local government bodies, public associations, as well as citizens' self-government bodies are obliged to provide free equipped rooms for holding meetings, to assist in obtaining the necessary reference and information materials.

Candidate or his proxy may, together with another candidate or his proxy, hold meetings with voters or take part in meetings with voters organized by another candidate.

## **Chapter 10. Organization and conduct of voting**

### **Article 49. The voting premises and premises of precinct election commissions**

The voting premises shall be specially designated places where a sufficient number of booths or rooms for secret ballot shall be equipped, the places for the issuance of ballots shall be determined and the ballot boxes shall be installed. Ballot boxes shall be installed in such a way when voters, approaching them, must pass through the booths or rooms for secret ballot. No other political action is permitted in the voting room. The precinct election commission is responsible for equipping the premises and maintaining the necessary order in them.

State bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations are obliged to provide the necessary premises and equipment for the preparation and conduct of elections to the election commissions free of charge.

Voting premises, properly equipped, shall be provided to election commissions at least eleven days before election.

Arrangement of adjacent territories, creation of necessary conditions for citizens, especially persons with physical disabilities, provision of election commissions with technical means, furniture, inventory, office equipment, transport is assigned to the local authorities, and provision of communication means to the Ministry for development of information technologies and communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Protection of public order, premises and places of elections, as well as support of members of precinct election commissions during transportation of documents with the results of elections shall be assigned to the relevant authorized bodies.

### **Article 50. Requirements for equipping of buildings, premises of precinct election commissions and premises for voting**

Premises of precinct election commissions shall be equipped accordingly and have:

- National flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan (above the building and indoors);
- National emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan (inside the building);
- sign board indicating the sequence number of polling station;
- booths or rooms for secret ballot;
- ballot boxes;
- specially equipped secret ballot booths for persons with disabilities, if necessary;
- separate places for observers;
- banners on the election date;
- map of the polling station;
- information on the composition, work plan, duty schedule of members of the precinct election commission;
- a special stand where information on the preparation and conduct of elections is placed:
- biographies and programs of all registered candidates published by the Central Election Commission, regional, sub-regional, city election commission;
- necessary furniture, office equipment (telephone, printer, computers connected to the Internet and having access to the Information management system of the election process, safe, office supplies);
- fire-fighting equipment.

Voting premises should be bright and spacious, have a separate entrance and exit, and provide ramps for persons with disabilities.

### **Article 51. Voting time and place**

Voting shall be held from 8 am to 8 pm on election day. Precinct election commission shall notify voters about the time and place of voting at least ten days before the election.

Voting at polling stations established at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries is held on election day from 8.00 to 20.00 local time at the location of these polling stations.

In polling stations formed at diplomatic and other representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, in military units, in sanatoriums, resorts, hospitals and other permanent medical institutions, in places of residence of citizens located in remote and inaccessible areas, in places of detention and imprisonment precinct election commission may at any time report the voting completed if all citizens included in the list have voted.

At polling stations located on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, counting of votes and opening of ballot boxes before 8 pm is not allowed.

#### **Article 52. Establishment of the identity of the voter**

Upon arrival at the polling station, the voter shall present his / her identity document to the member of the precinct election commission and sign the electoral register. Then he/she shall be given a ballot.

The names of voters, for any reason not included in the list of voters, on the basis of a document certifying the identity, citizenship and residence of the voter, shall be included in the Annex to the list of voters.

#### **Article 53. Pre-election actions of precinct election commission**

The voting premises shall be opened on the election day in the presence of at least two thirds of the members of the precinct election commission.

Precinct election commission shall:

prepare the premises for secret voting before the start of voting;

assign responsibilities to the members of the precinct election commission;

prepare ballots signed by two members of the commission, which are confirmed by the seal.

#### **Article 54. Actions of the precinct election commission on voting day**

On the day of voting, the National anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan is played in the polling station at 8 am.

Chairperson of the precinct election commission in the presence of members of the Commission, observers, representatives of the media shall:

announce the start of the voting;

check the emptiness of ballot boxes and plumbs them with disposable plastic seals, upon which an act indicating the numbers of plumbs is made;

inform about the number of voters in accordance with the list, the number of ballot papers received and voters voted in advance. These data shall be included in the final protocol;

coordinate and control the organization and conduct of voting, and, if necessary, provide assistance to members of the commission, replace them with other members when they are temporarily absent;

announce completion of voting;

allow voters to complete their voting in the building.

Members of the precinct election Commission shall:

on the basis of the document proving the identity of the voter, check its data in the list of voters and issue the ballot paper for voting under the signature;

create conditions for observers and media representatives to observe the election process.

#### **Article 55. Voting procedure**

After receiving the ballot paper, the voter fills it in the booth or room for secret ballot. The presence of persons other than the voter shall not be permitted when filling out the ballot. A voter who is not able to fill in the ballot paper on his / her own has the right to invite another person to the booth or the secret ballot room at his / her discretion, with the exception of persons who are members of the election commission, observers and representatives of the media.

The Voter puts one of the marks “+” or “ ✓ ” or “x” on empty square situated on the right side, opposite to the surname of the candidate for whom he/she is voting.

