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(VENICE COMMISSION)

FEDERAL LAW
ON BASIC GUARANTEES
OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS
AND THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN A REFERENDUM*

*Official translation

June 12, 2002

No. 67-FZ

RUSSIAN FEDERATION**FEDERAL LAW****ON BASIC GUARANTEES OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A REFERENDUM"**

Adopted
by the State Duma
on May 22, 2002

Approved by the Federation Council on May 29, 2002

(as amended by the Federal Laws
of September 27, 2002, No.119-FZ, of June 23, 2003, No.83-FZ,
of July 4, 2003, No.97-FZ, of July 4, 2003, No.102-FZ,
of June 7, 2004, No.46-FZ, of August 12, 2004, No.99-FZ,
of August 22, 2004, No.122-FZ, of December 11, 2004, No.159-FZ,
of June 29, 2005, No.69-FZ, of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ,
of July 12, 2006, No.106-FZ, of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ,
of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ,
of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ, of January 30, 2007, No.6-FZ,
of March 2, 2007, No.24-FZ, of April 20, 2007, No.62-FZ,
of April 26, 2007, No.64-FZ, of July 24, 2007, No.211-FZ,
of July 24, 2007, No.214-FZ, of July 22, 2008, No.149-FZ,
of July 23, 2008, No.160-FZ, of November 25, 2008, No.222-FZ,
of December 25, 2008, No.274-FZ, of December 25, 2008, No.281-FZ,
of December 30, 2008, No.322-FZ, of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ,
of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ,
of June 3, 2009, No.108-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.196-FZ,
of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ, of November 9, 2009, No.250-FZ,
of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ,
of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ, of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ,
of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ, of July 27, 2010, No.222-FZ,
of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ, of December 28, 2010, No.404-FZ,
of March 8, 2011, No.34-FZ, of March 20, 2011, No.38-FZ,
of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ,
of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ, of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ,
of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

Democratic free and periodical elections of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, as well as referenda shall be the supreme direct expression of power that belongs to the people. The state shall guarantee the free expression of citizens' will at elections and referenda, the protection of democratic principles and norms of the electoral rights and the right to participate in a referendum.

Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Scope of This Federal Law

1. This Federal Law defines basic guarantees for exercising by the citizens of the Russian Federation of their constitutional right to participate in elections and referenda held in the territory of the Russian Federation as provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (statutes), and laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and statutes of municipal formations.

2. This Federal Law shall be of direct action and shall apply in the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

3. The federal constitutional laws, other federal laws, laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation may set forth guarantees of electoral rights of citizens and the right to participate in a referendum added by the guarantees set forth in this Federal Law.

4. The issues related to announcing, preparing and conducting a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Constitutional Law "On the Referendum of the Russian Federation," and this Federal Law.

5. The basic guarantees of electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum set forth by this Federal Law as well as additional guarantees set forth by other federal laws may be amended only by introduction of amendments to corresponding laws.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Federal laws, constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other regulatory acts on elections and referenda adopted in the Russian Federation shall not conflict with this Federal Law. Should a federal law, a constitution (statute), a law of the subject of the Russian Federation, a regulatory act on elections and (or) referenda adopted in the Russian Federation conflict with this Federal Law, the provisions of this Federal Law shall apply.

Article 2. Basic Terms and Concepts

For the purposes of this Federal Law, the terms and concepts used herein shall be construed as follows:

1) campaign materials - printed, audio, video and other materials containing signs of election campaign, campaign on referendum questions dedicated for public dissemination during an election campaign or during a referendum campaign;

2) campaign period - period during which election campaign or campaign on referendum questions is allowed;

3) campaign on referendum questions - activities during a referendum campaign that are aimed at encouraging or are encouraging prospective voters of referendum to support the initiative of calling a referendum or withhold such support; to vote or refrain from voting at a referendum; to support or reject the questions proposed for the referendum;

4) election campaigning - activities during an election campaign that are aimed at encouraging or are encouraging voters to vote for or against a candidate, certain candidates, a list of candidates, lists of candidates or against him (them);

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5) residential address - address (name of the subject of the Russian Federation; name of the district, city, or other settlement; name of the street; number of the building; and number

of the apartment) at which a citizen is registered with the registration authorities at his temporary or permanent place of residence within the territory of the Russian Federation;

6) ballot - ballot at elections or a ballot used for voting at a referendum;

7) referendum question (questions) - question (questions), a draft law or other draft regulation in relation to which a referendum is to be conducted or conducted;

8) elective official – the President of the Russian Federation, and the head of the municipal formation elected directly by citizens of the Russian Federation residing in the territory of this municipal formation;

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 11, 2004, No.159-FZ)

9) election - form of direct expression of will by citizens that is effected in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (statutes) and laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipal formations for the purposes of forming a body of state power, a body of local self-government, or vesting an official with powers;

10) nomination of a candidate - self-nomination of a candidate, or an initiative of an election association nominating a candidate for election into an elective body, or a candidate for an elective state or municipal office;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11) guarantees of the electoral rights and the right to participate in a referendum - conditions, rules, and procedures established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, a law or other regulatory acts and intended to assure exercising of electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation, and their right to participate in a referendum;

12) GAS “Vybory” – State automated system of the Russian Federation “Vybory”;
(Paragraph 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12¹) State system of registration (account) of voters, referendum participants – set of measures ensuring guarantees and exercising of electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum aimed at collection, systematization and use of data on voters, referendum participants;

(Paragraph 12¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13) deputy - person elected by voters of the corresponding electoral district to a representative body of state power or to a body of local self-government on the basis of a universal, equal and direct electoral right by means of secret balloting;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14) voluntary donation of a citizen – voluntary contribution, by a Russian Federation citizen, of his own funds onto a special electoral account of a candidate, election association, special referendum account;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

15) voluntary donation of a legal entity – voluntary transfer by legal entity of monetary funds from its settlement account to a special electoral account of a candidate, election association, special referendum account;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

16) document equivalent to a citizen's passport - document certifying the identity of a citizen, issued by an authorized body of the government. In the territory of the Russian Federation such documents are:

a serviceman's card, a temporary card issued in place of a serviceman's card, an identity card (for persons who are on military service);

a temporary identity card of a Russian Federation citizen issued for the period of preparation of a passport in the procedure approved by the authorized federal executive body;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2008, No.160-FZ);

a document certifying the identity of a Russian Federation citizen, on the basis of which a Russian Federation citizen enters the Russian Federation in accordance with the federal law which regulates the procedure for exiting from and entering the Russian Federation (for persons who permanently reside outside the Russian Federation);

paragraph ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 30, 2008, No.322-FZ;

a certificate of an established form, issued to citizens of the Russian Federation who are held in detention facilities for the suspects and accused, in the procedure established by the authorized federal executive body.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2008, No.160-FZ)

For foreign citizens indicated in Clause 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law – a document certifying the right of a foreign citizen to permanent residence in the Russian Federation in accordance with the federal law which regulates the legal status of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation.

Outside the Russian Federation the documents which substitute the passport of a Russian Federation citizen are documents certifying the identity of a Russian Federation citizen, on the basis of which a Russian Federation citizen enters the Russian Federation, as well as other documents, on the basis of which citizens of the Russian Federation may stay in the territory of a foreign state in accordance with international treaties of the Russian Federation.

17) law - federal constitutional law, federal law, law of the subject of the Russian Federation;

18) voter - a Russian Federation citizen who is entitled to an active electoral right;

19) election campaign - activity aimed at the preparation and conduct of elections, which is carried out in the period from the day of official publication of the decision of an authorized person, state body, body of local self-government authorized to do so to call elections to the day when the election commission that organizes elections presents a report on the expenditure of funds allocated from the appropriate budget for preparation and conduct of elections;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

20) election campaign of a candidate, election association - activity aimed at the achievement of a definite result in election that is carried out from the day of the nomination of a candidate, list of candidates to the day when the candidate, election association, or their authorized persons submit the final financial report;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

21) election commission - collegiate body formed in the procedure and within the time limits established by the law to organize and carry out preparation and conduct of elections;

22) superior election commission - election commission organizing and carrying out preparation and conduct of elections with respect to other election commissions carrying out preparation and conduct of the same elections;

23) subordinate election commission - election commission organizing and carrying out preparation and conduct of elections with respect to other election commissions organizing and carrying out preparation and conduct of the same election;

24) election commission organizing elections- election commission charged by the law to direct activities of all election commissions on preparation and conduct of elections;

25) election association - political party which has the right to participate in elections under the federal law as well as a regional branch or some other structural division of a political party which has the right to participate in elections of the appropriate level under the federal law. At elections of bodies of representative bodies of municipal formations for single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts, heads of municipal formations by election association statutes of which provides for participation in elections and which is established in the form of public association or public movement and registered in accordance with the law at a level corresponding to the level of the election or at a higher level or relevant structural subdivisions of this public association. At this such public association or modifications or amendments to its statute providing for participation in elections must be registered not later than in one year before the voting day or, when elections to a body of local self-government are called because of early termination of its powers, not later than in six months before the voting day. These time requirements do not apply to other modifications and amendments to the statute of a public association;

(Paragraph 25 as amended by the Federal Law of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ)

26) active electoral right (right to elect) - right of a Russian Federation citizen to elect to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government;

27) passive electoral right (right to be elected) - right of a Russian Federation citizen to be elected to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government;

28) electoral rights of citizens - constitutional right of citizens of the Russian Federation to elect and be elected to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government and the right to participate in nomination of candidates, lists of candidates, in election campaigning, in observing of the conduct of elections, the work of election commissions, including establishment of voting results and election results, in other election activities, in the procedure stipulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, constitutions (statutes) of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

29) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ;

30) electoral district - territory formed (determined) in accordance with the law, from which citizens of the Russian Federation directly elect a deputy (deputies) , an elective official (elective officials);

31) single electoral district - electoral district which includes the entire territory in which the election is held;

32) multi-seat electoral district - electoral district in which several deputies are to be elected and in which voters vote for each of the deputies personally;

33) single-seat electoral district - electoral district in which one deputy is to be elected;

34) referendum campaign - activity aimed at preparation and conduct of a referendum, which is conducted in the period from the day when the referendum initiative group is registered to the day when the referendum commission that organizes the referendum, presents a report on the expenditure of funds allocated from the appropriate budget for preparation and conduct of the referendum or to the day when the conduct of the referendum is refused;

35) candidate - person nominated in the procedure stipulated by this Federal Law, other laws as a candidate for a seat distributed by means of direct elections, or membership in a body (chamber of a body) of state power or body of local self-government or a person registered by corresponding election commission as a candidate;

36) registered candidate - person registered as a candidate by corresponding election commission;

37) commission - election commission, referendum commission;

38) referendum commission - collegiate body, formed in the procedure and during the period stipulated by law, that organizes and prepares a referendum;

39) superior referendum commission - referendum commission charged by law, statutes of municipal formation to organize and carry out preparation and conduct of a referendum, with respect to other referendum commissions carrying out preparation and conduct of the same election;

40) subordinate referendum commission - referendum commission charged by the law, statutes of municipal formation to organize and carry out preparation and conduct of a referendum with respect to other referendum commissions organizing and carrying out preparation and conduct of the same referendum;

41) referendum commission organizing a referendum - referendum commission charged by the law, statutes of a municipal formation to direct activities of all referendum commissions on preparation and conduct of the referendum;

41¹) electronic voting complex – automated complex GAS “Vyborg”, designed for carrying out of electronic voting, automated counting of voters, referendum participants, establishment of voting results and preparation of protocol of precinct election commission of election results;

(Paragraph 41¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

42) observer – citizen of the Russian Federation authorized to monitor the conduct of voting, vote counting and other activities of the commission during the conduct of voting, establishment of voting results and election results, referendum, including the commission's activity on verification of correctness of establishment of voting results and results of elections, referendum;

43) foreign (international) observer - person representing a foreign or international organization that is entitled to monitor preparation and conduct of elections and referenda in the Russian Federation in the procedure stipulated by law;

44-45) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ;

46) mass media organizations – TV and (or) radio broadcasting companies and editorial offices of print periodicals;

47) bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation - legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation subjects elected directly by citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, higher officials of the subjects of the Russian Federation (heads of the high executive bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation), other bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation stipulated by constitutions (statutes) of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

(Paragraph 47 as amended by the Federal Law of December 11, 2004, No.159-FZ)

48) federal bodies of state power - the President of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, other federal bodies of state power provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and elected directly by citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws;

49) bodies of local self-government – bodies directly elected by population of municipal formation and (or) formed by representative body of municipal formation in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, statutes of municipal formations, vested with powers to solve issues of local significance;

(Paragraph 49 as amended by the Federal Law of August 22, 2004, No.122-FZ)

50) absentee certificate - absentee certificate for voting at elections, referendum;

51) right to participate in a referendum - constitutional right of citizens of the Russian Federation to vote for referendum questions and participate in other activity on preparation and conduct of a referendum;

52) mass media representative - person carrying an editorial ID card or some other document certifying his powers as a representative of a mass media organization;

52¹) register of voters, referendum participants – information resource of GAS “Vybory” containing aggregation of personal data on voters, referendum participants;

(Paragraph 52¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

53) referendum - form of direct will expression of citizens of the Russian Federation on major issues of the national and local significance for adoption of a decision thereon, effected by means of voting of citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum;

54) local referendum - referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (statutes), law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of the municipal formation among citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum, whose place of residence is within the boundaries of the municipal formation;

55) referendum of the Russian Federation - referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Constitutional Law "On the Russian Federation Referendum," this Federal Law among citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum, whose place of residence is within the territory of the Russian Federation and citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation;

56) referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation - referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (statutes), law of the subject of the Russian Federation among citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum, whose place of residence is within the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;

57) occupation - income earning activity of a candidate confirmed by documents as well as the status of a non-working candidate: a pensioner, unemployed person, student (with the

indication of the name of the educational institution), housewife, temporarily non-working person;

58) information on convictions of a candidate - information on convictions that were not withdrawn or spent, with indication of the number (numbers) and the name (names) of the Article (Articles) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on the basis of which a candidate was convicted and the Article (Articles) of the Criminal Code adopted in pursuance of the Fundamental Criminal Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, the Article (Articles) of the law of a foreign state if the candidate was convicted under these legislative acts for actions qualified as crimes by the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation currently in force;

59) list of candidates - single list of candidates nominated by an election association, in elections to legislative (representative) body of state power, representative or some other elective body of local self-government as well as the said list certified or registered by the election commission organizing the election;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

60) referendum participant – citizen of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum;

61) Federal Law - federal constitutional law, federal law.

62) electronic voting – voting without paper ballots with the use of automated complex GAS “Vybory”;

(Paragraph 62 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

63) electronic ballot – ballot prepared with the use of program-technical means in electronic format and used for electronic voting.

(Paragraph 63 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 3. Principles of Conducting Elections and Referenda in the Russian Federation

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall participate in elections on the basis of the universal, equal and direct electoral right by secret balloting.

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall participate in a referendum on the basis of the universal, equal and direct expression of will by secret balloting.

3. Participation of a citizen of the Russian Federation in elections and referenda shall be free and voluntary. No one shall compel a citizen of the Russian Federation to participate or not to participate in elections and referenda or shall prevent free expression of his will.

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation residing abroad shall have all electoral rights in elections of federal bodies of state power and the full right to participate in a referendum. Diplomatic and consular missions of the Russian Federation shall render assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation in exercising of their electoral rights in elections of federal bodies of state power and the right to participate in a referendum of the Russian Federation established by this Federal Law or other federal laws.

5. When preparing and conducting elections, a referendum, counting votes and establishing voting results and results of elections, referendum, election commissions, referendum commissions shall act openly and publicly.

6. Foreign citizens, except as otherwise provided in Clause 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law, stateless persons, foreign legal entities shall not be engaged in activities which promote or impede the nomination of candidates (lists of candidates), election of registered candidates, initiative to conduct a referendum and conduct of a referendum, achievement of certain results in during elections, referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Elections and referenda shall be organized and conducted by commissions. Interference with the operation of such commissions by legislative (representative), or executive bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, any organizations, officials, or any other citizens shall not be allowed.

Article 4. Universal Electoral Right and Right to Participate in Referendum

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained to the age of 18 years shall be entitled to elect, be elected as deputy of the representative body of municipal formation, vote at a referendum; and upon reaching the age established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (statutes) and laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, he shall be entitled to be elected as deputy of the legislative (representative) state power bodies, elective official of the bodies of local self-government. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained to the age of 18 years on the voting day, shall be entitled to participate in any other electoral activities and other activities related to the preparation and conduct of a referendum that are established by law and implemented by legal methods. (as amended by the Federal Law of November 9, 2009, No.250-FZ)

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation may elect, be elected, or participate in a referendum regardless of the sex, race, ethnicity, language, origin, property and official status, place of residence, religion, beliefs, affiliation to public associations and other factors.

3. Citizens declared incapable by a court or held in custody under a court sentence shall not be entitled to elect and be elected or to participate in a referendum.