The voter shall put the completed ballot paper into the ballot box.

At the request of the voter, the spoiled ballot may be replaced by a new one. Spoiled ballots shall be recorded, cancelled (by cutting the upper left corner) and stored separately.

#### **Article 56. Voting at the place of residence of the voter**

In cases when individual voters for health or other reasons can not come to the polling station, the relevant precinct election commission at their request organizes a vote at the place of residence of these voters.

A commission of at least two members with a portable ballot box shall be sent to the place of residence of the voter, which shall ensure that the voting is conducted in compliance with the secrecy of his / her will. Observers and media representatives may be present.

#### **Article 56<sup>1</sup>. Voting at the place of residence of a voter in a foreign state**

Early voting in densely populated areas by voters in foreign countries can be conducted at the voter's place of residence in accordance with international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan and agreements with authorized state bodies of foreign states.

A precinct election commission, formed at the diplomatic and other representation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in a foreign state, makes a decision on the time and place of voting at the place of residence of voters and informs voters and observers about this through the media.

Voting at the place of residence of voters is carried out in the presence of at least two members of the precinct election commission formed at the diplomatic and other representation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in a foreign state.

After the end of voting, the members of the precinct election commission open a portable ballot box for voting, without counting votes, put the ballots in a special bag, seal the bag and draw up an act about it.

A sealed bag with ballots, together with the act, is delivered to the polling station and stored until the start of the vote counting process on election day.

#### **Article 57. Early voting**

A voter who is unable to stay at his / her place of residence on election day shall have the right of early voting.

Early voting begins ten days before the election and ends three days before the election. The time of early voting shall be determined by the Central Election Commission, regional, district, city election commission and communicated to the voters, observers through the media.

For early voting, the voter on the basis of an application indicating the reason for absence on the election day (vacation, business trip, travel abroad, etc.) shall receive a ballot paper from the relevant precinct election commission. In the presence of at least two members of the relevant precinct commission, the voter shall sign the receipt of the ballot paper in the voter list.

The ballot shall be filled in by the voter in a specially equipped booth or room for secret ballot.

The voter shall make a decision and leave the completed ballot in a closed envelope, which is stored in the safe of the relevant precinct election Commission. At the place of gluing the envelope the signatures of two members of the precinct Commission shall be put, which shall be confirmed by the seal of the Commission.

#### **Article 58. Actions of precinct election commission after the completion of voting**

After completion of voting, the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the precinct election commission shall announce the completion of voting in the presence of all members of the commission, observers and the mass media.

Chairperson of the precinct election commission or deputy chairperson together with the members of the commission shall:

compare numbers of seals with the corresponding act;  
prepare the place (table) for counting of ballots, after taking aside the writing accessories;  
count the unused and distorted ballots and cancel them, and the relevant record shall be made  
in the final Protocol;

put the sealed envelopes with ballots of early voting into the ballot box;  
open stationary and portable ballot boxes;  
distribute ballots for each candidate, in separate stacks, announcing and showing ballots;  
count the votes cast for each candidate;  
determine and count invalid ballots, which shall be recorded in the final Protocol;  
make a record of the voting results in the final Protocol.

Precinct election commission shall review the complaints (applications) received during the voting and counting of votes. After that the precinct election commission shall hold a meeting on the results of the counting and decide on the outcome of the voting.

The results of the counting of votes shall be considered at the meeting of the precinct election commission and recorded in the protocol signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and other members of election commission. After that, the protocol shall be announced by the chairperson or deputy chairperson of precinct election commission and a copy of the Protocol shall be immediately posted in the premises of the precinct election Commission for public inspection for a period of not less than forty-eight hours.

An authorized representative of a political party and observers participating in the vote counting process shall have the right to obtain a certified copy of the protocol of precinct election commission.

A copy of protocol of precinct election commission shall be immediately submitted to the respective district election commission when electing people's deputies to the district and city Kengashes, to the corresponding district, city (except for the Tashkent city election commission) election commissions using information and communication technologies, and the original protocol shall be delivered in person by the chairperson or his/her deputy accompanied with the internal affairs bodies.

## **Chapter 11. Repeat voting, repeat election**

### **Article 59. Basis and procedure to conduct repeat voting**

If more than two of the candidates participate in the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and none of them has received more than half of the votes cast by the voters, repeat voting shall be held, with two candidates who have the highest number of votes.

The Central Election Commission shall determine repeat voting day within one month from the date of the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, but not earlier than fifteen days from the date of the election. Announcement of repeat voting shall be published in the press.

If in the elections to the Legislative Chamber and local Kengashes more than two candidates are nominated, and none of them is elected, district election commission shall decide on repeat voting with two candidates who have the highest number of votes and inform about it the relevant election commission and district voters. Repeat voting shall be conducted within two weeks in compliance with the requirements of the present Code.

The candidate who receives more votes than the other candidate is considered elected in re-voting.

The percentage of voters' participation in re-voting is not taken into account.

### **Article 60. Basis and procedure of repeat election**

In case the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is declared not conducted or invalid, as well as if one candidate participated in the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and he failed to collect the required number of votes, the Central Election Commission shall hold repeat elections. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures to prepare and conduct elections shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

Repeat elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be held in the same manner and subject to the same conditions established by the present Code for the conduct of the main elections. At the same time, the Central Election Commission may make a decision on the necessity of holding repeat election by the new composed district and precinct election commissions, in case of detection of violations of the legislation on elections in their activities. Voting shall be conducted on the same polling station for the basic election and on the same lists of voters.

Repeat election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall conduct within forty days after the main election.

Repeat election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber and deputies of local Kengashes shall be held in the following cases:

if the elections in the electoral constituency has been declared not conducted or invalid;

if the re-voting did not allow to determine the elected candidate;

if not more than two candidates ran in the election constituency district and none of them have been elected.

Repeat elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber and deputies of local Kengashes shall be held by the district election commission on the instruction of the respective election commission. In case of detection of breaches of legislation on election in the activity of district and precinct election commissions, the relevant election commission shall make a decision on the necessity of holding repeat election by the new composed district and precinct election commissions. Voting shall be conducted on the same polling station for the basic election and on the same lists of voters.

Repeat elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber and deputies of local Kengashes shall be held no later than one month after the main elections. The formation of election commissions, registration of candidates and other events shall be carried out in accordance established by this Code. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures to prepare and conduct elections shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

## **Chapter 12. Features of the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

### **Article 61. Requirements for the candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be elected for a term of seven years. The same person may not be the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for more than two consecutive terms.

A citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan who is not younger than thirty-five years, fluent in state language and permanently resides in the territory of Uzbekistan for at least ten years before the elections can be elected as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The following persons shall not be registered as a candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

citizens, previously convicted for premeditated crimes;

professional servant of religious organizations and associations

### **Article 62. Right to nominate candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

A political party may nominate a candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, provided that it is registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan not later than four months before the announcement of the election campaign.

### **Article 63. Documents submitted by political parties for participation in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

To participate in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan no less than seventy days before the elections a political party must submit to the Central Election Commission:

an application on participation in the election signed by the party leader;

a reference on the registration of a political party from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

information about the future candidate for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Upon submission of the documents specified in the **first part** of this Article, the Central Election Commission shall issue to the authorized representative of a political party a certificate with the date and time of receipt of documents. The Central Election Commission shall, within five days, make a final decision on permitting the party to participate in elections and submit to the authorized representative of the political party a certificate of registration and provide blanks of signature sheets of established sample. The list of parties participating in the elections shall be announced by turn in the central press.

#### **Article 64. Procedure of nominating candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Nominating candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall begin sixty-five days prior to election and end forty-five days prior to election.

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

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

A political party may nominate a candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan only from among the members of its party or a non-party person. A Protocol shall be drawn up on the nomination of a candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The head of the political party shall apply to the Central Election Commission with a request to register a candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The application shall include:

the decision of the supreme body of the political party to nominate a candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

a protocol of the meeting of the supreme body of the political party on the nomination of a candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in which surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, profession, position (type of activity), place of work and residence of the candidate to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be indicated;

an application by the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on his/her consent for nominating his/her candidate;

signature sheets supporting the nominated candidate for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Signature sheets submitted by a political party must contain at least one per cent of the total number of voters in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In this case, a political party may collect not more than eight percent of the total number of signatures in one administrative-territorial unit (the Republic of Karakalpakstan, region, Tashkent city).

Central Election Commission shall issue a certificate with the date and time of receipt of documents to the person submitting the documents.

Central Election Commission shall check the submitted documents within five days and make a conclusion on their conformity with the requirements of the present Code.

The Central Election Commission shall inform the heads of the respective political parties of the revealed discrepancies and deviations from the requirements of the present Code in the documents submitted for registration. The political party shall have the right to correct the revealed discrepancies and errors in the documents within two days and submit them to the Central Election Commission.

Acceptance of documents for registration of candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Central Election Commission completes seven days before the end of the registration period.

#### **Article 65. Taking office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall take office upon inauguration at a joint session of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan not later than two months

from the date of the official announcement by the Central Election Commission of the election results of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The current President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall exercise his/her powers until the newly elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan takes office.

#### **Article 66. Early elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

In case it is impossible for the current President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to fulfill his duties, his duties and powers shall be temporarily assigned to the Chairman of the Senate, with elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan held within three months in full compliance with this Code.

When the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan calls early elections for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, elections shall be held within two months in full compliance with this Code. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures to prepare and conduct elections shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

### **Chapter 13. Features of the election of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber**

#### **Article 67. Election of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber**

The Legislative Chamber shall consist of one hundred and fifty deputies elected for a term of five years.

Deputies of the Legislative Chamber are elected by territorial single-member constituencies on a multiparty basis.

#### **Article 68. Right to nominate candidates for deputies**

A political party may nominate candidates for deputies provided that it is registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan no later than four months before the date of the announcement of the election campaign and has collected at least forty thousand signatures of voters supporting its participation in the elections.

Forms of signature sheets of the established sample shall be issued by the Central Election Commission after the announcement of the start of the election campaign.

In one administrative-territorial unit (the Republic of Karakalpakstan, a region, city of Tashkent) a political party may collect not more than eight percent of the signatures from forty thousand voters.