3¹ Citizens of the Russian Federation with the foreign state citizenship as well as the residential permit or other document certifying the right of the citizen of the Russian Federation to permanently reside in the territory of the foreign state are not entitled to be elected. These citizens are entitled to be elected to bodies of local self-government if that is stipulated by the international treaty of the Russian Federation.

(Paragraph 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

3.2 The following citizens of the Russian Federation are not entitled to be elected:

a) sentenced to imprisonment for commitment of serious crime and (or) felony and having on the voting day a conviction that is not withdrawn or spent;

b) sentenced for commitment of extremist crimes stipulated by the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and having on the voting day a conviction that is not withdrawn or spent;

c) administratively punished for commitment of administrative offence stipulated by Articles 20.3 and 20.29 of the Code of Administrative Offence of the Russian Federation, if the voting is conducted before the period during which such person is being administratively punished;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 24, 2007, No.211-FZ)

d) in regards of which the court decision established the fact of violation of limitations stipulated by Clause 1, Article 56 of this Federal Law, or commitment of actions stipulated by paragraph "g", Clause 7 and paragraph "g", Clause 8, Article 76 of this Federal Law, if such violations or actions were committed before the voting day in elections within the terms of office of the state power or local self-government body set by the law during which the elections were called, or official for the election of which the elections were called.

(Paragraph 3.2 introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

4. A citizen residing within the boundaries of corresponding electoral district shall be entitled to the active electoral right. The absence of a citizen of the Russian Federation at his place of residence in the period of elections in the electoral district where such place of residence is located shall not constitute grounds for depriving the citizen of the right to participate in the elections of bodies of state power of corresponding subject of the Russian

Federation, bodies of local self-government. The law may grant the active electoral right to a citizen residing outside corresponding electoral district.

5. Any limitation of the passive electoral right due to the location of the place of residence of a citizen of the Russian Federation in a certain area of the Russian Federation, including qualifications related to the duration of the period of residence in such area, shall be established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation only.

6. Additional conditions for the exercise by a citizen of the Russian Federation of his passive electoral right, preventing one and the same person from occupying one and the same elective offices for more than a certain number of consecutive terms may be established by a federal law, the constitution (statutes), or a law of a subject of the Russian Federation.

7. In the event of effective court decision in relation to a citizen of the Russian Federation that cancels his right to hold state and (or) municipal offices for a certain period, such citizen shall not be registered as a candidate if voting in elections of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government is held before the expiration of such period.

8. Additional conditions of exercising the passive electoral right of the citizen of the Russian Federation related to a certain age may be established by the constitutions (statutes), law of the subject of the Russian Federation. The minimum age established for a candidate shall not exceed 21 years for elections of the legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and elective official of the body of local self-government. No maximum age limit shall be established.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of December 11, 2004, No.159-FZ, of November 9, 2009, No.250-FZ)

9. Deputies, elective officials working on a permanent basis are not entitled to perform any commercial activity or any other paid activity except educations, scientific and other creative activity. At this educational, scientific and other creative activity shall not be financed exclusively at the expense of foreign states, international and foreign organizations, foreign citizens and stateless persons, unless otherwise stipulated by the international treaty of the Russian Federation or the legislation of the Russian Federation. Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputies of legislative (representative) state power bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall not occupy other public positions of the Russian Federation, public positions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, public administrative positions and municipal positions, become deputies of other legislative (representative) bodies of state power or representative bodies of municipal formations, elective officials of bodies of local self-government. Elective officials of bodies of local self-government shall not become deputies of the State Duma and members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, occupy other public positions of the Russian Federation, public positions of the subjects of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – public positions), public administrative positions and municipal positions. Deputies of representative bodies of municipal formations shall not occupy municipal positions or become deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power. Other limitations related to status of deputy, elective official may be established by federal law.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of March 2, 2007, No.24-FZ, of December 25, 2008, No.281-FZ)

10. Under international treaties of the Russian Federation and in accordance with due legal procedure, foreign citizens who permanently reside in the territory of a relevant municipal formation shall have the right to elect and be elected to bodies of local self-government, be involved in other electoral activities in such elections, and participate in a local referendum on the same conditions as citizens of the Russian Federation.

Article 5. Equal Electoral Rights and Right to Participate in Referendum

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation shall participate in elections and referenda in the Russian Federation on an equal basis.

2. If during the elections to legislative (representative) body of state power or to a representative body of local self-government, electoral districts are established with different number of seats, each voter shall have a number of votes equal to the number of seats to be distributed in electoral district with the least number of seats, or one vote.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 6. Direct Electoral Right, the Right to Direct Expression of Will at Referendum

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Citizen of the Russian Federation shall directly vote in elections or referenda correspondingly for candidates (lists of candidates), and in cases stipulated by the law - for or against a candidate, for referendum questions.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

Article 7. Secret Balloting

Voting at elections and referenda shall be by secret balloting, which shall exclude any control over expression of a citizen's will.

Article 8. Term of Powers of Bodies of State Power and Local Self-Government

1. The terms for which federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, and their respective deputies are elected, and the terms of powers of such bodies and deputies shall be established, respectively, by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipalities. Such established term shall not exceed five years. The day of expiration of the terms of powers of state power bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, deputies of these bodies, is the second Sunday of March of the year when the terms of powers of these bodies or deputies expire, and in case stipulated by Clause 8, Article 81¹ of this Federal Law – the second Sunday of October of the year when the terms of power of these bodies or deputies expire (in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – the voting day in such elections). If the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October of the year when the terms of powers of these bodies or deputies expire coincides with a holiday or preceding day or day following a holiday, the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October is declared in the stipulated manner a working day, and the day of expiration of the period to which these bodies or deputies are elected is correspondingly the first Sunday of March, the first Sunday of October. Coincidence of the voting days in elections of the various levels in the result of which a voter will have a possibility to vote simultaneously with four voting ballots except ballots issued in connection to early, repeat or by-elections, is not allowed.

(Clause 1 as amended by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.196-FZ)

2. Any change (prolongation or reduction) of the term of powers of operating bodies or deputies referred to in Clause 1 of this Article is not allowed except the cases stipulated by Clauses 6, 9 and 10, Article 81¹ and Clauses 4 and 6, Article 82 of this Federal Law. A regulation that changes (prolongs or reduces) the term for which bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, deputies are elected, and/or the term of powers of a body of state power, a body of local self-government, or a deputy as established by a federal law, the

constitution (statute), a law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of municipal formation shall apply only to the bodies or deputies that are elected in elections called after this regulation comes into force.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 22, 2008, No.149-FZ, of March 8, 2011, No.34-FZ)

3. In the event the terms of powers of operating bodies or deputies referred to in Clause 1 of this Article expires within a period during which a state of emergency or martial law is in effect, such bodies or deputies shall exercise their powers until such state of emergency or martial law ceases to be effective and new bodies or deputies are elected.

Article 9. Obligatory Nature of Elections

Elections of the bodies or deputies specified in Clause 1, Article 8 of this Federal Law shall be obligatory, periodic and conducted at intervals providing for observance of the terms of powers of such bodies or deputies.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 10. Calling of Elections

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. Elections of bodies or deputies referred to in Clause 1, Article 8 of this Federal Law shall be called by an authorized body or official.

2. The voting day in elections to federal state power bodies is established in accordance with the federal law.

3. The voting days in elections to state power bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall be second Sunday of March or in cases stipulated by this Federal Law, the second Sunday of October of the year when the terms of powers of these bodies or deputies of these bodies expire save as otherwise stipulated by Clause 4-6 of this Article, Clauses 8 and 10, Article 81¹, Clause 6, Article 82 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of March 8, 2011, No.34-FZ)

4. In case of early termination of terms of powers of bodies or deputies referred to in Clause 3 of this Article that results in ineligibility of the body, early elections shall be conducted not later than in six months from the day of such early termination.

5. Elections to state power bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation newly established in accordance with the Federal Constitutional Law, federal law, constitution (statute) of the subject of the Russian Federation are called on the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October, and in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – on the voting day of such elections or on the other day in accordance with the Federal Constitutional Law, federal law, the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation.

⁵ Elections to bodies of local self-government of newly established municipal formation shall be conducted not later than in six months from the day of its establishment.
(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of November 25, 2008, No.222-FZ)

6. Voting in elections can be called only on Sunday. Calling of voting on a holiday and on the day preceding a holiday, as well as on Sunday that is declared a working day in the stipulated manner is not allowed. If the second Sunday of March when the elections are called coincides with a holiday, or the day preceding a holiday, or the day following a holiday, or the

second Sunday of March is declared a working day in the stipulated manner, elections are called on the first Sunday of March. If the second Sunday of October when the elections are called coincides with a holiday, or the day preceding a holiday, or the day following a holiday, or the second Sunday of October is declared a working day in the stipulated manner, elections are called on the first Sunday of October.

7. Decision on calling elections to federal body of the state power shall be taken not earlier than in 110 days and not later than in 90 days prior to the voting day. Decision on calling elections to state power body of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be taken not earlier than in 100 days and not later than in 90 days prior to the voting day. Decision on calling elections to body of local self-government shall be taken not earlier than in 90 days and not later than in 80 days prior to the voting day. Decision on calling elections shall be officially published in mass media not later than in five days after it is taken. During calling of early voting terms set by this Clause as well as terms of carrying out of other election activities can be reduced but not more than by one third.

8. If an authorized body or official fails to call elections in terms stipulated by Clause 7 of this Article, as well as if an authorized body or official is absent, elections are called: to federal bodies of states power – by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in the manner stipulated by the federal law; to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation – by election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation not later than in 80 days prior to the voting day; to bodies of local self-government – by corresponding election commission not later than in 70 days prior to the voting day. Decision of election commission to call elections shall be published not later than in seven days from the day of expiry of the term of official publication on elections calling established by Clause 7 of this Article.

9. If a corresponding election commission fails to call in terms established by Clause 8 of this Article elections of bodies or deputies referred to in Clause 1, Article 8 of this Federal Law, or such election commission is absent and cannot be established in the manner stipulated by this Federal Law, a corresponding court of general jurisdiction in accordance with applications of voters, election associations, bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, prosecutor may determine the term within the period of which an authorized boy or official, and in case they are absent – corresponding election commission shall call the elections. The court is also entitled to oblige the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or an election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation (correspondingly to elections level) to form in ten days from the day the court decision comes into force a temporary election commission with no more than 15 members with observance of requirements to composition of election commission stipulated by Articles 22-24 and 29 of this Federal Law, and in case of absence of an authorized body or official that may call elections also to establish term within which a temporary election commission shall call elections. Terms of powers and number of voting members of temporary election commissions are established by the election commission that formed it.

Article 11. Legislation of the Russian Federation on Elections and Referenda

1. The legislation of the Russian Federation on elections is comprised of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other regulatory acts on elections adopted in the Russian Federation.

2. The legislation of the Russian Federation on referenda is comprised of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other regulatory acts on referenda adopted in the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July, 21, 2005, №.93-FZ).

3. If during the election campaign, referendum campaign of the subject of the Russian Federation or a local referendum a law is adopted that contain provisions that stipulate the procedure of preparation and conduct of a relevant election or referendum, or in the event of introduction into such law during this period of amendments related to the procedure of preparation and conduct of corresponding election or referendum, such law and amendments, shall apply to elections that are called after they came into force, and to referendum conduct of which was proposed after this law and amendments came into force.

(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. If the terms of power of a body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or a body of local self-government expired, or its powers were terminated, and a relevant law of the subject of the Russian Federation on elections does not exist or a provision (provisions) of such law of the subject of the Russian Federation cannot be applied due to a court decision to declare it (them) ineffective or inapplicable, the election to such body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, or to the body of local self-government shall be conducted, with respect to provision (provisions) that was declared by the court ineffective or inapplicable, shall be conducted by a relevant election commission governed by this Federal Law, other federal laws that ensure exercising of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to elect and be elected to bodies of state power or to bodies of local self-government, and, if the existing legal basis is insufficient, in part not regulated by the law, also on the basis of decrees of the President of the Russian Federation.

5. If the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation or on local referendum does not exist, or a provision (provisions) of the law of the subject of the Russian Federation cannot be applied due to a court decision to declare it (them) ineffective or inapplicable, the referendum of the respective level shall, with respect to the provision (provisions) of the law of the subject of the Russian Federation that were declared ineffective or inapplicable by court, shall be conducted by a relevant referendum commission on the basis of this Federal Law, other federal laws ensuring exercising of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum; and if the existing legal basis is insufficient, in part not regulated by the law, also on the basis of decrees of the President of the Russian Federation.

Article 11¹. Procedure of Calculation of Terms Established by the Legislation of the Russian Federation on Election and Referenda

(introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. If a certain action can (shall) be performed from the day of occurrence of a certain event, then the first day when such action can (shall) be performed is the calendar date of occurrence of corresponding event, but not earlier than the occurrence of this event.

2. If a certain action can (shall) be performed not later than in certain number of days or in certain number of days prior to the occurrence of a certain event, then the last day or the day when such action can (shall) be performed is the day after which there is a certain number of days established by this Federal Laws prior to the occurrence of corresponding event.

3. If a certain action can (shall) be performed not earlier than in certain number of days or in certain number of days prior to the occurrence of a certain event, then the first day when such action can (shall) be performed is the day after which there is a certain number of days established by this Federal Laws prior to the occurrence of corresponding event.

4. If a certain action can (shall) be performed not later than in a certain number of days after the occurrence of a certain event, then such action can (shall) be performed during the number of days established by this Federal Law. The first day will be the day following the

calendar date of occurrence of this event, and the last day will be the day following the day when the established period ends.

Chapter II. GUARANTEES OF THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO CALL REFERENDUM

Article 12. Referendum Questions

1. Questions to be brought up to a referendum of the Russian Federation and questions which cannot be brought up to a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be specified by a federal constitutional law.

2. Questions may be brought up to a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation only if they are within the jurisdiction of the subject of the Russian Federation, or within joint jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and subjects of the Russian Federation, provided such questions are not regulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation or a federal law.

3. Only questions of local significance may be brought up to a local referendum.

4. The federal law, constitutions (statutes), laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, may define questions that are subject to be obligatory brought up to a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation. The federal law, constitutions (statutes), laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipal formations may define questions that are subject to be brought up to a local referendum.

(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Questions to be brought up to a referendum shall not restrict or abolish generally recognized human and civil rights and constitutional guarantees for exercising thereof.

6. The questions of a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall not conflict with the legislation of the Russian Federation. Questions of a local referendum shall not conflict with the legislation of the Russian Federation and the legislation of corresponding subject of the Russian Federation.

7. A referendum question shall be worded in such manner so as to preclude any possibility of its multiple interpretations, i.e. so that only an unambiguous answer can be given to it, and also so as to rule out any ambiguity of the legal consequences of the decision made at the referendum.

8. The following questions shall not be brought up to a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation or a local referendum:

a) early termination or prolongation of terms of powers of bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, on suspension of their authorities, as well as on conducting of early elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government or postponement of the said elections;

b) personal composition of bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government;

c) election of deputies and officials; approval or appointment or removal of officials; consent to appointment or removal of such officials;

d) adoption or amendment of corresponding budget; fulfillment or modification of financial commitments of the subject of the Russian Federation, municipal formation;

e) adoption of extraordinary and urgent measures to ensure health and security of the population.

9. No restrictions shall be established for questions to be brought up to a referendum other than those set forth in this Article.

Article 13. Circumstances Preventing Referendum Call and Conduct

1. A referendum shall not be conducted if a martial law or a state of emergency have been established in the territory of the Russian Federation or in the territory in which the referendum is to be conducted or within a part of this territory, or within three months after the martial law or the state of emergency have been removed.

2. The body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or the body of local self-government that under the constitution (statute) or law of the subject of the Russian Federation or the statute of the municipal formation have the authority to decide on calling a referendum shall be entitled to refuse calling a referendum only if the regulations governing preparation and conduct of corresponding referendum were violated in exercising the initiative to conduct such referendum.

3. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation may establish a period during which another referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, another local referendum with essentially the same wording of the question shall not be conducted. This period shall not exceed two years from the date on which the results of the referendum are officially published.

4. No circumstances other than those indicated in this Article under which a referendum shall not be conducted shall be established.

Article 14. Initiative to Conduct Referendum

1. In the Russian Federation, the initiative to conduct a referendum belongs to citizens of the Russian Federation who are entitled to participate in a referendum.

2. The initiative to conduct a referendum may be provided to other subjects by a federal law.

3. In order to initiate a referendum as it is stipulated by Clause 1 of this Article and collect signatures of citizens of the Russian Federation in support thereof, a referendum initiative group may be formed. Any citizen or a group of citizens of the Russian Federation who are entitled to participate in a referendum shall have the right to form such initiative group. The number of persons in such initiative group for conducting a referendum of the Russian Federation is established by federal constitutional law, the number of person in the initiative group for conducting a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum is established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation in accordance with Clause 1, Article 36 of this Federal Law. The initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum may also be exercised by an election association or another public association the statute of which provides for participation in elections and (or) referenda and which is registered in the procedure stipulated by the federal law at a level corresponding to the level of the referendum or a higher level no later than in one year before the date of forming the referendum initiative group. In that case the leading body of this election association, other public association, or the leading body of its regional branch or other structural subdivision (corresponding to the referendum level) regardless of its composition acts as the referendum initiative group.