#### **Article 69. Documents submitted by political parties for participation in elections**

In order to nominate candidates for deputy, a political party must submit the following documents to the Central Election Commission not less than seventy days prior to elections:

- an application signed by the head of the party on participation in elections;
- a certificate confirming registration of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan at least four months before the announcement of the start of election campaign;
- signature sheets.

Upon submission of the documents specified in the **first part** of the present article, the Central Election Commission shall issue to the authorized representative of a political party a certificate with indication of the date and time of receipt of the document. On the basis of the submitted documents, the Central Election Commission shall, within five days, decide on the admission of a political party to participate in the elections. The list of parties participating in the elections shall be published in the central press in order of priority of receiving the applications.

#### **Article 70. Nomination of candidates for deputy by political parties**

Nomination of candidates for deputy shall begin sixty-five days before election day and end forty five days before election day.

The nomination of candidates for deputies is carried out by the supreme bodies of political parties.

Political parties have the power to nominate one hundred and fifty candidates — one candidate for each constituency. The same person may be represented as a candidate in only one constituency. The order of selection of candidates for deputies is determined by political parties.

The number of women should be at least thirty per cent of the total number of candidates nominated by a political party.

Political parties have the power to nominate members of their party or non-party persons as candidates. A Protocol shall be drawn up on the nomination of candidates for deputies.

#### **Article 71. Requirements to candidates for deputies of the Legislative Chamber**

Citizens who have reached the age of twenty-five on election day and permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least five years shall have the right to be elected to the Legislative Chamber.

The following persons shall not be registered as a candidate for the deputy of the Legislative Chamber:

citizens whose state of conviction for committing serious or particularly serious crimes was not completed or not cancelled;

citizens not residing permanently in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the last five years before the election day;

military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employees of the State Security Service, the National Guard, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other paramilitary units;

professional servicemen of religious organizations and associations.

#### **Article 72. Documents required for registration of candidates to deputies of the Legislative Chamber**

The head of a political party shall apply to the Central Election Commission with a request to register candidates for deputies of the Legislative Chamber. The following shall be attached to the application:

decision of the supreme body of the political party on nomination of the candidates;

a protocol of the supreme body of the political party on nomination of candidates for deputy, in which surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, profession, position (type of activity), place of work and residence, party membership as well as the name and sequence number of the constituency shall be indicated;

an application of the candidate for deputy on the consent to run him/her in the respective constituency;

an application for the resignation of a candidate for deputy, if he/she is elected as a deputy of the Legislative Chamber.

The Central Election Commission shall issue a certificate to the person who submitted the documents indicating the date and time of acceptance of the documents.

Central Election Commission shall complete the process of registration of candidates from political parties, seven days before the end of the registration period.

Central Election Commission shall examine the submitted documents within five days and make a conclusion on their conformity with the requirements of the present Code.

The Central Election Commission shall inform the heads of the respective political parties of the revealed discrepancies and deviations from the requirements of the present Code in the documents submitted for registration. The political party shall have the right to correct the revealed discrepancies and errors in the documents within two days and submit them to the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 73. Registration of deputies of the Legislative Chamber**

The Central Election Commission shall register the deputies of the Legislative Chamber on the basis of the received protocols of the district election commissions.

Persons elected as deputies acquire the status of a Deputy of the Legislative Chamber from the moment of their registration by the Central Election Commission.

The persons elected as the deputies of the Legislative Chamber are obliged to inform the Central Election Commission in writing about resignation of their duties incompatible with the status of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber.

Deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be granted certificates and breastplate by the Central Election Commission within ten days.

#### **Article 74. Election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber instead of retired**

In case of early termination of the powers of deputies, a new election shall be held in the respective constituencies.

Elections shall be appointed by the Central Election Commission no later than one month before they are held and shall be organized in compliance with the requirements of this Code. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures to prepare and conduct elections are established by the Central Election Commission.

In the event that the place of the deputy of the Legislative Chamber became vacant less than six months before the expiration of the term of office of the Legislative Chamber, elections of a new deputy instead of retired may not be held.

#### **Article 74<sup>1</sup>. Early elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber**

When the Legislative Chamber is dissolved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber are held within three months in full accordance with this Code.

When the Legislative Chamber makes a decision on self-dissolution, elections of deputies to the Legislative Chamber shall be held within two months in full accordance with this Code. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures to prepare and conduct elections shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

### **Chapter 14. Procedure of formation of the Senate**

#### **Article 75. Formation of the Senate**

The Senate is a regional representative chamber.

Members of the Senate shall be elected in equal numbers — six people from each - the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and the city of Tashkent. Elections to the Senate shall be conducted by secret ballot at the respective joint sessions of deputies of Jokarghy Kenes of Karakalpakstan and local Kengashes of these deputies.

Sixteen members of the Senate shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from among the most authoritative citizens with extensive practical experience and special merits in the field of science, art, literature, production and other spheres of state and social activity.

The term of office of the Senate is five years.

#### **Article 76. Period of election of the members of the Senate**

Elections of the members of the Senate shall be held no later than one month after the election of the deputies of the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and local Kengashes.