(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. For a referendum to be called, a referendum initiative group established in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article shall submit signatures of referendum participants

supporting the referendum initiative to the body established by a federal constitutional law, a law of the subject of the Russian Federation, or by the statute of the municipal formation.

Article 15. Calling of Referendum

1. Calling and conducting of a referendum shall be mandatory if the procedure and the terms for bringing forward and implementation of the referendum initiative established by the federal constitutional law "On the Referendum of the Russian Federation", this Federal Law, the constitution (statute), a law of the subject of the Russian Federation, or the statute of a municipal formation are observed.

2. The decision of a body of state power, other state body, a body of local self-government to the point of an question to be brought up to a referendum shall not constitute a circumstance that prevents conduct of a referendum with regards to this question.

3. A referendum of the Russian Federation shall be called in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional law.

4. A referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be called by the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal law, the constitution (statute) or law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

5. A local referendum shall be called in accordance with this Federal Law, the constitution (statute) or law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation by the representative body of municipal formation; and by a court if such body does not exist or does not take a decision within the established term.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Voting at a referendum may only be set on Sunday. Voting shall not be set on the day preceding a holiday, on a holiday that is a day-off, on the day following a holiday that is a day-off holiday, or on Sunday that was declared a working day in the stipulated manner. A decision to conduct a referendum of the Russian Federation, a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be officially published in the mass media not less than in 60 days prior to the voting day, a decision to conduct a local referendum - not less than in 45 days prior to the voting day.

7. Under the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation, and not later than in 25 days prior to the referendum day, the voting day at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, or at a local referendum may be postponed until a later date (but by no more than 90 days) by an authorized body in order to conduct such referendum on the same day as the voting in elections to bodies of state power or bodies of local self-government, or as the voting day at another called referendum.

8. A decision to call a referendum or to postpone a referendum voting day in accordance with Clause 7 of this Article shall be published in mass media no later than in five days after it was taken.

**Chapter III. GUARANTEES OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT REGISTRATION (ACCOUNT) OF VOTERS, REFERENDUM PARTICIPANTS,
PREPARATION OF LISTS OF VOTERS, REFERENDUM PARTICIPANTS,
FORMATION OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS, ELECTION PRECINCTS
AND REFERENDUM PRECINCTS**

Article 16. Registration of Voters, Referendum Participants
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. All voters, referendum participants shall be registered (accounted).
2. Registration (account) of voters, referendum participants residing in the territory of corresponding municipal formation is carried out by the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city. The grounds for registration (account) of voters, referendum participants in the territory of municipal formation is the fact of voters, referendum participants residence (with regards to forced migrant – fact of temporary stay) in the corresponding territory. This fact is established on the basis of data provided by bodies in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation.
3. Registration (account) of voters, referendum participants – military men, members of their families and other voters, referendum participants residing in the territory of military unit is carried out by a unit commanding officer. The grounds for registration (account) of this category of voters, referendum participants is the fact of their residence within the boundaries of the military unit set on the basis of data provided by corresponding military unit.
4. Registration (account) of voters, referendum participants residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or in long-term foreign trips is carried out by the head of corresponding diplomatic or consular mission of the Russian Federation. The grounds for registration (account) of this category of voters, referendum participants is the fact of their permanent residence in the territory of the foreign state or being in long-term foreign trip in the territory of corresponding foreign states, established by diplomatic or consular missions of the Russian Federation.
5. Bodies in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at their place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation, issue and replacement of documents that identify a citizen of the Russian Federation in the territory of the Russian Federation, shall not less than once a month submit data on issue and replacement of passport of citizen of the Russian Federation, registration and removal from registration records at place of residence (with regards to forced migrants – place of stay) of citizens of the Russian Federation, issue of passport of citizen of the Russian Federation with violation of the established procedure with indication of the following personal data of a citizen: surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, place of birth, sex, citizenship, residential address (with regards to forced migrants – place of stay), type of document identifying a citizen, series and number of such document, name or code of the body that issued the document, date of issue of the document to the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – to the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city at place of its location.
6. Civil registration bodies not less than once a month submit data on deaths of citizens of the Russian Federation to the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian

Federation – federal city – to the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city at place of its location.

7. Not less than once in three months military registration bodies provide data on citizens of the Russian Federation called to military service (including under contract) and dismissed from military service, and criminal-executive bodies (institutions) report on citizens in detention facilities under court decision to the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – to the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city at place of its location.

8. Court, upon taking decision on admission of legal incapability of a person and decision on admission of capability of a person whose legal incapability the court previously admitted, reports on this decision to the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – to the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city at place of its location.

9. Data set by Clauses 5-8 of this Article not less that once a month shall be submitted by the head of location administration of municipal formation, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – to the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city to the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation for preparation and carrying out of registration of voters, referendum participants.

10. Registration of voters, referendum participants and establishment of the number of voters, referendum participants registered in the territory of municipal formation, the subject of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation and outside the territory of the Russian Federation is carried out as of January 1 and July 1 of each year with the use of GAS “Vybory”.

11. Registration (account) of voters, referendum participants, establishment of the number of registered voters, referendum participants, preparation and carrying out of registration of voters, referendum participants is conducted in the procedure established by the regulation on state system of registration (account) of voters, referendum participants approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

12. Voter, referendum participant has the right to unrestricted access to documented information (personal data) on himself, including information in machine-readable format, to clarify this information with the purpose of ensuring its completeness and correctness, and also has the right to know who and for what purposes uses this information, by who and to who it is provided.

Article 17. Preparation of Lists of Voters, Referendum Participants

1. In order to ensure the rights of voters, referendum participants, corresponding election commissions shall prepare lists of voters, referendum participants on the basis of the data obtained through the use of the state system of voter and referendum participant registration (account) and provided in compliance with the requirements of Clause 6 of this Article.

2. Citizens of the Russian Federation who as of the voting day possess the active electoral right, the right to participate in a referendum shall be included in the lists of voters, referendum participants in the election precincts, referendum precincts.

3. If, under an international treaty of the Russian Federation, foreign nationals are entitled to participate in elections to bodies of local self-government or in a local referendum, the lists of voters, referendum participants for elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendums shall, in accordance with the law, include foreign nationals that have attained to the age of 18 years as of the voting day, and are not subject to provisions of Clause 3, Article 4 of this Federal Law and permanently reside in the territory of the municipal formation in which the said election or referendum is conducted.

4. The grounds for including a citizen of the Russian Federation in the list of voters, referendum participants in a certain election precinct, referendum precinct shall be constituted by the fact that his permanent place of residence is located in the territory of this election precinct; and in cases specified by this Federal Law, other laws – the fact of temporary stay of a citizen in the territory of this precinct (if a citizen possesses the active electoral right, right to participate in a referendum), or if this citizen has an absentee certificate. The place of stay or place of residence of a citizen in a territory of a certain election precinct, referendum precinct is established by bodies in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at their place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, and in cases provided for by this Federal Law, other law – by other authorized bodies, organizations and officials.
(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Military men in active military service in military units, military organizations and institutions that are located in the territory of corresponding municipal formation shall not be included in the lists of voters, referendum participants unless their residential address before they were called for service was located in the territory of municipal formation and are not accounted during establishment of the number of voters, referendum participants during elections to bodies of local self-government, during local referendum.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Information on registered voters, referendum participants shall be prepared and updated by the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – by the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city. Information on voters, referendum participants – military men in military units, their family members and other voters, referendum participants, if they reside in the territory of a military unit or registered in the stipulated manner in the territory of their military unit, shall be prepared and updated by the military unit officer. Information on voters, referendum participants, residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying in long-term foreign trips shall be prepared and updated by the head of diplomatic or consular missions of the Russian Federation. This information shall be submitted by the authorized body or official to territorial commissions (election commissions of municipal formations), and in their absence – to district election commissions, and in cases stipulated by the law – to precinct commissions immediately after the voting day is established or after these commissions are formed.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. The list of voters, referendum participants shall be prepared by corresponding commission with the use of GAS “Vybory”, separately for each election precinct, referendum precinct on the basis of the information submitted in accordance with the established form by an authorized body or official.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

⁷ People submitting information on voters, referendum participants are responsible for correctness and completeness of this information and for their due submission.
(Clause 7¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. At elections to federal bodies of state power or a referendum of the Russian Federation, precinct commissions formed at election precincts or referendum precincts, established outside the territory of the Russian Federation, shall be entitled to prepare a list of voters, referendum participants before the voting day on the basis of written applications, and on the voting day - on the basis of oral applications of citizens of the Russian Federation permanently residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying on long-term foreign trips during their visit to election commission.

9. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is entitled to the active electoral right, a right to participate in a referendum staying on the voting day for elections to federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation outside the territory of the Russian Federation and was unable to obtain an absentee certificate or voter early, shall be included by corresponding precinct commission into the list of voters, referendum participants during his visit on the voting day to the premises of precinct commission for voting.

10. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall be included in the list of voters, referendum participants only for one election precinct, referendum precinct. If a territorial commission (district election commission, election commission of municipal formation) reveals the fact of inclusion of a citizen of the Russian Federation into lists of voters, referendum participants for different election precincts, referendum precincts for one and the same election, one and the same referendum, a corresponding commission shall correct such errors or deficiencies in these lists before the submission of lists of voters, referendum participants.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. Lists of voters, referendum participants shall be prepared in two counterparts. The data on voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants shall be arranged in alphabetical or other order (by settlements, streets, apartment buildings, apartments). The lists of voters, referendum participants shall contain the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth (if 18 years old – additionally day and month of birth), residential address of voter, referendum participant. The list of voters, referendum participants shall provide blank spaces for signature of a voter, referendum participant for each ballot received by the voter, referendum participant, series and number of his passport or a document equivalent to passport of a citizen, as well as for entering summary data on each type of election, referendum, and for the signature of the member of the precinct commission that issued the ballot (ballots) to the voter, referendum participant.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. The first counterpart of the list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the commission that prepared the list. At election precincts, referendum precincts that are established in the territory of a military unit, in a remote or a hard-to-reach area, the list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the precinct commission. The list of voters, referendum participants shall be certified by the seals of the territorial commission (the district election commission, election commission of municipal formation) and (or) the precinct commission, respectively. The procedure and terms of preparation and use of the second counterpart of the list of voters, referendum participants, and its submission to corresponding precinct commission, its certification and updating shall be established by the commission organizing the election or the referendum.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. Corresponding territorial commission (district election commission, election commission of municipal formation) shall provide the first counterpart of the list of voters, referendum participants of a certain election precinct, referendum precinct under the acceptance act not later than in 20 days prior to the voting day. A precinct commission shall be entitled to divide the first counterpart of the list of voters, referendum participants into separate

books. Each such book shall be sewn (stitched) together not later than on the day preceding the voting day, and certified by the seal of the corresponding precinct commission and the signature of its chairman.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14. The precinct commission shall update the list of voters, referendum participants in compliance with the procedure established for organization of interaction and cooperation of election commissions and referendum commissions with the bodies of local self-government, institutions and organizations in charge of the registration of voters, referendum participants. A verified and updated list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the precinct commission's chairman and secretary and certified by the seal of the precinct commission.

15. The list of voters, referendum participants shall be made available by the precinct commission for inspection by voters, referendum participants and its additional updating not later than in 20 days prior to the voting day.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

16. A citizen of the Russian Federation that possesses the active electoral right, the right to participate in a referendum shall be entitled to apply to a precinct commission with an application on his inclusion into the list of voters, referendum participants or on any mistake or inaccuracy in his data entered in the list of voters, referendum participants. The precinct commission shall consider such applications and submitted documents within 24 hours of the submission or within 2 hours if submitted on the voting day but not later than the end of the voting, and correct the mistake or inaccuracy or make a decision on application dismissal with indication of reasons of such dismissal and provide a certified copy of this decision to an applicant. Decision of precinct commission on dismissal of application on inclusion of a citizen of the Russian Federation into the list of voters, referendum participants may be appealed in superior commission or court (at location of precinct commission) that shall consider the complain (application) within three days, and in three and less days prior to the voting day and on the voting day – immediately. If the decision is taken to satisfy the complaint (application), precinct commission shall immediately make corrections in the list of voters, referendum participants. Exclusion of a citizen of the Russian Federation out of the list of voters, referendum participants after it is signed by chairmen and secretaries of corresponding commissions and certified with these commissions seals in the order provided for by Clause 12 of this Article shall be made only on the basis of official documents, including decision of superior commission on inclusion of a voter, referendum participant into the list of voters, referendum participants of another election precinct, referendum precinct, and also in case of issue of absentee certificate to a voter, referendum participant. The date of exclusion of a citizen of the Russian Federation out of the list shall be entered into the list of voters, referendum participants and to database of GAS "Vybory", as well as the reason for such exclusion. This entry in the list of voters, referendum participants shall be certified by signature of the chairman of the precinct commission and in case of issue of absentee certificate – by signature of the member of commission issued such absentee certificate with indication of the date of the signature. Each citizen of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to notify the precinct commission of a change of data on voters' referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants for corresponding precinct stated in Clause 5, Article 16 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 16 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

17. Voters, referendum participants at places of temporary stay, working at enterprises of nonstop operation and performing certain types of work where working time (shift) cannot be reduced, as well as voters, referendum participants out of military men outside the location of their military unit by the decision of precinct election can be included into the list of voters, referendum participants for election precinct, referendum precinct at the place of their temporary stay at their personal application submitted to precinct commission not later than in

three days prior to the voting day. This information shall be submitted to precinct commission where such voter, referendum participant is included into the list of voters, referendum participants by corresponding territorial commission (if place of residence of a voter, referendum participant is in the territory of the same subject of the Russian Federation), or by election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation (if place of residence of a voter, referendum participant is in the territory of another subject of the Russian Federation). Election commission enters a note in a box "Special Notes" in the list of voters, referendum participant "Included into list of voters (referendum participants) for election precinct (referendum precinct) No." indicating the number of election precinct, referendum precinct and, if necessary, name of the subject of the Russian Federation. The Law may stipulate that voters, referendum participant with no registration at place of residence within the Russian Federation by the decision of precinct commission may be included into the list of voters, referendum participants at election precinct, referendum precinct formed or determined by special decision of superior commission for conducting of voting of such voters, referendum participants at their personal written application submitted to precinct commission not later than on the voting day. (Clause 17 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

17¹ Lists of voters, referendum participant are prepared on the voting at election precincts, referendum precincts formed in accordance with Clause 5, Article 19 of this Federal Law at railway stations and airports. Voters, referendum participants that stay at such places on the voting are included into the lists of voters, referendum participants upon presentation of absentee certificate.

(Clause 17¹ introduced by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

18. Amendments to the lists of voters, referendum participants prior to the end of voting and commencement of counting of votes of voters, referendum participants are not allowed.

19. Upon official publication of results of elections, referendum, information on voters, referendum participants contained in the lists of voters, referendum participants may be used for clarification of data on voters, referendum participants in the registry of voters, referendum participants.

(Clause 19 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 18. Formation (Establishment) of Electoral Districts, Referendum Districts

1. In order to conduct elections, single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts shall be formed or a single electoral district shall be established; in order to conduct a referendum, a referendum district shall be established.

2. Single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts shall be formed on the basis of the data on the number of voters registered in the corresponding territory in accordance with Clause 4, Article 16 of this Federal Law. A corresponding election commission shall, not later than in 80 days prior to the expiration of the period within which the election must be called, establish the scheme of single-seat and (or) multi-seat districts specifying their boundaries, listing the administrative-territorial units, or municipal formations, or settlements included into each electoral district (if an electoral district includes a part of the territory of an administrative-territorial unit, or a municipal formation, or a settlement, the scheme shall indicate the boundaries of such part of the territory of the administrative-territorial unit, or a municipal formation, or a settlement), specifying the number of each electoral district, the location of each district election commission or an election commission authorized to exercise the powers of the a district election commission, and the number of voters in each electoral district. A corresponding legislative (representative) body of state power, representative body of municipal formation shall approve the scheme of electoral districts not later than in 20 days prior to the expiration of the period within which the election must be called, and this body shall be entitled to amend the proposed scheme before the electoral district scheme is approved.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. If there are no legislative (representative) bodies of state power, representative bodies of municipal formation in the territory where elections are to be conducted or a new scheme of single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts has not been approved by the time specified in Clause 2 of this Article, the election commission organizing the election shall take one of the following decisions:

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

a) if the scheme of electoral districts approved for the purposes of the election to of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government of the previous convocation (hereinafter - previous scheme of the districts) complies with the requirements set forth in this Federal Law - a decision on conducting the election by using the previous scheme of districts;

b) if the previous scheme of districts does not satisfy the requirements set forth in this Federal Law and or) has been duly declared invalid and inapplicable by a court in accordance with the procedure established by the federal law - a decision on conducting the election in electoral districts, the scheme of which is to be established in accordance with law by the election commission organizing the election and approved by this commission not later than in five days from the date on which the decision on calling the election is officially published. In such case, if the number of deputies elected with the use of the new scheme of districts remains unchanged, the election commission at establishment of such scheme shall be entitled, apart from updating the number of voters, to introduce amendments to the previous scheme of the districts, in accordance with which only districts that do not comply with requirements of Clause 4 of this Article are subject to amendments, and (or) to supplement the previous scheme of districts in the part that was declared invalid and not applicable. If such amendments and supplements resulted in changing of the boundaries of other districts in the previous scheme of the districts, the commission may change the boundaries of such districts in accordance with the requirements of Clause 4 of this Article.

3¹ At conducting of elections to legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation of the first convocation, representative body of municipal body of the first convocation the scheme of electoral districts determined by election commission organizing the election shall be approved by the body stated in the law or other regulatory act on the basis of which corresponding elections are conducted. If such body fails to approve in stipulated term of the scheme of electoral districts, this scheme shall be approved by election commission organizing the election not later than in five days from the day of official publication of the decision on calling corresponding election.

(Clause 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. Single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts shall be formed to meet the following requirements:

a) approximately equal numbers of voters in single-seat electoral districts, with a permissible variation of the average voters' representation quota not exceeding 10 percent, and for remote areas and hard-to-reach areas not exceeding 30 percent shall be observed. In forming multi-seat electoral districts, approximate equality of the numbers of voters per one deputy seat shall be observed. In a multi-seat electoral district, permissible variation of the average voters' representation quota multiplied by the number of deputy seats in this district shall not exceed ten percent of the average voters' representation quota, and 15 percent in hard-to-reach or remote areas. These requirements may not be observed at elections to federal bodies of state power, other federal state bodies if according to the federal laws at least one electoral district shall be established in the territory of each subject of the Russian Federation. Provisions contained in the first sentence of this Paragraph may not be applied at establishment in the territory of the given autonomous district of a single-seat electoral district for conducting of election of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation. If the application of provisions contained in the first sentence of this Paragraph results in formation of an electoral district that includes part of

territories of more than one municipal formation, or formation of an electoral district that includes territories of one or several municipal formations and part of territory of another municipal formation; separate single-seat electoral districts at conducting of election of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation may be formed with permissible variation of the average voters' representation quota not exceeding 20 percent. A list of remote and hard-to-reach localities areas shall be established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation that came into force prior to the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election; (Paragraph "a" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

b) when establishing electoral districts in the areas densely populated by indigenous small peoples as defined by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the permissible variation of the average voters' representation quota in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation may exceed the above limit, but shall not be more than 40 percent; (as amended by the Federal Law of July 4, 2003, No.102-FZ)

c) an electoral district shall constitute a single territory; creation of an electoral district consisting of non-adjacent territories shall not be allowed, with the exception of enclave territories.

5. The requirements to the formation of single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts set forth in Clause 4 of this Article shall be met with due consideration of the administrative-territorial structure (division) of the subject of the Russian Federation, territories of municipal formations.

6. If, in accordance with the constitution (statute), or the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, either of the Chambers of its two-Chamber legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation is formed out of representatives of administrative-territorial units or municipal formations, Paragraphs "a" and "b" of Clause 4 of this Article shall not be applied to the formation of such Chamber.

7. The scheme of single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts, including its graphical representation, shall be published (made public) by the appropriate representative body of state power, representative body of municipal formation, or the election commission organizing the election not later than in five days upon its approval. (as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. If a multi-seat electoral district is established, the number of seats to be distributed in the district shall not exceed five. This restriction shall not be applied to elections to bodies of local self-government of a settlement, and election to bodies of local self-government of other municipal formation in electoral district formed within the boundaries of election precinct. (as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 19. Formation of Election Precincts, Referendum Precincts

1. Election precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed to conduct voting and votes counting.

2. Election precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed by the head of a municipal formation in coordination with commissions by the head of local administration of municipal formation, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – by the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city, and at election to body of local self-government of an urban settlement, excluding urban district, or rural settlement (hereinafter urban settlement except urban district and rural settlement are referred to as settlement) – by the head of local administration of settlement or persons indicated in Clauses 3 and 6 of this Article, corresponding commission in the order stipulated by Clause 5 of this Article on the basis of the

data on the number of voters, referendum participants registered in the territory of the election precinct, referendum precinct in accordance with Clause 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law, with not more than 3 thousand voters, referendum participants per precinct. Election precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed not later than in 45 days prior to the voting day.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. For citizens of the Russian Federation staying outside the territory of the Russian Federation, election precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed by the heads of diplomatic or consular missions of the Russian Federation in the territory of the country where they stay. The provisions regarding the number of voters, referendum participants set forth in Clause 2 of this Article shall not be applied if election precincts, referendum precincts are formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

4. The boundaries of election precincts shall not cross the boundaries of electoral districts. The procedures for assigning election precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation to electoral districts formed for elections of federal bodies of state power shall be set by a federal law.

5. In places where voters, referendum participants temporarily stay (hospitals, sanatoriums, holiday hotels, detention centers for suspected or accused persons, and other places of temporary stay of voters), in remote areas and hard-to-reach areas, on ships at sea on the voting day and at polar stations, election precincts, referendum precincts may be formed within the periods established by Clause 2 of this Article, and in exceptional cases and upon approval of the superior commission, not later than in 3 days before the voting day. Such election precincts shall be included in electoral districts where the election precincts are located or where the ships are registered. At elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, to bodies of local self-government, at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation may prescribe a different procedure for assignment of precincts to electoral districts, referendum districts. In remote and hard-to-reach places, at ships that are at sea on the voting, at polar stations election precincts, referendum precincts may be formed by superior commission in coordination with the captain of the ship, the head of the polar station, heads of organizations located in hard-to-reach or remote areas.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

6. Military men shall vote at regular election precincts, referendum precincts. In military units, election precincts, referendum precincts may be formed by military unit officers in cases, and in the order and terms established by law.

7. Lists of election precincts, referendum precincts indicating their boundaries and numbers, location of precinct commissions, and polling stations shall be published by the head of local administration of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city, and in cases stipulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal city – by the head of territorial body of executive power of the federal city, and at election to body of local self-government of settlement – by the head of local administration of settlement not later than in 40 days prior to the voting day. The procedure for providing the said information to voters, referendum participants in the circumstances described in Clauses 3 and 5 of this Article shall be established by law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Chapter IV. ELECTION COMMISSIONS, REFERENDUM COMMISSIONS

Article 20. System and Status of Election Commissions, Referendum Commissions

1. The following election commissions, referendum commissions shall function in the Russian Federation:

the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;
election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation;
election commissions of municipal formations;
district election commissions;
territorial (district, city, and other) election commissions;
precinct commissions.

2. During corresponding referenda the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipal formations, territorial election commissions shall act in the capacity of referendum commissions. Other election commissions may act as referendum commissions on the basis of the decision of corresponding superior election commissions in charge of the formation of election commissions that shall be taken in the order stipulated by Clause 9 of this Article.

3. Commissions shall ensure exercising and protection of electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum, prepare for and conduct elections and referenda in the Russian Federation.

4. Commissions shall, within the scope of their competence, consider appeals on violation of the law they received during the election campaign, referendum campaign, verify such appeals and provide applicants with written responses in five days, but not later than on the day preceding the voting day, and with regards to appeals received on the voting day or on the day following the voting day – immediately. If the facts stated in such appeals require additional verification, decisions thereon shall be taken not later than within ten days. If an appeal indicates violation of the law by a candidate, election association, referendum initiative group, this candidate, election association, referendum initiative group or its (their) authorized representatives shall be promptly notified of received appeal and are entitled to provide explanations to the point of such appeal.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. In connection to appeals stated in Clause 4 of this Article commissions shall be entitled to submit requests to law enforcement authorities, bodies of executive power for carrying out the required investigations and preventing the law violations. These bodies shall in five days, if the request was received in five or less days prior to the voting day – not later than on the day preceding the voting day, and if it was received on the voting day or on the day following the voting day – immediately take measures to prevent such violations and promptly inform the requesting commission on the results. If facts stated in the request shall be additionally checked, the given measures shall be taken not later than in ten days.

5¹ In case of violation by candidate, election association, referendum initiative group of this Federal Law, corresponding commission is entitled to provide this candidate, election association, referendum initiative group with a caution that shall be communicated to voters, referendum participants through mass media or by other means.

(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Commissions shall inform voters, referendum participants on the time and the procedure of performance of electoral actions, actions connected to preparation and conduct of

a referendum, on the progress of the election campaign, the referendum campaign, and on candidates, election associations that nominated candidates, lists of candidates.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Competence, powers and procedures of activities of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be set by this Federal Law, other federal laws. Competence, powers and procedures of activities of other commissions during preparation and conduct of elections to federal bodies of state power and a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be set by this Federal Law, other federal laws.

8. Competence, powers and procedures for activities of election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipal formations, district election commissions, territorial and precinct commissions during preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government, and referenda in the subjects of the Russian Federation and local referenda shall be set forth by this Federal Law, the constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and the statutes of municipal formations.

9. Combination by commissions of powers related to preparation and conduct of elections, referenda of various levels shall be allowed only on the basis of the decision of the commission organizing the election, the referendum in a certain territory, which is taken on the basis of an application of a commission organizing the election, the referendum in part of this territory. Combination by commissions of powers related to preparation and conduct of elections, referenda of the same level shall be allowed on the basis of a decision of the commission organizing the elections, referenda.

10. Decisions of a superior commission taken within its competence shall be binding upon subordinate commissions.

11. Decisions of commission that conflicts with law or that was taken by a commission beyond established competence shall be cancelled by superior commission or court. The superior commission shall take decision to the point of the issue and send to subordinate commission the decision of which was cancelled corresponding materials for reconsideration. If subordinate commission does not reconsider the issue, the decision to the point of this issue shall be taken by subordinate commission.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. Within the limits of their competence, commissions shall be independent of bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government.

13. Decisions and other acts of commissions taken within their competence shall be binding upon federal executive bodies of state power, executive bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, state institutions, bodies of local self-government, candidates, election associations, public associations, organizations, officials, voters and referendum participants. Decisions and other acts of commissions shall not be subject to state registration.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14. Financial support of activities of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be provided out of funds allocated for this purpose by the federal law on the federal budget for the next financial year. Financial support of activities of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be provided out of funds allocated for this purpose by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation for the next financial year and the funds of the federal budget in the order and in amount established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

within the limits of funds allocated for these purposes by the federal law on the federal budget for the next financial year. Financial support of activities of the election commission of municipal formation, a territorial commission functioning on a permanent basis and constituting a legal entity shall be performed out of funds of the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation and (or) local budget within the limits of funds allocated for these purposes by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, and (or) the regulatory act of the body of local self-government on the local budget for the next financial year.

15. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipal formations, and territorial commissions shall submit reports on the expenditure out of the funds allocated from the corresponding budgets to support their activities, conduct of elections and referenda in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

16. State bodies, bodies of local self-government, state and municipal institutions and their officials shall render assistance to commissions in the exercise of their powers; in particular, by providing them, free of charge, with necessary premises, including premises for safe storage of election documents and referendum-related documents before such documents are handed over to archives or destroyed upon expiry of safe storage periods established by the law, make arrangements for safeguarding the provided premises, rooms, and the said documents, and provide, free of charge, transportation means, telecommunication means and technical equipment.

16¹ Data on the number of disabled voters, referendum participants in corresponding territory with indication of disability categories shall be submitted as of January 1 and July 1 each year by the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation:

a) for the subjects of the Russian Federation – to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;

b) for municipal formations – to election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 16¹ introduced by the Federal Law of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

17. Organizations in authorized (share) capital of which a contribution (share) of the Russian Federation, the subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) municipal formations exceeds 30 percent as of the day of official publication of decision to call election, official publication of decision to call referendum, their officials shall provide commissions assistance in exercising of their powers, in particular, provide transportation means, communication means, technical equipment, premises.

(Clause 17 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

18. The state and municipal television and (or) radio broadcasting organizations, and editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals shall provide commissions with free air time for informing of voters, referendum participants in the order established by this Federal Law, other laws, and print space for publication of commission decisions and other information. Expenses of TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial boards of print periodicals are subject to the procedure established by Clause 10, Article 50 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

19. State bodies, bodies of local self-government, public associations, organizations of all forms of ownership, including television and (or) radio broadcasting organizations (hereinafter – TV and radio broadcasting organization), editorial boards of print periodicals, as well as officials of these bodies and organization shall provide commissions with required data and materials, respond to requests of commissions in five day, and if the request was received

in five or less days prior to the voting day – not later than the day preceding the voting day, and if the request was received on the voting day or on the day following the voting day – immediately. These data and materials are provided to commissions for free.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

Article 21. Procedure for Formation and Status of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

1. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation is a federal state body organizing preparation and conduct of elections, referenda in the Russian Federation in accordance with its competence established by this Federal Law, other federal laws.

2. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall operate on a permanent basis and shall be a legal entity.

3. The term of powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be five years. If the term of powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation expires during an election campaign, during the period from the day when referendum of the Russian Federation is called and till the end of referendum campaign organized by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, its term of powers is extended till the end of this election campaign, referendum campaign.*
(as amended by the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ)

4. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall consist of fifteen members. Five members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation out of candidates proposed by the factions, other associations of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, or by individual deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Each association of deputies in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation may appoint not more than one representative. Five members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation out of the candidates nominated by the legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subjects of Russian Federation and higher officials of the subjects of the Russian Federation (the heads of the high executive bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation). Five members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the President of the Russian Federation.

5. Members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall have higher professional education.

(Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of January 30, 2007, No.6-FZ)

* *In accordance with Article 2 of the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ “On Amendments to the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum” in connection to change of terms of powers of election commissions”, provisions of Clause 3, Article 21 of the Federal Law of June 12, 2002, No.67-FZ “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum” (as amended by this Federal Law), related to terms of powers of election commissions, shall be applied with relation to corresponding election commissions formed after this Federal Law came into force.*

6. Members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall organize work in specific areas of activity of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation defined by the Regulations of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, and shall bear responsibility for the results of work in the said areas.

7. Members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall elect out of its members by secret balloting the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

8. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation is the election commission organizing elections to federal bodies of state power, and the as a referendum commission organizing referendums of the Russian Federation.

9. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall:

a) exercise control over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum;

b) develop standard quotas for technological equipment (ballot booths, ballot boxes) required for the work of commissions, approve these standard quotas, and exercise control over observance thereof, and arrange for the placement of orders for manufacturing of such technological equipment for the election to federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) ensure the implementation of measures related to preparation and conduct of elections, referenda, improvement of the electoral system in the Russian Federation; introduction, operation, and improvement of means of automation, legal education of voters, professional training of commission members, and other individuals engaged in organization of elections, referenda, publication of required printed materials;

d) implement measures aimed at ensuring a uniform procedure for allocation of air time and space in print media between registered candidates, election associations for the purposes of election campaigning, between the referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants for the purposes of campaigning on questions of the referendum, establishment of results of voting, referenda, and the procedure of publication of the results of voting and election, referenda, including information-telecommunication network "Internet";
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

e) implement measures aimed at organization of funding of preparation and conduct of elections, referenda; distribute the funds allocated out of the federal budget as financial support of preparation and conduct of elections, referenda; control the proper use of the above funds;

f) provide legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to commissions;

g) implement international cooperation in the field of electoral systems;

h) hear the information of federal bodies of executive power, executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections to federal bodies of state power and referenda of the Russian Federation;

i) set standards by which lists of voters, referendum participants and other election documents and documents related to preparation and conduct of referenda are to be produced;

j) consider complaints (appeals) related to decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate commissions and take reasonable decisions in connection to these complaints (appeals);

k) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws.

10. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall consider complaints related to decisions and actions (inaction) of the election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation and officials thereof that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in referenda at elections to bodies of state power of the

subjects of the Russian Federation, referenda of subjects of the Russian Federation, elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendums in accordance with Clause 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law.

11. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall, within the limits of the funds allocated to it under the federal law on the federal budget for the next financial year in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, determine the amount of and set the procedure for remuneration of workers of institutions and organizations established to support its operation.

12. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation together with election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation in cooperation with federal bodies of executive power, bodies of executive power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government and officials of bodies of local self-government organizes the state system of registration (account) voters, referendum participants and participates in registration (account) of voters, referendum participants including formation and maintenance of register of voters, referendum participants.
(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12¹ The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation together with election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation checks consolidated financial reports and data on receipt and expenditure of funds of political parties, control over sources and volume of property received by political parties as entry or member fees, donations of citizens and legal entities, informs citizens on the results of such checks.
(Clause 12¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, within the scope of its competence, shall be entitled to issue binding instructions on issues related to the uniform application of this Federal Law.

14. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to issue opinions on compliance of laws and other regulations of the subjects of the Russian Federation with this Federal Law and other federal laws that govern the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and their right to participate in a referendum.

15. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall have its official printed bulletin.