#### **Article 77. Requirements for candidates to the Senate**

A candidate for election to the Senate may be a deputy of the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, a local Kengash, who has reached the age of twenty-five by the election day and permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least five years.

**Article 78. Holding a joint meeting of the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, local Kengashes of the respective regions, Tashkent city, as well as sub-regions and cities on the election of the members of the Senate**

Convening of joint meetings of the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, local Kengashes of the respective region, Tashkent city, as well as sub-regions and cities (hereinafter referred to as the joint meeting) shall be held by the Central Election Commission.

The joint meeting shall be competent if at least two-thirds of the total number of deputies is present.

The Central Election Commission shall announce the holding of a joint meetings for the election of members of the Senate within three days after the publication of the results of the elections to the Jokarghy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, local Kengashes.

The resolution of the Central Election Commission indicating the date, time and place of joint meetings shall be published (announced) in the mass media as well as on its official website.

The joint meeting shall be opened by a member of the Central Election Commission, who makes a proposal on the presiding of the most authoritative, experienced, senior deputies. To conduct the work of the joint meeting by open vote shall be elected a working presidium of three to five persons, as well as a Secretariat of three persons to record the proposals received and to formalize the decisions taken.

### **Article 79. Nomination of candidates for membership of the Senate**

Nomination of candidates for membership of the Senate shall be held at the joint meeting.

The Advisory Council shall be elected by a simple majority of votes to nominate candidates for the Senate on the proposal of the Chairperson.

The Advisory Council shall be elected from among the most authoritative and older members who have extensive experience, as a rule, one representative from each local Kengash.

The Advisory Council shall elect its chairperson.

The Advisory Council shall nominate and consider candidates for membership in the Senate from among the most authoritative deputies with extensive practical experience and special merits in the field of science, art, literature, production and other spheres of state and social activity, and shall make a proposal for inclusion of them in the ballot.

Decision to include them in the ballot shall be made based on the results of a personal hearing and discussion of candidates at a joint meeting.

A candidate for the Senate, for whom the majority of deputies participating in the joint meeting voted, shall be considered to be included in the ballot.

The ballot shall include at least six candidates for Senate membership.

### **Article 80. Organization of voting on the election of the members of the Senate**

A Counting Commission consisting of up to nine members, including the chairperson and secretary of the Commission, shall be elected from among the deputies participating in the joint meeting to conduct the secret ballot and determine its results.

The Counting Commission shall:

organize and conduct voting on the election of members of the Senate;

announce the time, place and procedure of the secret ballot to the participants of the joint meeting;

prepare ballot papers by including in them in alphabetical order the surname, name and patronymic of each candidate for the Senate with the date of birth;

specify a list of voters, issue a ballot sheets;

affix a seal on its front side and ensure the presence on the ballot of signatures of at least two members of the Counting Commission;

count the votes and draws up a Protocol on the results of the secret ballot;

submit for approval of the joint meeting the results of the secret ballot.

### **Article 81. Voting procedure for the election of members of the Senate**

Before the start of the secret ballot, the chairperson of the Counting Commission shall announce the procedure for its conduct, in the presence of the members of the Commission shall check and seal the ballot box with disposable seals.

The ballot box shall be installed in such a way that the voters, when approaching it, must pass through the booth or the room for secret ballot.

The deputy participating in the joint meeting shall present to the member of the Counting Commission a document proving his/her identity and sign the list of voters, after which he/she shall be issued a ballot.

The ballot shall be filled in by the voter in the booth or in the secret ballot room by putting one of the marks “+” or “ ✓ ” or “x” on empty square situated on the right side, opposite to the surname of the candidate for Senate members for whom he/she is voting.

The voter shall put the completed ballot paper into the ballot box, which shall be placed in a visible place.

Distorted ballot paper may be replaced by a new one at the request of the voter.

After the end of the secret voting process unused, as well as distorted ballot papers shall be counted, cancelled (by cutting the upper left corner on the left) and stored separately.

### **Article 82. Counting of votes and determination of the results of elections of members of the Senate**

Counting of votes shall be conducted by the members of the Counting Commission without interruption until the results of the secret ballot are determined.

On the basis of ballot papers in ballot box the Counting Commission shall determine the:  
total number of the deputies present at voting;  
number of votes cast for each candidate for membership of the Senate;  
number of invalid ballot papers.

The votes shall not be counted by the names of citizens additionally inscribed on the ballot papers.

Ballot papers of an unidentified sample, ballot papers in which the marks “+” or “ ✓ ” or “x” are not put down in any square, as well as ballots on the front side of which there is no seal and signatures of members of the Counting Commission shall be deemed invalid.

A protocol shall be drawn up upon the secret ballot results, and the protocol shall be signed by all the members of the Counting Commission. It shall not be permitted to draw up with pencil and to make any corrections to it.

### **Article 83. Determining the results of voting on the election of the members of the Senate**

Candidates for members of the Senate who received more votes in relation to other candidates as a result of voting, provided that more than fifty percent of deputies of local Kengashes present at the joint meeting voted for them, shall be considered as elected.

### **Article 84. Repeat voting and repeat election of members of the Senate**

If in the voting, the established number of members of the Senate are not elected, for the unselected amount of members of the Senate the repeat voting shall be held at the same joint meeting among the candidates who have not collected the required amount of votes.