Article 22. General Terms and Conditions of Formation of Election Commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, Election Commissions of Municipal Formations, District Election Commissions, Territorial, Precinct Commissions

1. Election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipal formations, district election commissions, territorial, precinct commissions shall be formed on the basis of proposals made by political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) body of state power of the corresponding subject of the Russian Federation. Formation of these election commissions is implemented on the basis of proposal of political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law of May 18, 2005, No.51-FZ "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (hereinafter – the Federal Law "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation"), political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian

Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law, proposals of other political parties and other public associations.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, N.63-FZ)

2. Election commissions of municipal formations, district election commissions for elections to bodies of local self-government, territorial, precinct commissions shall be formed on the basis of proposals specified in Clause 1 of this Article, and proposals made by election associations that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipal formation.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. In the event of early termination of powers of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation the right to make proposals on candidates for members of election commissions shall be retained by election associations that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the representative body of municipal formation of the last convocation, and such proposals shall be subject to consideration in accordance with the procedure provided for by Clause 7, Article 23, Clause 8, Article 24, Clauses 7 and 7¹, Article 25, Clause 7, Article 26, Clause 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3¹ In the event of early termination of powers of the member of commission appointed by proposal of political party that nominated federal list of candidates admitted to distribution of seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, or the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, or in the representative body of municipal formation of convocation acting at the moment of early termination of powers, in accordance with Clause 7, Article 23, Clause 8, Article 24, Clauses 7 and 7¹, Article 25, Clause 7, Article 26, Clause 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law, a vacant seat is distributed in accordance with proposal of the same political party (if a corresponding candidate was nominated by this party not later than in three days till the expiration of terms stated in Clause 11, Article 29 of this Federal Law).

(Clause 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3² Rights stipulated by Clauses 3 and 3¹ of this Article also belong to political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law of May 18, 2005, No.51-FZ "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation", and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 3² introduced by the Federal Law of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

4. Not more than one representative of each political party, election or other public association may be appointed to an election commission. A political party, election association, other public association shall not be entitled to nominate several candidates at one time for appointment as members of one commission.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. State and municipal officials shall not constitute more than 1/2 of the total number of members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, election commission of municipal formation, district election commission, territorial or precinct

commission. This provision may be inapplicable to the formation of precinct commissions at election precincts established in the territories of military units located in isolated remote areas or outside the territory of the Russian Federation.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. The body that appoints to election commission a citizen of the Russian Federation nominated in accordance with the requirements established by this Federal Law shall obtain a written consent of this citizen of the Russian Federation to become a member of this commission.

7. If bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, commissions, duly authorized to do so by this Federal Law fail to appoint all or some members of a commission within the period stipulated by the law, or if no such body of state power, body of local self-government in corresponding territory, or a corresponding commission is not formed, all or some members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation; of the election commission of municipal formation, urban district, city territory of the federal city - by election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation; of the election commission of settlement – by election commission of municipal formation; other commission – by superior commission in compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law, other law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. The law shall establish terms for formation of commissions and terms for receiving of proposals on commissions composition. For commissions acting on a permanent basis, the term for formation of such commissions by bodies receiving proposals shall be not more than one month, and for other commissions – not less than ten days.

Article 23. Procedure of Formation and Powers of Election Commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation

1. Election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation are the state bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation that organize preparation and conduct of elections, referenda of the Russian Federation within the scope of their competence established by this Federal Law, other federal laws, and laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

2. Election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation act on a permanent basis and are the legal entities.

3. The term of powers of election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall be five years. If the term of powers of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation expires during an election campaign, during the period from the day when referendum this commission participates in called and till the end of referendum campaign, its term of powers is extended till the end of this election campaign, referendum campaign. This provision is not applied during conduct of repeat and by-elections of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation. *
(as amended by the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ)

* *In accordance with Article 2 of the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ “On Amendments to the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum” in connection to change of terms of powers of election commissions”, provisions of Clause 3, Article 21 of the Federal Law of June 12, 2002, No.67-FZ “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum” (as amended by this Federal Law), related to terms of powers of election commissions, shall be applied with relation to corresponding election commissions formed after this Federal Law came into force.*

4. The number of voting members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be set by the constitution (statute), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation and shall not be smaller than 10 and greater than 14.

5. The election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be formed by the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and the higher official of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the high executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) on the basis of proposals referred to in Clause 1, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by representative bodies of municipal formations, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation of the previous convocation, and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. One half of the members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the other half - by the higher official of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the high executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation).

7. Both the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and the higher official of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the high executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) shall appoint at least a half of the total number of members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, appointed by them, on the basis of nominations made by:

a) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation";
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ)

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

8. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ

9. Both the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and the higher official of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the high executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) shall appoint at least one member of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of proposals received from the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

10. The election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall:

a) exercise control in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum;

b) organize placement of orders for manufacturing of standard technological equipment (ballot booths, ballot boxes) for precinct commissions, including by request of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation during elections to federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation; exercise control in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation over the observance of the procedure of use of technological equipment for precinct commissions;

(Paragraph "b" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) ensure implementation in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation of measures related to preparation and conduct of elections, referenda, improvement of the electoral system in the Russian Federation; introduction, operation, and improvement of means of automation, legal education of voters, professional training of commission members, and other individuals engaged in organization of elections, referenda, publication of required printed materials;

d) ensure implementation in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, of measures aimed at organizing of a uniform procedure for allocation of air time and space in print media between registered candidates, election associations for purposes of election campaigning, between referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants for the purposes of campaigning on questions of the referendum, establishment of the voting results and results of elections, referenda, as well as the procedure of publication of voting results and results of election, referenda;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

e) ensure implementation in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, of measures aimed at organizing of allocation of funds for preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, referenda of the subject of the Russian Federation; distribute the funds allocated from the federal budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation as financial support for preparation and conduct of elections, referenda; exercise control over the target use of the above funds;

f) approve the list of territorial commissions;

g) provide legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to subordinate commissions;

h) hear reports of bodies of executive power of the subject of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, and referendums of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendums;

i) on instructions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, set standards in accordance with which lists of voters, referendum participants and other election documents are produced, as well as documents related to preparation and conduct of referendum;

j) consider complaints (appeals) related to decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate commissions and take reasoned decisions on these complaints (appeals);

k) participate in organization of the state system of registration (account) of voters, referendum participants, and in implementation of this registration (account), formation and maintenance of registry of voters, referendum participants;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

k¹) participate in implementation of check of consolidated financial reports and data on receipt and expenditure of the funds of political parties, control over sources and volume of property, received by political parties in the form of entry and member fees, donations of citizens and legal entities, informing citizens on results of these checks;

(Paragraph "k¹" introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

k²) provides at request of election commission of municipal formation data on the number of disabled voters, referendum participants in corresponding territory with indication of disability groups;

(Paragraph "k²" introduced by the Federal Law of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

l) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (statute) of the subject of the Russian Federation.

11. The election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall consider complaints related to decisions and actions (inaction) of election commissions of municipal formation districts, urban districts, city territories of the federal cities and their officials that violate electoral rights of citizens the right of citizens to participate in a referendum during

election to bodies of local self-government, local referenda, in accordance with Clause 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ).

12. The election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation may have its official printed bulletin.

Article 24. Procedure of Formation and Powers of Election Commissions of Municipal Formations

1. An election commission organizing, under the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation, preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendum is the election commission of municipal formation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Election commission of municipal formation is a municipal body and is not a part of the structure of bodies of local self-government.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Election commission of municipal formation may receive a status of a legal entity under the statute of municipal formation, regulatory act of body of local self-government.

(as amended by the Federal Law of August 22, 2004, No.122-FZ)

4. By the decision of the corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation taken on the basis of application of the representative body of this municipal formation, powers of the election commission of municipal formation may be delegated to territorial commission. In the case of newly established municipal formation, powers of election commission of this municipal formation by the decision of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation may be delegated to territorial commission. The procedure of delegation of powers of election commission of municipal formation to territorial commission in other cases of absence of representative body of municipal formations is established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation. When the powers of election commission of municipal formation are delegated to territorial commission, the number of members of territorial commission is not subject to change. If there are several territorial commissions in the territory of municipal formation, powers of election commission of municipal formation may be delegated to one of such commissions.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of December 25, 2008, No.281-FZ, of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

5. The term of powers of the election commission of municipal formation is five years. four years. If the term of powers of the election commission of municipal formation expires during an election campaign, during the period from the day when referendum this commission participates in is called and till the end of referendum campaign, its term of powers is extended till the end of this election campaign, referendum campaign. This provision is not applied during conduct of repeat and by-elections of deputies of representative body of municipal power. Powers of election commission of municipal formation may be early terminated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation in the event of transformation of this municipal formation.

The day of early termination of powers of such election commission of municipal formation is the day when the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on transformation of the municipal formations enters into force. *

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ)

6. The number of voting members of the election commission of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city shall amount to eight, ten or twelve voting members. Election commission of settlement is formed out of six, eight or ten voting members. The number of members of election commission of municipal formation is established by the statute of municipal formation.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

7. Election commission of municipal formation is formed by representative body of municipal formation on the basis of proposals referred to in Clause 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law, proposals of voters' meetings at place of residence, work, service, study, as well as proposals of election commission of municipal formation of the previous convocation, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, and formation of election commission of settlement – also on the basis of proposals of election commission of municipal district, territorial commission.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

** In accordance with Article 2 of the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ “On Amendments to the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum” in connection to change of terms of powers of election commissions”, provisions of Clause 3, Article 21 of the Federal Law of June 12, 2002, No.67-FZ “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum” (as amended by this Federal Law), related to terms of powers of election commissions, shall be applied with relation to corresponding election commissions formed after this Federal Law came into force.*

8. The representative body of municipal formation shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of the election commission of municipal formation on the basis of received proposals from:*

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, №.357-FZ)

a) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law “On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation”;

(as amended by the Federal Law of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ)

** In accordance with Article 2 of the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ “On Amendments to Article 24 of the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum”, election commissions of municipal formations formed before this Federal Law enters into force retain their powers till the expiration of term for which they were formed. In case of early termination of powers of a member of election commission of municipal formation formatted before this Federal Law enters into force, a new member of election commission is appointed in the following manner:*

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law;

(as amended by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

c) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipal formation.

(Clause 8 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. The representative body of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city shall appoint half of the total number of members of election commission of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city on the basis of proposals received from election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ.

1) *if a member of election commission is appointed by the proposal of political party of other election association stated in Clause 8, Article 24 of the Federal Law of June 12, 2002, No.67-FZ "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (hereinafter – the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum", a new member of election commission is appointed by the proposal of the same political party, same election association;*

2) *if a member of election commission is appointed not by the proposal of political party of other election association stated in Clause 8, Article 24 of the Federal Law of June 12, 2002, No.67-FZ "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum", a new member of election commission is appointed by the proposal of the political party, other election association stated in Clause 8, Article 24 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum", and if all political parties, other election associations stated in Clause 8, Article 24 of this Federal Law already appointed members of election commission of municipal formation, or by proposals of such political parties, other election associations the half of total number of members of election commission of municipal formation, a new member of election commission is appointed in accordance with Clauses 9-9.3 of Article 24 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum".*

9¹ Representative body of settlement shall appoint half of total number of members of election commission of settlement on the basis of proposals received from election commission of municipal formation, territorial commission in the following order:

a) if powers of election commission of municipal district are not delegated to territorial commission, two members of election commission of settlement are appointed on the basis of proposals received from election commission of municipal district, and other members of election commission of settlement are appointed on the basis of proposals from territorial commission;

b) if powers of election commission of municipal district are delegated to territorial commission, members of election commission of settlement are appointed on the basis of proposals from territorial commission;

c) if powers of territorial commission are delegated to election commission of municipal district, members of election commission of settlement are appointed on the basis of proposals from election commission of municipal district.

(Clause 9¹ introduced by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

9² Proposals of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, election commission of municipal district, territorial commission, stated in Clauses 9 and 9¹ of this Article are prepared with account of proposals of public associations, except public associations

referred to in Clause 8 of this Article, with account of proposals of voters' meetings at place of residence, work, service, study, as well as proposals of election commission of corresponding municipal formation of the previous convocation.

(Clause 9² introduced by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

9³ In case, if proposals referred to in Clauses 8, 9 and 9¹ of this Article are not sufficient for implementation of correspondingly Clauses 8, 9 and 9¹ of this Article, the rest of members of commission are appointed on the basis of proposals stipulated by Clause of this Article.

(Clause 9³ introduced by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

10. Election commission of municipal formation shall:

a) exercise control in the territory of municipal formation over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum;

b) organize in the territory of municipal formation implementation of activities connected to preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referenda, production of required print materials;

c) ensure implementation in the territory of municipal formation of measures related to preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendum, observation of a uniform procedure for allocation of air time and space in print media between registered candidates, election associations for purposes of election campaigning, between referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants for the purposes of campaigning on questions of the referendum;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

d) ensure implementation in the territory of municipal formation of measures related to observation of uniform procedure of establishment of voting results, results of election, referenda during the conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendum;

e) ensure implementation in the territory of municipal formation of measures related to organization of financing of preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referenda, distribute funds allocated from local budget and (or) budget of the subject of the Russian Federation for financial support of preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendum, controls target use of these funds;

f) provide legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to subordinate commissions;

g) hear reports of bodies of local self-government on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of local self-government, local referendum;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

h) consider complaints (appeals) related to decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate commissions, and election commission of municipal district – also complains (appeals) related to decisions and actions (inaction) of election commission of settlement and take reasoned decisions on these complaints (appeals);

(Paragraph "h" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

i) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (statute), laws of the subject of the Russian Federation, statute of municipal formation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 27, 2009, No.357-FZ)

Article 25. Procedure of Formation and Powers of District Election Commissions

1. District election commissions shall be formed in the cases as provided for by the law during conduct of elections in single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral districts. The powers of district election commissions may be delegated to other election commissions.

2. The term of powers of district election commissions shall expire in two months after the official publication of the election results, unless superior commission received complaints

(appeals) related to action (inaction) of this commission as the result of which the procedure of votes counting was violated, or if a court proceeding is conducted in relation to these facts. If voting results or election results are appealed in the territory of electoral district, powers of district election commission are terminated from the day the superior commission takes decision on the court decision with regards to complaint (appeal) comes into legal force.
(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. The number of voting members of district election commissions in elections to federal bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government shall be established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4 – 5. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

6. A district election commission in elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall be formed by superior commission on the basis of proposals referred to in Clause 1 and 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by representative bodies of local self-government, and proposals made at meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Superior election commission shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of the district election commission in elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of proposals made by:

a) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal List “On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation”;
(as amended by the Federal Law of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ)

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)
(Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7¹ Superior election commission shall appoint not less than a half of total number of members of the district election commission in elections to bodies of local self-government on the basis of proposals made by:

a) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal List “On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation”;
(as amended by the Federal Law of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ)

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

c) election associations that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of corresponding municipal formation.

(Clause 7¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. District election commission shall:
- a) exercise control in the territory of the electoral district over observance of electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation;
 - b) cooperate with bodies of state powers, bodies of local self-government on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections in the electoral district;
 - c) register candidates;
 - d) approve the text of the ballot in the electoral district;
 - e) exercise in the territory of the electoral district measures to ensure uniform procedure of voting, counting of votes of voters, establishment of voting results and election results and the procedure of publication of voting results and election results;
 - f) establish the election results for the electoral district;
 - g) publish (make public) the election results for the electoral district in mass media
 - h) provide legal and administrative-technical assistance to subordinate commissions;
 - i) consider complaints (appeals) related to decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate commissions, and take reasoned decisions on such complaints (appeals);
 - j) exercise other powers in accordance with the law.

Article 26. Procedure of Formation and the Powers of Territorial Commissions

1. The position of territorial election commissions in the system of state bodies in the subjects of the Russian Federation shall be determined by laws of the subject of the Russian Federation.

2. Territorial commissions shall operate on a permanent basis.

3. The term of powers of territorial commissions shall be five years. If the term of powers of a territorial commission expires in the period of an election campaign, upon calling a referendum and till the end of referendum campaign this commission participates in, term of its powers shall be extended until the end of the election campaign, referendum campaign.*
(as amended by the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ)

4. Territorial commission may receive a status of a legal entity under the law of the subject of the Russian Federation. Powers of territorial commission under the decision of corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation taken in coordination with representative body of municipal formation may be delegated to corresponding election commission of municipal formation.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Territorial commissions shall consist of five-fourteen voting members.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

* *In accordance with Article 2 of the Federal Law of June 4, 2010, No.117-FZ "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" in connection to change of terms of powers of election commissions", provisions of Clause 3, Article 21 of the Federal Law of June 12, 2002, No.67-FZ "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (as amended by this Federal Law), related to terms of powers of election commissions, shall be applied with relation to corresponding election commissions formed after this Federal Law came into force.*

6. Territorial commission shall be formed by the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of proposals referred to in Clause 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by representative bodies of municipal formations, meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study, proposals made by territorial commissions of the previous convocation.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of territorial commission on the basis of proposals made by:

a) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal List "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation";
(as amended by the Federal Law of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ)

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

c) election associations that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipal formation.
(Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Within a single administrative-territorial unit with a large number of voters several territorial commissions may be formed, and the decision on their formation shall be taken by the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation in coordination with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation is entitled to form one or more territorial commissions to direct activities of precinct commissions formed in election precincts, referendum precincts established on ships, at polar stations. In cases stipulated by the federal law, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation is entitled to form one or more territorial commissions to direct activities of precinct commissions formed at election precincts, referendum precincts established outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

9. Territorial commission shall:

a) exercise control in the corresponding territory over the observance of electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum;

b) ensure in the corresponding territory observance of standards of technological equipment (ballot booths, ballot boxes) for precinct commissions;
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) ensure in the corresponding territory implementation of measures related to preparation and conduct of elections, referenda, improvement of electoral system in the Russian Federation; introduction, operation, and improvement of automation equipment, legal education of voters, professional training of commission members and other individuals engaged in organization of elections, referenda;

d) takes measures in the corresponding territory aimed at ensuring a uniform procedure of establishment of voting results;

e) distribute the funds from the federal budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation allocated for financial support of preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum; control over target use of such funds;

f) provide legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to subordinate commissions;

g) hear reports of bodies of executive power of the subject of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum;

h) consider complaints (appeals) related to decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate commissions and take reasoned decisions related to such complaints (appeals);

i) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (statute), laws of the subject of the Russian Federation.

Article 27. Procedure of Formation and the Powers of Precinct Commissions

1. Precinct commissions shall be formed during in the period of election campaign, a referendum campaign at the time established by the law in order to ensure the process of voting by voters, referendum participants, and counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants. In elections to bodies of local self-government, conducting of local referendum powers of precinct commission may be delegated to other commission acting within the boundaries of election precinct, referendum precinct.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Term of powers of precinct commission shall expire in ten days after the day of official publication of the results of elections, a referendum, unless superior commission received complaints (appeals) related to action (inaction) of this commission as the result of which the procedure of votes counting was violated, or if a court proceeding is conducted in relation to these facts. If voting results or election results are appealed in the territory of corresponding election precinct, referendum precinct, powers of precinct commission are terminated from the day the superior commission takes decision on the court decision with regards to complaint (appeal) comes into legal force.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. The number of voting members of precinct commissions is established by the law.

4. Precinct commission shall be formed by superior commission on the basis of proposals referred to in Clause 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by the representative body of municipal formation, meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study. The law may prescribe formation of precinct commission at election precinct, referendum precinct established on the ship at sea or at the polar station, as well as outside the territory of the Russian Federation by corresponding officials.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Superior commission shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of precinct commission on the basis of proposals made by:

a) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal List "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation";

(as amended by the Federal Law of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ)

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and political parties that nominated lists of candidates that received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated by Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

c) election associations that nominated lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipal formation.

(Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Precinct commission shall:

a) inform population on the address and telephone number of precinct commission, its working hours, and on the day, time, and place of voting;

b) update the list of voters, referendum participants, organize familiarization of voters, referendum participants with this list, consider appeals related to errors and inaccuracies in this list and take decision to introduce corresponding changes to this list;

c) prepare the voting premises, ballot boxes, and other equipment;

d) inform voters on registered candidates, election associations that registered their lists of candidates, inform referendum participants on the questions of the referendum on the basis of the information received from superior commission;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

e) exercise control in the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct over the observance of the procedure of conduct of election campaign, referendum questions campaign;

f) issue absentee certificates;

g) organize voting on the voting day and early voting at election precinct, referendum precinct;

h) count votes, establish voting results for election precinct, referendum precinct, prepare protocol on voting results and submit it to territorial commission;

i) announce voting results for election precinct, referendum precinct, and issue certified copies of the protocol of voting results to persons observing the voting process;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

j) consider within the scope of its competence complaints (appeals) related to violation of this Federal Law, other laws, and take reasoned decisions related to such complaints (appeals);

k) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ;

l) ensure the safe storage and delivery to superior commission of documents related to preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum;

m) exercise other powers in accordance with the law.

Article 28. Organization of Commissions Activities

1. Commissions shall operate on a collegiate basis.

2. A commission shall be qualified to start functioning if at least two thirds of the total established number of its members were appointed.

3. A commission operating on a permanent basis shall convene its first meeting not later than on the fifteenth day after the decision on the appointment of its voting members is taken but not earlier than the term of powers of the previous commission expires. In this case, at least two-thirds of the total number of its members shall be appointed. The powers of the previous commission shall cease as of the date of the first meeting of the new commission. The term of powers of a commission shall start from the date of its first meeting.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. The chairman of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be elected by secret ballot at the first meeting of such commission out of voting members of the election commission on the basis of the proposal made by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

5. The chairman of election commission of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city shall be elected by secret ballot at its first meeting out from among voting members of election commission in accordance with the following procedure:

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

a) if there is a proposal of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation – on the basis of proposal of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation;

b) if there is no proposal of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation – on the basis of proposals made by voting members of election commission of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5¹ The chairman of election commission of settlement is elected by secret ballot at its first meeting out of voting members of this commission on the basis of proposal made by election commission of municipal district, and if election commission of municipal district is not formed – on the basis of proposal of territorial commission. If there is no such proposal, the chairman of election commission of settlement is elected on the basis of proposals made by voting members of election commission of settlement.

(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. If a candidate for the chairman of a commission proposed by the commission is rejected, the election commission that made the proposal in accordance with Clauses 4, 5 and 5¹ of this Article shall propose another candidate out of the voting members of the commission.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Chairmen of district, territorial, and precinct commissions shall be appointed out of the voting members of such commissions and may be removed by the commissions directly superior to these commissions.

8. The deputy chairman and the secretary of a commission shall be elected by secret ballot at the commission's first meeting out of the voting members of the commission.

9. Meetings of a commission shall be convened by its chairman as frequently as required. A meeting shall also be held if requested by at least one- third of the established number of the voting members of the commission.

10. A voting member of a commission shall attend all meetings of the commission.

11. A meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be considered legally competent if attended by at least ten voting members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. A meeting of another commission shall be considered legally competent if attended by a majority of the established number of the voting members of this commission.

12. Upon request of any member of commission or any member of superior commission present at the meeting, the commission shall take a vote on any issues within its competence that is considered by the commission at the meeting in accordance with the approved agenda.

13. Decisions of commission regarding election, appointment or removal of its chairman, deputy chairman and secretary, regarding issues of financial support of preparation and conduct of elections and referenda, registration of candidates, lists of candidates, bringing legal actions for cancellation of the registration of candidates, voting results or election results, referendum results, declaring elections or referendum as not having taken place or invalid, as well as decisions regarding repeat voting or repeat election, cancellation of a decision of commission in the procedure provided for by Clause 11, Article 20 and Clauses 6 and 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law shall be taken at a meeting of the commission by a majority of the established number of the voting members of the commission. Decisions on removal of the chairman, the deputy chairman, or the secretary appointed to such positions as the result of election, shall be made by secret ballot (except when these officials are removed at their

personal request), and election of a new chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary of the commission shall take place in accordance with the procedure established by Clauses 4, 5, 5¹, 6, and 8 of this Article.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14. A commission shall take decisions on other issues by a majority of the votes of the present voting members of the commission.

15. In the event of a tie vote of the voting members of commission, the vote of the chairman (the person chairing the meeting) of the commission shall be a casting vote.

16. Decisions of commission shall be signed by its chairman and secretary (the person chairing the meeting and the meeting's secretary).

17. Voting members of commission who disagree with decision taken by commission, shall be entitled to express in writing their special opinion which shall be reflected in the protocol of commission and attached to its decision such special opinion is related to. If in accordance with the law this decision of commission is subject to publication, such special opinion shall be published in the same manner that the commission decision.

(Clause 17 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

18. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, election commission of municipal formations, territorial commissions that operate on a permanent basis and are legal entities shall have their administration, structure and staffing plan established by such commissions independently. Members of administration of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall have the status of federal state employees. Occupying by members of administrations of election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, territorial commissions, election commissions of municipal formations that operate on a permanent basis and are legal entities of respective state service positions in the subject of the Russian Federation, municipal service is established by the laws and other regulatory acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipal formations and other regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government. Levels of financial support (including the size and nature of monetary compensations, other benefits) and social support of people occupying state or municipal service positions in administration of commissions are established respectively by the federal laws and other regulatory acts of the Russian Federation, the laws and other regulatory acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation, regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government. Federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall take necessary measures to provide financial and social support (including medical, recreational, housing, pension support, and other types of support) of members of commissions' administrations.

19. Commissions may engage citizens on a contractual basis in order to perform work related to preparation and conduct of elections, referenda, and ensure powers of commissions.

(Clause 19 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 29. Status of Commission Members

1. The following persons shall not be appointed as the voting commission members:

a) persons that are not citizens of the Russian Federation, as well as citizens of the Russian Federation with a citizenship of a foreign state or residence permit or other document certifying the right for permanent residence of the citizen of the Russian Federation in the territory of a foreign state;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

b) citizens of the Russian Federation declared legally incapable or with limited capability by the decision of a court that came into force;

c) citizens of the Russian Federation under the age of 18 years;

d) deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government;

e) elective officials, as well as higher officials of the subjects of the Russian Federation (heads of high executive bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation), heads of local administration;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

f) judges, prosecutors;

g) at corresponding elections - candidates, their authorized representatives and attorneys, authorized representatives and attorneys of election associations that nominated candidates;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

h) at corresponding referenda – members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative groups;

i) at corresponding elections, referenda - non-voting members of commissions;

j) at corresponding elections - spouses and close relatives of candidates, close relatives of candidates' spouses;

k) persons directly subordinated to candidates;

l) persons removed from commissions by a court decision, as well as persons who lost their powers of the voting members of commissions as the result of dissolution of commission (except persons who were found not guilty for violations of commission by the court), - within five years from the day a corresponding court decision came into force;

(Paragraph "l" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

m) persons who have previous convictions that was not withdrawn or spent, as well as people subject to administrative punishment by court decision for violation of the legislation on elections and referenda, - within one year from the day a decision (resolution) of court on administrative punishment came into force.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Provisions of Paragraphs "g", "j" and "k" of Clause 1 of this Article shall not apply to members of precinct, territorial and district election commissions if the candidate is nominated or registered in another electoral district.

3. Under this Federal Law, direct subordination is construed as service-related or work-related relationship between a superior and a subordinate, whereby the superior has, in relation to the subordinate, powers or managerial authorities, i.e. has the right to employ or dismiss the subordinate or, within his position-related authority, issue to the subordinate binding orders, instructions, or directions, reward the subordinate or subject him to disciplinary penalties.

4. A voting member of a commission shall not, at one and the same election, referendum, be a voting member of another commission.

5. The term of powers of voting members of a commission shall expire at the same time with the expiration of the powers of the commission of which they are members.

6. A voting member of a commission shall be relieved from the duties of a commission's member by a decision of the same body that appointed him if:

a) the commission member files a written resignation. Such application cannot be filed during the period starting in ten days before the voting day and ending on the day of establishment of voting results, results of elections, referenda, except cases when it is filed in connection to compelling circumstance: severe disease, severe impairment of health of commission member, his close relatives;

Paragraph "a" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

b) grounds occurred that are referred to in Clauses 1 and 4 of this Article, except the case of suspension of powers of commission member referred to in Clause 7 of this Article and cases referred to in Paragraphs “a”, “b” and “m” of Clause 1 of this Article.

7. If the grounds referred to in Paragraph “j” of Clause 1 of this Article occurred, powers of a voting member of a commission who works on a permanent (staff) basis shall be suspended by a decision of the corresponding commission, provided such suspension does not legally disqualify the composition of the commission such that it is not legally competent to exercise its powers. If such suspension of a commission member leads to making the commission legally incompetent, powers of such commission member are terminated by a decision of the body that appointed him.

8. Powers of a voting member of a commission shall be terminated immediately if:

a) the commission member ceases to be a citizen of the Russian Federation or obtains a citizenship of a foreign state or residence permit or other document certifying the right of the citizen of the Russian Federation to permanently reside in the territory of the foreign state; (as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

b) a guilty verdict of a court against the commission member, or a court ruling subjecting the commission member to an administrative penalty for violation of the legislation on elections and referenda comes into force;

c) a decision of court that declares a commission member legally incapable, with limited capability, missing or dead comes into force;

d) the death of commission member;

e) upon a corresponding commission application a commission member is declared as failing to perform his duties by a decision of court that comes into force;

f) a decision of court on dissolution of commission in accordance with Article 31 of this Federal Law comes into force.

(Paragraph “f” introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. If the body that appointed a commission member fails to take a decision on early termination of powers of this commission member within one month, and during the period of an election campaign, within ten days from the date when this body received a written resignation of the commission member or at occurrence of other grounds preventing him from performing his duties, the decision to terminate powers of such commission member shall be taken by the commission of which he is a member within three days from the expiration of the above periods.

11. The body that appointed a commission member shall appoint a new commission member in the place of the member withdrawn on the grounds referred to in Clauses 6 and 8 of this article not later than in a month time, and during the period of an election campaign, the period from calling a referendum until the end of the referendum campaign, not later than in ten days after such withdrawal in accordance with the provisions of Clause 4, Article 21, Articles 22-27 of this Federal Law. If this requirement fails to be fulfilled, a new member of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation is appointed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city – by election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, election commission of settlement – by election commission of municipal district (if such commission is not formed – territorial election), other commission – by superior commission in accordance with requirements established by this Federal Law. (as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ).

12. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Secretary of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the

election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the chairman or the secretary of another commission that operates on a permanent basis and is a legal entity shall work in the corresponding commission on a permanent (staff) basis. The chairman of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall have higher professional education. (as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of April 20, 2007, No.62-FZ)

13. Except for members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation referred to in Clause 12 of this Article, voting members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation may in the commission on a permanent (staff) basis.

14. Except for members referred to in Clause 12 of this Article, the possibility of working on a permanent (staff) basis for voting members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, voting members of the election commission of municipal formation, territorial commission that operate on a permanent basis and are legal entities, and the size and nature of monetary compensation of voting members of the said commissions that work on a permanent (staff) basis, other benefits to these commission members shall be established by laws, other regulatory acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation, the statutes of municipal formations, regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government.

15. A voting member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation who works for this commission on a permanent (staff) basis, shall occupy a state position of the Russian Federation. A voting member of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation who works for the commission on a permanent (staff) basis, a voting member of another election commission that operates on a permanent basis and is a legal entity shall occupy, in accordance with a law, another regulatory act of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of the municipal formation, another regulatory act of the body of local self-government, respectively, a state position of the subject of the Russian Federation, a municipal position. Such persons shall not hold other positions in bodies of state power, state bodies, bodies of local self-government, be involved in business or another paid activity, with the exceptions of educational, scientific, or other creative activities. Educational, scientific and other creative activity shall not be financed solely by foreign states, international and foreign organizations, foreign citizens and stateless persons, unless otherwise is stipulated by an international treaty of the Russian Federation or the legislation of the Russian Federation. (as amended by the Federal Laws of March 2, 2003, N.24-FZ, of December 25, 2008, No.274-FZ)

15¹ Member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, as well as member of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation working for commission on a permanent (staff) basis, member of another election commission that operates on a permanent basis and is a legal entity, working for such commission on a permanent (staff) basis is not allowed to:

a) be a member of governing bodies, boards of trustees or supervisory councils, other bodies of foreign non-profit non-governmental organizations and their structural subdivisions acting in the territory of the Russian Federation, unless otherwise provided by an international treaty of the Russian Federation or the legislation of the Russian Federation.

b) receive in relation with performing his duties any remuneration (loans, monetary and other remuneration, services, payments for entertainment, rest, transport expenses) from physical and legal entities not stipulated by the legislation of the Russian Federation. Gifts received by a member of election commission in connection to protocol events are considered respectively federal property, property of the subject of the Russian Federation, municipal property and shall be delivered by the member of election commission under an acceptance act to corresponding election commission save as otherwise stipulated by the legislation of the Russian Federation. Member of election commission delivered a gift that was received in connection with a protocol event can redeem it in the order established by regulatory acts of the Russian Federation;

c) exit in connection with performance of his duties the territory of the Russian Federation at the expense of funds provided by physical and legal entities, except business trips performed in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, international treaties of the Russian Federation or mutual agreements of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government with state bodies (bodies) of foreign states, international and foreign organizations;

d) use for the purposes not related to performance of his duties material-technical, financial and information support means designated for official use;

e) disclose or use for purposes not connected to performance of his duties information ranked as information of limited access or confidential information in accordance with the federal law that they became aware of in connection with performance of their duties.