Repeat election of members of the Senate shall be held in the following cases:

if the elections have been recognized as invalid;

if the specified amount of members of the Senate have not been elected as a result of the repeat voting.

In the cases indicated in the [third paragraph](#) of the second part of the present article, repeat election shall be held for the unselected amount of members of the Senate.

Repeat elections of the members of the Senate shall be held within fifteen days after the basic elections to the Senate.

Nominating candidates for the unselected amount of members of the Senate and repeat election shall be held in accordance with the procedure established by the present Code.

### **Article 85. Results of elections of members of the Senate**

Based on the protocols of joint meetings, the Central Election Commission shall register members of the Senate not later than five days from the day of receipt of such protocols and shall issue a certificate and a breastplate within ten days after their registration.

The Central Election Commission may declare the election of members of the Senate invalid if, during the election, counting of votes, establishment of the results of the secret ballot, there have been violations of the requirements of the present Code that have affected the results of the election.

#### **Article 86. Complaints on the results of the election of members of the Senate**

The decisions of the joint meetings, as well as the Central Election Commission, can be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within five days from the date these decisions are adopted.

#### **Article 87. Election of the members of the Senate instead of retired**

Election of the members of the Senate instead of retired ones shall be held at the respective joint sessions, in accordance with the requirements of the present Code.

In the case of the retiring of a member of the Senate less than six months before the expiration of the term of office of the Senate, the election of a new member of the Senate instead of the retired one may not be held.

#### **Article 87<sup>1</sup>. Early elections of members of the Senate**

When the Senate is dissolved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, elections of members of the Senate shall be held within three months in full accordance with this Code.

When the Senate makes a decision on self-dissolution, elections of members of the Senate shall be held within one month in full accordance with this Code.

### **Chapter 15. Features of elections to local Kengash**

#### **Article 88. Elections to local Kengashes**

Local Kengash elections shall be held in territorial single-member constituencies on a multiparty basis for a period of five years.

Elections to local Kengashes in newly formed administrative-territorial units are held for a period not exceeding the term of completion of powers of other local Kengashes operating in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

#### **Article 89. Documents submitted by political parties for participation in elections**

In order to nominate candidates for deputy, a political party must submit the following documents to the respective region, sub-region and city election commission no less than seventy days before elections:

an application signed by the head of the respective region, sub-region, city body of the political party on participation in elections;

a document confirming registration of a political party not less than four months before the announcement of the start of election campaign.

After submission of the documents specified in the **first part** of this article, the respective region, sub-region and city election commission shall issue to the authorized representative of a political party the certificate with indication of the date and time of receipt of documents. On the basis of the submitted documents, the election commission shall make a final decision on the party's admission to participate in the elections within five days. The list of parties participating in the elections shall be published in the press in order of submitting the applications.

#### **Article 90. Requirements to candidates for deputies of local Kengashes**

Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who have reached the age of twenty-one on election day and permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least five years may be elected as members of local Kengashes.

The following persons shall not be registered as a candidate for the deputy of local Kengashes:

citizens whose state of conviction for committing grave or particularly grave crimes was not completed or not canceled;

citizens not residing permanently in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the last five years before election day;

military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employees of the State Security Service, the National Guard, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other paramilitary units;

professional servicemen of religious organizations and associations.

Judges, officials of the Prosecutor's office and executive authorities (except khokims of regions, sub-regions and cities) shall be registered as candidates for deputies of local Kengashes, provided that they submit an application for dismissal from office in case of election as deputies.

#### **Article 91. Procedure of nominating candidates for local Kengashes**

Nomination of candidates for deputies of local Kengashes shall begin sixty-five days before election day and ends forty five days before election day.

Nomination of candidates to the local Kengashes shall be carried out by the relevant bodies of political parties.

Political parties are authorized to nominate one candidate from each election constituency located in the relevant territory for the deputy of local Kengashes.

The same person may be represented as a candidate in only one constituency for elections to the relevant local Kengash. The order of selection of candidates for deputies is determined by the political parties.

The number of women shall not be less than thirty per cent of the total number of candidates for deputies of local Kengashes from political parties.

Political parties nominate only members of their own party or non-party persons as candidates. A Protocol shall be drawn up on the nomination of candidates for deputies.

#### **Article 92. Documents required for registration of candidates for deputies of local Kengashes**

The head of the relevant body of political party addresses to the respective region, sub-region and city election commission with a request to register candidates for deputies of local Kengashes. The following shall be attached to the application:

the decision of the relevant political party to nominate candidates for deputy;

a protocol of the meeting of the relevant body of political party on nomination of candidates for deputy of local Kengashes, in which surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, profession, position (type of activity), place of work and residence, party membership as well as the name and number of the election constituency shall be indicated;

an application by a candidate for deputy of local Kengashes to consent to his/her candidate from the respective election constituency;

an application for dismissal from office of the persons indicated in [part three](#) of article 90 of the present Code, in case of their election as deputies of local Kengashes.

The relevant regional, sub-regional and city election commission shall issue a certificate to the person submitting the documents with indication of the date and time of receipt of the documents.