(Clause 15¹ introduced by the Federal Law of December 25, 2008, No.274-FZ)

15² In case of holding by a member of election commission referred to in Clause 15¹ of this Article of earning securities or shares (shares in authorized capitals of organization) that may lead to a conflict of interest, he shall transfer such securities, shares (shares in authorized capitals of organizations) into trust in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation. (Clause 15² introduced by the Federal Law of December 25, 2008, No.274-FZ)

16. Federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall take necessary measures to provide financial and social support (including medical, recreational, housing, pension support, and other types of support) to persons listed in Clauses 12-14 of this Article. The level of financial support (including the size and nature of monetary compensation, other benefits) and social support to the member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, working for this commission on a permanent (staff) basis, shall not be lower than the level of financial and social support established for persons occupying state positions of the Russian Federation in federal executive body; member of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, working for such commission on a permanent (staff) basis – not lower than the level of material and social support established for persons occupying state positions of the subject of the Russian Federation in legislative (representative) or executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation; member of territorial commission, working for such commission on a permanent (staff) basis – not lower than the level of material and social support established for persons occupying higher positions of state civil service of the subject of the Russian Federation in executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or in its territorial body; member of election commission of municipal formation, working for such commission on a permanent (staff) basis – not lower than the level of material and social support established for persons occupying municipal positions in representative body of municipal formation. The size and nature of monetary compensation and other benefits provided to the said persons shall be established, respectively, by the federal laws and other regulatory acts of the Russian Federation, laws and other regulatory acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipal formations and other regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government.

(Clause 16 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

16¹ Persons occupying state positions of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary or voting member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, working for such commission on a permanent (staff) basis, terms of powers of which expired due to termination of powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation they worked for and not appointed as members of such commission of new term, for the period of looking for employment or arranging a pension (but for not more than three months from the day such powers were expired) shall be paid monetary remuneration established in accordance with occupied positions and continue being provided with medical, sanatorium-resort and housing support (including members of their families). Such persons occupying state positions of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary or voting member of the Central Election Commission

of the Russian Federation, working for such commission on a permanent (staff) basis, retain uninterrupted length of service on condition not more than three months passed from the day their powers were expired and the day they were employed or received pension. Guarantees for voting members of other election commissions that operate on permanent basis and are legal entities, working for such commissions on a permanent (staff) basis, are established by the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 16¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

17. A voting member of a commission may be eligible to extra compensation (remuneration) for his work for the commission during preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum. A voting member of a commission who was relieved, at the request of the commission, from his main job for the period of preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum, shall retain his main job (office) and be compensated for the period during which he was relieved from his main job. The size of and the procedure of payment of such compensation and extra compensation (remuneration) shall be established by the commission organizing the respective election, referendum out of and within the limits of the funds allocated from budgets for the conduct of such election, referendum.

18. Decisions on criminal prosecution of a voting member of commission or his joining as defendant to criminal action shall be taken by the head of investigating authority of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation in the subject of the Russian Federation. Petition to court on detention of a voting member of commission as judicial restraint can be filed upon consent of the head of investigating authority of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. A voting member of commission cannot be subject to administrative punishment imposed by court without consent of the Prosecutor of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 24, 2007, No.214-FZ, of December 28, 2010, No.404-FZ)

18¹ Decisions on criminal prosecution of a voting member of the Central Election Commission, Chairman of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, their joining as defendants to criminal actions shall be taken by the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. Petition to court on detention of a voting member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, Chairman of election commission of the Russian Federation as judicial restraint can be filed upon consent of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. A voting member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, Chairman of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation cannot be subject to administrative punishment imposed by court without consent of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 18¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 24, 2007, No.214-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of December 28, 2010, No.404-FZ)

19. A voting member of a commission prior to expiration of his powers, a non-voting member of a commission member during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign cannot be dismissed from their jobs upon the initiative of employer or transferred to a different job without their consent.

20. From the day of filing documents for registration a candidate, list of candidate, a candidate, election association that nominated a list of candidates, is entitled to appoint one non-voting member of this election commission, and in case of registration of a candidate, a list of candidates – one non-voting member of election commission to each subordinate election commission. Election association that nominated a registered candidate (registered candidates) for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district is entitled to appoint one non-voting member of superior (with relation to election commission that registered candidate (s)) election

commission. Each election association is entitled to appoint not more than one non-voting member of election commission.

(Clause 20 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

21. After the official publication of a decision to call a referendum, a referendum initiative group, election associations which lists of candidates were admitted to distribution of deputy seats in legislative (representative) body of state power, representative body of municipal formation or legislative (representative) body of a higher level, as well as political parties which federal lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation", and political parties which lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, referred to in Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law are entitled to appoint one non-voting member of referendum commission to corresponding and subordinate referendum commission.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

21¹ Persons referred to in Paragraphs "a", "b"- "f", Clause 1 of this Article, citizens of the Russian Federation declared legally incapable by court decision that came into force, members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, employees of commission administrations, attorneys of candidates, election associations, as well as persons performing command duties in military units, military organizations and institutions may not be appointed non-voting members of commissions.

(Clause 21¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

21² Voting members of commissions, authorized by corresponding commission, shall prepare protocols on administrative violations in accordance with the Code of Administrative Offence of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 21² introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

22. A non-voting member of commission shall have the same rights as a voting member of commission with regards to issues of preparation and conduct of elections, referendum, except the right to:

- a) issue and sign ballots, absentee certificates;
- b) participate in sorting out, counting, and canceling of ballots;
- c) compile the protocol of voting results, results of elections, referendum;
- d) participate in the voting during taking decision on issues of corresponding commission competence and sing commission decisions;
- e) prepare protocols on administrative offence.

(Clause "e" introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

The provisions contained in this Clause shall not serve as a reason for refusing a non-voting member of a commission the right to be present at the performance of any actions mentioned in this Clause.

23. A voting member of commission and a non-voting member of commission shall:

- a) receive timely notices of meetings of the corresponding commission;
- b) speak at the commission's meetings, make proposals on issues within the scope of competence of the corresponding commission, and request that these matters be put to the vote;
- c) put questions to other participants in the commission's meeting in accordance with the agenda, and receive meaningful answers to these questions;
- d) inspect documents and materials (including lists of voters, referendum participants, with signature lists, financial statements of candidates, election associations, ballots) that are directly connected to elections, referendum, including documents and materials in machine-readable format, of corresponding and subordinate commissions and receive copies of these

documents and materials (with exception of ballots, absentee certificated, lists of voters, referendum participants, signature lists, other documents and materials that contain information declared confidential in the manner established by the federal law), require certifying of such copies;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

e) make sure that the number of voters who took part in the voting was calculated correctly according to lists of voters, referendum participants, was correctly calculated, ballots were correctly sorted for candidates, election associations, answers to referendum questions;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

f) appeal action (inaction) of commission in corresponding superior commission or court.

24. The powers of non-voting members of election commission operating on a permanent basis, who were appointed by candidates who were elected, election associations, which lists of candidates were admitted to distribution of deputy seats, political parties which federal lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" and political parties, which lists of candidates received deputy seat in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation referred to in Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law, shall continue till the end of registration of candidates, lists of candidates in next elections to same body or for same position. Powers of other non-voting members of election commission that operates on permanent basis expire together with the end of corresponding election campaign. Powers of non-voting members of other election commissions, as well as members of referendum commission expire together with expiration of these commission powers. If candidate is refused a registration, and election association is refused registration of list of candidates, or registration of candidate, list of candidate is cancelled, powers of non-voting members of election commission appointed by such candidate, election association that nominated this candidate, such list of candidates expire respectively from the day of refusal of registration, its cancellation, and if the decision to refuse registration is appealed in court – from the day the decision of court on lawfulness of the refusal of registration came into legal force.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

25. A non-voting commission member shall, within the period of his powers, have the rights established by this Article related to preparation and conduct of all elections and referenda in which this commission is involved.

26. The powers of a non-voting commission member may be terminated by a decision of the person or body that appointed such commission member, and delegated to another person.

27. Elected candidates, election associations which lists of candidates were admitted to distribution of deputy seats, political parties which federal lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation", and political parties which lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation referred to as Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law within the term of powers of deputy, official have the right to appoint non-voting members of election commissions that operate on permanent basis including instead of those withdrawn.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

Article 30. Openness in Commissions Activities

1. Members of superior commissions and employees of their administration, candidate registered by this or superior commission or his attorney, authorized representative or attorney of election association which list of candidates is registered by this or superior commission, or candidate out of this list, member or authorized representative of referendum initiative group have the right to attend , a candidate registered by the given or a higher commission or his agent, an authorized representative or an agent of the election association, electoral bloc whose list of candidates has been registered by this or a higher commission or a candidate from the said list, a member or an authorized representative of the referendum initiative group may attend all meetings of the commission and present at counting of votes of voters, referendum participants and observe work of precinct, territorial commission with list of voters, referendum participants, ballots, absentee certificates, protocols of voting results. The aforementioned persons shall not need any additional permission to attend the meetings and be present when the election commission is working with the said election documents and documents related to preparation and conduct of referendum. Commission shall ensure notification and free access for such persons to its meetings and to premises where it counts votes of voters, referendum participants and work with mentioned election documents and documents related to preparation and conduct of referendum. Representatives of mass media have the right to present at all meetings of commission and observe its work with mentioned documents and counting of votes of voters, referendum participants.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Decisions of commissions that are directly related to preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum shall be published in national or municipal print periodicals or otherwise communicated to voters, referendum participants and sent to other mass media in scope and within the period established by the law. When publishing (communicating) decisions of election commissions that contain data on candidates, the following data is not subject to publication: series and number of passport of candidate or document equivalent to citizen's passport, date of its issue, name or code of body that issued passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport, and instead of residential address of candidate the name of the subject of the Russian Federation, region, city or other settlement where he resides shall be stated.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

3. On the voting day from the time the precinct commission begins its work and until it is notified by superior commission of acceptance of the protocol of voting results and also during repeat counting of votes of voters, referendum participants persons referred to in Clause 1 of this Article as well as observers, foreign (international) observers may present at election precincts, referendum precincts.

4. During elections conduct an observer may be appointed by a registered candidate, election association that nominated registered candidate, registered candidates, election association that registered the list of candidates. The law may prescribe a possibility of appointment of observers by other public associations. During referendum conduct an observer may be appointed by referendum initiative group, public association that shall be created and registered at a level corresponding to referendum level or superior level. Elected officials, deputies, higher officials of the subjects of the Russian Federation (heads of high executive body of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation), heads of local administrations, persons directly subordinate to them, judges, prosecutors, voting members of commissions cannot be appointed observers.
(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Access to the premises of the precinct commission of in any election precinct, referendum precinct formed on the territory of a military unit, closed administrative-territorial unit, at a hospital, sanatorium, holiday hotel, investigation and pretrial detention wards and to

the polling station in this election precinct, referendum precinct shall be provided to all members of the precinct commission, persons indicated in Clause 1 of this article, observers.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, №.93-FZ)

6. Observers, foreign (international) observers may be present at other commissions when they conduct early voting, establish voting results, results of elections, compiling corresponding protocols of voting results, election results or when votes of voters, referendum participants are being recounted.

7. The powers of an observer shall be certified by written credentials issued by a registered candidate or his attorney, election association, public association, referendum initiative group which interests the observer represents. The credentials shall contain the surname, first name and patronymic of the observer; residential address; number of the election precinct; name of the election commission (district, territorial, precinct election commission) to which the observer is sent as well as the note on absence of restrictions referred to in Clause 4 of this Article. Provision of any additional information on the observer shall not be required and the credentials need not be certified by a seal if the observer is appointed by a candidate or his attorney. These credentials shall be valid if produced together with a document certifying the identity of the observer. An advance notice of sending of an observer shall not be required.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. The document indicated in Clause 7 of this Article may be presented to a precinct commission in the period indicated in Clause 3 of this Article, to a territorial or another commission - at early voting or in the period from the commencement of voting at election precincts, referendum precincts to the completion of the final protocol for the corresponding territory. Two or more observers representing the same registered candidate, election association, public association, referendum initiative group shall not simultaneously exercise their powers in the premises of the commission, at the polling station. No restrictions other than those established by this Federal Law shall be established in relation to presence of observers at polling station, observation of the voting process, counting of votes of voters, referendum participants, preparation of protocols of voting results, and the issue of copies of protocols of voting results.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Observers shall be entitled to:

a) inspect list of voters, referendum participants, lists of referendum participants registry of absentee certificates issue, absentee certificates at commission disposal, registry of applications on voting outside polling station;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

b) be present at polling stations of corresponding election precinct, referendum precinct on the voting day as well as on early voting days at any time during the period specified in Clause 3 of this Article;

b¹) observe issue of ballots to voters, referendum participants;

(Paragraph "b¹" introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) attend at voting of voters, referendum participants outside polling station;

d) watch the number of citizens being entered in the lists of voters, referendum participants, ballots being issued to voters, referendum participants, canceled ballots being counted; watch votes cast by voters, referendum participants being counted at the polling station at elections, a referendum from a distance and under conditions which allow them to see the marks made by voters, referendum participants in the ballots; inspect any marked and unmarked ballot when votes cast by voters, referendum participants are being counted; watch the commission preparing the protocol of voting results and other documents during the period indicated in Clause 3 of this Article;

e) apply to the chairman of the precinct commission, and in the event of the chairman's absence, to the person acting in the chairman's capacity, and make proposals and comments regarding the organization of the voting procedure;

f) inspect the protocols of corresponding commission, subordinate commissions of voting results, results of elections, referendum and documents attached thereto, receive from corresponding commission certified copies of such protocols;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

g) wear a badge indicating the observer's status, surname, first name, patronymic, and also surname, first name, patronymic of the registered candidate or the name of the election association, public association that sent observer to commission. The law may prescribe that the form of such badge shall be established by the commission organizing elections, referendum;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

h) appeal, in the procedure established by Article 75 of this Federal Law, actions (inaction) of a commission to superior commission, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or a court;

i) be present when the appropriate commissions are recounting votes cast by voters, referendum participants.

10. An observer shall not:

a) issue ballots to voters or referendum participants;

b) sign for a voter, referendum participant for receipt of ballots even when asked to do so by the voter, referendum participant;

c) complete mark ballots for a voter, referendum participant even upon his request;

d) do anything violating the secrecy of balloting;

e) directly participate in ballot counting conducted by voting members of the commission;

f) do anything interfering with the work of the commission;

g) conduct campaigning among voters, referendum participants;

h) participate in taking decisions by corresponding commission.

11. Representatives of mass media participating in information coverage of preparation and conduct of elections, referenda are entitled to:

a) attend commissions meetings;

b) inspect protocols of voting results prepared by precinct commissions and protocols of other commissions of voting results, results of elections, referendum, included repeat ones, receive from corresponding commission copies of such protocols and documents attached thereto;

c) present at campaign events, cover their conduct;

d) present at polling station on the voting day, days of early voting, and produce photo and video footage.

(Clause 11 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. Copies of protocols and other documents of commissions shall be certified by the chairman, or the deputy chairman, or the secretary of corresponding commission. In this case, a person certifying the copy of document makes a note on such copy: "True" or "True copy", signs, puts his surname and initials, date and time of copy certification and affixes the seal of corresponding commission.

(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. Foreign (international) observers shall receive the permit to enter the Russian Federation in the manner provided for by the federal law and, if invited by the bodies of state power, commissions organizing elections, referendum, they shall be accredited by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Foreign (international) observers shall conduct their activities in compliance with the federal law.

Article 31. Dissolution of Commission

1. A commission may be dissolved by a court in accordance with jurisdiction established by Clause 2, Article 75 of this Federal Law in the following cases:

a) violation of electoral rights of citizens, right of citizens to participate in a referendum committed by the commission resulted in invalidation by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation in the order established by this Federal Law, other law (including on the basis of court decision) of voting results or results of elections, referendum in corresponding territory;

b) failure on the part of the commission to abide by the decision of court or superior commission, decisions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, election commission of municipal district adopted in accordance with Clause 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) failure on the part of the commission to perform its obligation related to calling elections resulted in calling election by provisional election commission in the order established by Clause 9, Article 10 of this Federal Law.

(Paragraph "c" introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. An application asking for dissolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation may be submitted to a court by a group numbering not less than one-third of the total number of members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation or deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

3. An application asking for dissolution of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation may be submitted to a court by a group numbering not less than one-third of the total number of members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation or deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation or not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of state power of this subject of the Russian Federation, or by a group of deputies of any elective Chamber of the aforementioned body numbering not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of this Chamber, and also by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. An application asking for dissolution of a district election commission at elections to legislative (representative) body of the subject of the Russian Federation may be submitted to a court by a group of deputies numbering not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of the given subject of the Russian Federation, or by a group of deputies of any elective Chamber of the aforementioned body numbering not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of such Chamber, or by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. An application asking for dissolution of election commission of municipal formation, district election commission at elections to representative body of municipal formation, territorial, precinct commission may be submitted by a group of deputies numbering not less than one third of the total number of deputies of corresponding legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, or group of deputies of any of elective Chambers of this body numbering not less than one third of the total number of deputies of this Chamber, or a group of deputies of corresponding representative body of municipal formation, or by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, or election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, and an application to dissolve election commission of settlement may be submitted by corresponding election commission of municipal district.