The regional, sub-regional, city election commission completes the acceptance of documents from political parties for the registration of candidates for deputies seven days before the end of the registration period.

The regional, sub-regional, city election commission shall examine and give an opinion on the compliance of the submitted documents with the requirements of the present Code within five days.

The region, sub-region and city election commission shall notify heads of the respective political parties of the revealed discrepancies and deviations from the requirements of the present Code in the documents submitted for registration. The political party shall have the right to correct

the revealed discrepancies and errors in the documents within two days and submit them to the respective election commission.

### **Article 93. Election of the deputies of Local Kengashes instead of retired**

In case of early termination of the powers of the deputy, a new election shall be held in the respective election constituency.

Elections shall be appointed by the relevant local Kengash no later than a month before they are held and shall be organized in compliance with the requirements of this Code. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures to prepare and conduct elections shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

In case of retiring of the deputy less than six months before the expiration of the term of office of the corresponding local Kengash, elections of the new deputy instead of the retired may not be held.

### **Article 93<sup>1</sup>. Elections of deputies of local Kengashes in newly formed administrative-territorial units**

Elections of deputies of local Kengashes in newly formed administrative-territorial units shall be held within two months after the adoption of decisions on the formation of administrative-territorial units in accordance with the established procedure.

Elections of deputies of the regional Kengash of people's deputies in a newly formed administrative-territorial unit shall be appointed by the Central Election Commission, and elections of deputies of district, city Kengash of people's deputies shall be appointed by the corresponding regional Kengash of people's deputies at least two months before they are held and shall be organized in compliance with the requirements of this Code. At the same time, the deadlines for the implementation of measures for the preparation and conduct of elections are set by the Central Election Commission.

Elections of deputies of local Kengashes in a newly formed administrative-territorial unit may not be held if less than three months remain before the start of the next election campaign or the number of deputies who retained their powers and joined the local Kengash of the newly formed administrative-territorial unit is fifteen people in the district, city Kengash of people's deputies and thirty people in the regional Kengash of People's Deputies.

## **Chapter 16. Determination and publication (promulgation) of election results**

### **Article 94. Counting of votes at polling station**

The precinct election commission shall determine the total number of persons included in voter list, the number of voters who received ballot papers and the number of ballot papers in ballot boxes.

The precinct election commission shall count the votes separately on each constituency and each candidate at polling station.

Based on the counted ballot papers, the precinct election commission shall determine the:  
number of votes cast for each candidate;  
number of invalid ballot papers;  
number of distorted ballot papers.

The votes shall not be counted by the names of citizens additionally inscribed on the ballot papers.

Ballot papers of an unidentified sample, ballot papers on which the mark of “+” or “ ✓ ” or “x” had been put in more than one square or marked in none of the squares, shall be recognized as invalid. In case of doubt about the authenticity of the ballot paper, the issue shall be resolved by the precinct election commission by voting.

Ballot paper in which the voter has made a mistake when filling and replaced by a new ballot paper, and a relevant mark was put in the voter list and on the back of cancelled ballot paper shall be considered as distorted.

#### **Article 95. Determination of the election results over the constituency**

The election results over the constituency are determined only on the basis of the protocols submitted by precinct election commissions. District election commission shall determine the:

- total number of voters included in the voter list for the constituency;
- number of voters who received ballot papers;
- number of voters who participated in voting;
- number of votes cast for each candidate;
- number of invalid ballot papers.

In case of discrepancies in the counting of votes reflected in the Protocol of the precinct election commission, the district election commission shall have the right to propose to the precinct election commission at its meeting to eliminate them.

The results of elections in the districts are determined at a meeting of the district election commission and entered into the protocol. The protocol is signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and other members of the commission and submitted to the relevant election commission. A copy of this protocol shall be immediately posted in the premises of the district election commission for general familiarization for a period of not less than forty-eight hours.

Determination of the results of elections in the district to the district, city (except for the city of Tashkent) Kengashes of People's Deputies is carried out by the district, city election commission in the manner prescribed by this article.

#### **Article 96. Determination of election results**

The Central Election Commission, regional, Tashkent city election commission on the basis of the protocols of district election commissions received by them, and the district, city election commission, on the basis of the protocols received by them, of precinct election commissions:

- the total number of voters throughout the Republic of Uzbekistan or throughout region, sub-region and city;
- the number of voters who received ballot papers;
- the number of voters who participated in voting;
- the number of votes cast for each candidate;
- the number of invalid ballot papers.

A candidate who has gained more than half of the votes cast shall be recognized elected.

If two candidates participate at the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a candidate who has received the majority of votes cast compared to the other candidate shall be recognized elected.

If at the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan participates only one candidate due to various reasons (candidate's death, candidate's health condition which prevents from participation in the elections or his/her candidacy cancelled for other reason established by the law), he/she shall be recognized as elected in case if receives more than half of votes of the total number of voters who participated in the election.

Election shall be recognized not to have conducted if less than thirty-three percent of the total number of voters in the voter list take part in.

Elections may be invalidated on the whole or in some election constituencies or on separate polling stations due to violations committed during the election process that have affected the results of voting. The decision on the invalidation of the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Legislative Chamber shall be made by the Central Election Commission and can be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within five days after the announcement of election results.

The decision on the invalidation of election of local Kengashes shall be made by the respective election commission and within five days from the day of publication of the voting results the decision can be appealed to the court.

If the election is recognized as invalid on some polling stations (including the constituencies on the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan), the results of voting on these polling

stations (constituencies) shall be excluded from the overall election results, provided that elections in general may be declared valid without these results.

Following the voting, the relevant election Commission shall draw up a Protocol and adopt a resolution.

#### **Article 97. Publication (promulgation) of election results**

The resolution of the Central Election Commission on the results of elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be adopted not later than ten days after the election, and shall be published (promulgated) on the official website of the Central Election Commission and other sources.

The resolution on the results of the elections to local Kengashes shall be adopted by the relevant election commission not later than ten days after the election and shall be published in the press, as well as publicly promulgated in the mass media.

### **Chapter 17. Financing of election**

#### **Article 98. State financing of elections**

Expenses associated with the preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, local Kengashes, including deputies in place of those who retired, shall be financed from the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Expenses associated with the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of local Kengashes to replace those who retired shall be provided for in the expenditure part of annually adopted local budgets.

The financing of elections and other material support of candidates and political parties at the expense of foreign States, their natural and legal persons and international organizations is prohibited.

Political parties, other public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens may voluntarily grant their own funds for the conduct of elections. These funds shall be received by the Central Election Commission for using in the process of the election campaign.

#### **Article 99. Financing of election commissions**

The Central Election Commission, region, sub-region, city election commissions, and district and precinct election commissions shall be financed from the State budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the preparation and conduct of the elections.

Financing of the Central Election Commission shall be stipulated in the separate section of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Remuneration of persons involved in the work of election commissions shall be paid at the expense of funds allocated for the conduct of elections.

Members of election commissions are paid compensation in order to cover the costs of transport, food and other expenses in the amount indicated in the estimate of expenses for the preparation and conduct of elections.

Members of the electoral commission who do not have a permanent job, including pensioners, are paid wages in accordance with the unified tariff scale of remuneration.

#### **Article 100. Financing of participation of political parties in elections**

Financing of participation of political parties in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and local Kengashes shall be financed from the funds of the State budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan allocated for these purposes in the established procedure.

The amount of state funds allocated to finance the participation of political parties in elections per candidate shall be determined by the Central Election Commission. Information about this shall be published on the official website of the Central Election Commission, as well as, if necessary, in other sources.

State funds for financing the participation of a political party in the elections shall be transferred to the account of the political party after the registration of candidates nominated by the party in the amount corresponding to the number of registered candidates.

State funds allocated to finance the participation of political parties in election shall be spent on:

conducting agitation;

organizing the work of proxies of candidates and others involved in agitation;

all-party events related to conduct of election campaign.

Political parties shall publish information on the financing of their participation in the elections on their official websites and in the press within one month of the publication of the election results.

## **Chapter 18. Final provisions**

### **Article 101. Consideration procedure of individuals' and legal entities' appeals by election commissions**

Election commissions are obliged, within their competence, to consider appeals from individuals and legal entities received by them during the election campaign on violation of the requirements of this Code or on other issues of organizing elections, with the exception of complaints about the actions and decisions of election commissions, carry out checks on these applications and give written answers within three days, and immediately upon applications received less than six days before elections or on voting day.

Appeals must be registered in the register book.

The chairperson of the election commission shall convene and hold a meeting of the relevant commission within the time period established by the present Code to consider the application and take a decision on it. Interested persons may be invited to the meeting.

The appeal received by the precinct election Commission, which does not have the authority to resolve the issues raised, shall be sent to the relevant authorities within three days with notifying the person who has sent the appeal.

Members of election commissions, who have considered the appeal, must inform the person who submitted the application on the results of consideration and the decision taken.

### **Article 102. Consideration of complaints against decisions of election commissions**

Decisions of election commissions can be appealed by the bodies of political parties that nominated candidates, by candidates themselves, by agents, by observers and by voters in court within five days after the decision is made. Decisions of the Central Election Commission may be appealed to the Supreme court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within five days after the decision has been made. The complaint must be considered within three days of its receipt and, immediately, if less than six days remain before election day. The complainants shall have the right to directly participate in the consideration of the complaint.

### **Article 102<sup>1</sup>. Right of members of the Central Election Commission to use transport**

A member of the Central Election Commission has the right to use the service halls of officials and delegations of airports and air terminals, railway stations and stations free of charge.

Upon presentation of a certificate to a member of the Central Election Commission, ticket offices of railway stations and stations, civil aviation agencies or airports are required to provide a seat in the train carriage, in the aircraft cabin out of turn. When a member of the Central Election Commission travels to a meeting of the Central Election Commission, plane tickets are provided no later than two hours before departure, and in other cases — no later than a day.

### **Article 103. Responsibility for violation of the legislation on election**

Persons guilty of violating the legislation on election shall be held liable in accordance with the established procedure.

On the election day and the day before the start of voting, it shall be prohibited to publish (promulgate) the results of public opinion surveys, forecasts of election results, other researches related to the elections, including their placement in the information networks, as well as in the Internet.