(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. An application to a court asking for dissolution of a commission organizing elections, a referendum may be submitted to a court after the end of the election campaign, the referendum campaign but not later than in three months after the day on which the election campaign, the referendum campaign ends. An application to a court to dissolve another commission may be submitted not later than in 30 days prior to the voting day or after the end of election campaign, referendum campaign but not later than in three months after the grounds for dissolution of the commission occur. In the event of a repeat voting, an application to a court about dissolution of a precinct commission may also be submitted in the period after the voting results for this precinct were established but not later than in seven days before the day of the repeat voting.

6. An application asking for dissolution of commission shall be accepted for consideration immediately and a decision thereon shall be taken not later than in 14 days after its acceptance, and during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, not later than in three days after the day on which the application is submitted. A case of dissolution of a commission shall be examined by a court in a full session.

7. If a court decides on dissolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, this commission shall be formed in accordance with Article 21 of this Federal Law.

8. If a court decides on dissolution of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall form, in compliance with the provisions of Clause 1, Article 29 of this Federal Law, a provisional election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation composed of new members. After the end of the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be formed by bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation in compliance with provisions of Clauses 22 and 23 of this Federal Law.

9. If a court decided on dissolution of election commission of municipal formation during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall form, in compliance with Clause 1, Article 29 of this Federal Law, a provisional commission comprised of new members. After the end of the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, election commission of municipal formation shall be formed by the representative body of municipal formation in compliance with the provisions of Clauses 22 and 24 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. If a court decides on dissolution other commissions except those referred to in Clauses 8 and 9 of this Article, such commissions composed of new members shall be formed by superior commissions during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign in compliance with provisions of Clause 1, Article 29 of this Federal Law, and after the end of the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, in compliance with provisions, Articles 22, 25, 26 of this Federal Law

11. A provisional commission shall be formed not later than in three days after the court decision on dissolution of commission comes into force. Beyond the period of election campaign, referendum campaign, a new commission shall be formed not later than in one month after of the day when the court decision on dissolution of commission comes into force (after the day when election campaign, referendum campaign ends). The first meeting of such commissions shall be called by the body that formed them. Powers of provisional commission starts from the day of its first meeting and ends on the day established by commission that formed it.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. Dissolution of a commission shall not entail termination of powers of non-voting members of such commission.

Chapter V. GUARANTEES OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AT NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES, IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVE TO CONDUCT REFERENDUM

Article 32. Right to Nominate Candidates

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation who are entitled to a passive electoral right may be nominated as candidates directly or in the list of candidates in accordance with this Federal Law, another law.

2. Direct nomination of candidates may be carried out by way of self-nomination, nomination by election association.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Nomination of candidates in the list of candidates may be carried out by political party entitled in accordance with federal law to participate in elections, or by its regional branch or other structural subdivision entitled in accordance with federal law to participate in elections of corresponding level.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of April 5, 2009, N.42-FZ)

3¹ If constitution, statutes, law of the subjects of the Russian Federation prescribe that in legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation all deputy seats are distributed among lists of candidates proportionally to the number of votes of voters received by each list of candidates, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation shall ensure guarantees of exercising of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation who are not members of election associations to be elected as deputies of respectively this legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation.
(Clause 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation who occupied the position of the President of the Russian Federation and is early removed from the position of the President of the Russian Federation as a result of impeachment, persistent inability to exercise presidential powers for health reasons, or resignation shall not be nominated as a candidate at the election called in connection to such circumstances.

5. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 11, 2004, No.159-FZ.

6. A citizen of the Russian Federation who occupied the position of the head of municipal formation and is early removed from the position of the head of municipal formation on his free will, including in connection to his election as deputy or occupation of another elective position that is incompatible with the status of the head of municipal formation, or removed from the position of the head of municipal formation by higher official of the subject of the Russian Federation (head of high executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) shall not be nominated as a candidate at the election called in connection to such circumstances.
(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. During repeat election or by-election held to fill a vacant deputy seat in operating legislative (representative) body of state power, representative body of municipal formation, a person who is a deputy (member) of this body shall not be nominated as a candidate.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is not entitled to a passive electoral right at corresponding election shall not be nominated as a candidate.

9. A candidate shall not be nominated, at one and the same election, in more than one electoral district. This rule shall not apply when a candidate is nominated by one and the same election association at one and the same election in a single-seat (or a multi-seat) electoral district and in a list of candidates.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. A candidate shall not, at one and the same election, give consent to nomination by more than one nomination initiator.

Article 33. Conditions of Candidate Nomination

1. Election commission is notified of nomination of candidate (candidates), including in the list of candidates, in the order established by the law.

(Clause 1 as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

2. Corresponding election commission is considered notified, and candidate is considered nominated, acquires the rights and responsibilities of a candidate provided for by this Federal Law, another law after a corresponding election commission receives a written application of nominated person with his consent to stand for election in corresponding electoral district and commitment not to participate in activity incompatible with status of a deputy or with occupation of other elective position. This application shall contain surname, first name and patronymic; date and place of birth; residential address; series, number and data of issue of passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport, name or code of body that issued passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport; education; main place of work or service; position (occupation, if there is no main place of work or service). If a candidate is a deputy and exercises his powers on a temporary basis, this application shall contain information on this and the name of corresponding representative body. A candidate may indicate in his application his membership in a political party or not more than one other public association registered not later than in one year prior to the voting day in the order established by the law and his status in such political party, public association on condition of presentation together with application of a document confirming this data and officially certified by permanent operating leading body of political party, other public association, or permanent operating leading body of structural subdivision of political party, other public association authorized by statute of political party, other public association. Together with application a candidate shall present a copy of passport of document equivalent to citizen's passport, copies of documents confirming the data on education, main place of work or service, position (occupation) stated in application, as well as on candidate being a deputy.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ)

2¹ If a candidate has a conviction that is not withdrawn or spent, it shall be stated in application referred to in Clause 2 of this Article.

(Clause 2¹ as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

3. Together with the notice referred to in Clause 2 of this Article, corresponding election commission shall be provided with information on amount and sources of income of candidate (each candidate in the list of candidates), and on any property owned by candidate (each candidate in the list of candidates) (including joint property), on deposits in banks, securities. The information on amount and sources of income shall be submitted in the form in accordance with Annex 1 to this Federal Law that may include additional information when it is established by federal law. Federal law may also require submission of data on amount and sources of income of property of candidate's spouse.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

4. At elections of deputies of representative bodies of municipal formation where electoral districts are formed in accordance with the average quota of voters' representation that does not exceed five thousand voters, candidates do not need to submit to corresponding election commission the information specified in Clause 3 of this Article unless otherwise provided by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. A candidate (except candidates nominated in the list of candidates) shall personally submit documents specified in Clauses 1, 2 and 3 of this Article. The documents specified in Clauses 1, 2 and 3 of this Article may be submitted, at the request of the candidate, by other persons, if the candidate is ill, held in detention as a suspect or defendant (in this case the candidate's signature in the statement shall be notarized or certified by administration of the hospital in which the candidate is being treated or the administration of the detention place where he is held as a suspect or defendant), in other cases specified by a federal law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5¹ In case of nomination of a disabled person as candidate, including in the list of candidates, who is not able to write an application with consent to stand for election in corresponding electoral district, certify signatures' list, fill in or certify other documents stipulated by the law, this person is entitled to use help of another person. Powers of a person providing assistance with filling in or certifying documents referred to in Clauses 2 or 3 of this Article shall be notarized.

(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Election commission shall apply to relevant bodies with a request to verify the data on candidates provided under Clauses 2, 2¹ and 3 of this Article and such body shall inform on the results of verification of data provided under Clauses 2 and 2¹ of this Article within ten days, and data provided under Clause 3 of this Article – within 20 days. If this application was submitted in ten or less days prior to the voting day, corresponding bodies shall inform on verification results in term established by election commission.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Election commission shall communicate to voters the data on candidates that they provided at the time of their nomination within the scope established by the election commission organizing the election.

8. Election commission shall communicate to the mass media the data on inaccuracy of information provided by candidates.

9. The period that is established by the law for nomination of candidates, lists of candidates, and collection of voter signatures in support of nominated candidates, lists of candidates or other forms of support of nomination shall be at least 40 days (in the event of an early election, at least 30 days) at elections of federal bodies of state power, at least 30 days at elections of bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and at least 20 days at elections of bodies of local self-government.

Article 34. Nomination of Candidates by Way of Self-Nomination of Candidates

1. Self-nomination of candidates shall be carried out by way of notification thereof of the election commissions where the candidates are to be registered, followed by the collection of signatures in support of such self-nominated candidates save as otherwise established by Clause 17, Article 38 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ)

2. The federal law may require that a group of a certain number of voters be formed to support a self-nominating candidate.

Article 35. Nomination of Candidates, Lists of Candidates by Election Associations

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. Election associations shall be entitled to nominate candidates, lists of candidates. In a single-seat electoral district an election association may nominate one candidate. In a multi-seat electoral district an election association may nominate a candidate for each deputy seat in this electoral district. In single electoral district an election association may nominate one list of candidates, and at elections of elective official – one candidate.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

1¹ The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may establish nomination by election association of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts as one list that defines for which single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district a candidate is nominated (hereinafter – list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts). In this case the law of the subject of the Russian Federation may establish certification of list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts by election commission organizing elections.
(Clause 1¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

2. Nomination of candidates, lists of candidates by political parties shall be regulated by the Federal Law "On Political Parties." Nomination of candidates by other public associations shall be carried out at congresses (conferences, meetings) of such public associations, their regional or local branches by secret ballot, and in compliance with other requirements of the federal law regarding nomination of candidates by political parties.
(as amended by the Federal Law of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ)

2¹ At elections of deputies of representative bodies of municipal formations public associations that are registered in accordance with the law and are not political parties, and their structural subdivisions are entitled to propose candidates for their inclusion into lists of candidates nominated by election associations. Inclusion of such candidates into lists of candidates is carried out in the order established by the Federal Law "On Political Parties".
(Clause 2¹ introduced by the Federal Law of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ)

3-8. Ceased to be into force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

9. Federal body of executive power, authorized to perform activities in the sphere of registration of public associations and political parties, its territorial branches prepare the list of political parties, other public associations that are entitled in accordance with the Federal Law "On Political Parties" and this Federal Law to participate in elections as election associations as of the day of official publication of decision on calling the elections and not later than in three days from the day of official publication of decision on calling the elections shall public this list in national and municipal print periodicals and in information-telecommunication network "Internet", and during the same period submit this list to election commission organizing the elections. At the election to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation this list shall include political parties and their corresponding regional branches entitled to participate in the elections in accordance with the Federal Law "On Political Parties". At the election to bodies of local self-government this list shall include political parties, their corresponding regional branches and other structural subdivisions entitled to participate in the elections in accordance with the Federal Law "On Political Parties", and other election associations that

meet the requirements referred to in Clause 25, Article 2 of this Federal Law and their structural subdivisions.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

10. The name of election association shall be the name indicated in the document on state registration of election association issued by the federal body of executive power authorized to perform activities in the sphere of registration of public associations. The name of election association that is not a legal entity shall be the name stated in decision of its establishment.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ, of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

11. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

12. In cases and in accordance with a procedure provided for by the law, an election association may submit its emblem to corresponding election commission. The statute of an election commission shall contain the emblem's description.

(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. The names and symbols of election associations shall not be changed after their submission to corresponding election commission.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14. The list of candidates nominated by an election association shall be submitted to the election commission organizing the election together with the documents specified in Clauses 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law. Together with the list of candidates the election commission is provided with the list of citizens included into corresponding list of candidates, members of this political party certified permanently operating leading body of political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision. If in accordance with the Federal Law "On Political Parties" the list of candidates included candidates nominated by public association that is not a political party or its structural subdivision, the corresponding election commission is provided with notarized copy of agreement referred to in Clause 1¹, Article 26 of the Federal Law "On Political Parties" and the list of citizens included into the list of candidates under this agreement. The law may require that together with the list of candidates an election association shall submit other documents related to nomination of the list of candidates. This law shall not require submission of the copy of statute of political party. Election commission within three days from the day of documents receipt certifies the list of candidates nominated by election association. Election commission may refuse certification of the list of candidates in absence of documents required by the law, non-observance of requirements to nomination of the list of candidates established by the Federal Law "On Political Parties", this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.106-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of April 5, 2009, No.142-FZ, of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ, of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

14¹ In case election association nominates candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts as a list and if such list shall be certified by election commission organizing the elections under the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, authorized representative of election association shall submit to election commission organizing the elections the following documents:

a) the list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts with indication of surname, name, patronymic of each included candidate, his date and place of birth, residential address, series, number and date of issue of passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport, name or code of body that issued passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport, as well as number and (or) name of single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district the candidate is nominated from;

b) copy of passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport of each candidate certified by authorized representative of election association;

c) decision on nomination of authorized representative of election association indicating his surname, name, patronymic of each included candidate, his date and place of birth, residential address, series, number and date of issue of passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport, main place of work or service, position (in case of no main place of work or service – occupation);

d) notarized certified copy of document on state registration of election association issued by federal body of executive power, authorized to perform activities in the sphere of registration of election associations, and if election association is not a legal entity, the decision on its establishment. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may require other way of certifying of this document;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

e) for public associations (except political parties, their regional branches and other structural subdivisions) – copy of statute of public association certified by permanently operating leading body of public association;

(Paragraph "e" as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

f) decision of the congress of political party (conference or general meeting of its regional branch, general meeting of other structural subdivision of political party, and in cases stipulated by the Federal Law "On Political Parties" – corresponding body of political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision), congress (conference, meeting) of other public association, its regional or local branch on nomination of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts as a list;

g) document confirming coordination with corresponding body of political party, other public association of persons nominated as candidates, if such coordination is stipulated by statute of political party, other public association.

(Clause 14¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

14² Election commission organizing elections within three days from the day of receipt of documents referred to in Clause 14¹ of this Article shall take decision on certifying of list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts or on refusal of this certification on reasoned grounds. Grounds for refusal of certification of the list is the absence of documents referred to in Paragraphs "a", "c"- "g", Clause 14¹ of this Article, non-observance of requirements to nomination of candidates stipulated by the Federal Law "On Political Parties", this Federal Law. Absence of copy of candidate's passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport certified by authorized representative of election association and referred to in Paragraph "b", Clause 14¹ of this Article shall be the ground for exclusion of corresponding candidate from the list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts by election commission organizing election prior to its certification.

(Clause 14² introduced by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

14³ Decision of election commission organizing elections on certifying the list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts together with copy of certified list or on refusal of its certification is provided to authorized representative of election association within one day from the moment a corresponding decision is taken. At the same time decision on certifying the list with copies of certified list (certified extracts from the list) are submitted by election commission organizing elections to corresponding district election commissions. Candidates included into certified list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts present documents referred to in Clauses 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law to district election commissions in accordance with Clause 5, Article 33 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 14³ introduced by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

14⁴ List of candidates, list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts shall be submitted to election commission organizing elections on paper in the form established by this commission. List of candidates, list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral

districts shall be sewn, numbered (except the list consisting of one page), certified with the signature of an authorized representative of election association, as well as the seal of election association (if election association is a legal entity).
(Clause 14⁴ introduced by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

14⁵ During elections to single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts in case the law of the subject of the Russian Federation does not provide for certification of the list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts besides the documents referred to in Clauses 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law candidates shall provide the following documents under Clause 5, Article 33 of this Federal Law to district election commissions:

a) notarized certified copy of document on state registration of election association issued by federal body of executive power, authorized to perform activities in the sphere of registration of public associations, and if election association is not a legal entity, a decision on its establishment. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may require another way of certifying this document;
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

b) for public associations (except political parties, their regional branches and other structural subdivisions) – copy of statute of public association certified by permanently operating leading body of public association;
(Paragraph “b” as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

c) decision of the congress of political party (conference or general meeting of its regional branch, general meeting of other structural subdivision of political party, and in cases stipulated by the Federal Law “On Political Parties” – corresponding body of political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision), congress (conference, meeting) of other public association, its regional or local branch on nomination of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts as a list;

d) document confirming coordination with corresponding body of political party, other public association of persons nominated as candidates, if such coordination is stipulated by statute of political party, other public association.
(Clause 14⁵ introduced by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

14⁶ If election association nominates candidates for several single-seat and (or) multi-seat electoral district, authorized representative of election association or the first candidate presented such documents and nominated by this election association may present documents referred to in Paragraphs “a” and “b”, Clause 14⁵ of this Article to election commission organizing registration of candidates. Other candidates nominated by this election association shall not present documents referred to in Paragraphs “a” and “b”, Clause 14⁵ of this Article to the same election commission.
(Clause 14⁶ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

15. After the list of candidates was submitted to election commission, its composition and the order in which they are arranged shall not be changed, except changes connected to withdrawn (removal) of candidates. The law may require that election association upon the agreement of candidate nominated by this election association for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district is entitled to change electoral district this candidate was initially nominated from.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

16. At least a half of the deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or in either of its Chambers shall be distributed between the lists of candidates nominated by election associations in proportion to the number of votes received by each list of candidates. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may establish a minimum percentage of votes to be received by a list of candidates in order to be admitted to such distribution of deputy seats and such percent shall not be more than 7 percent of votes of voters participated in voting. Such minimum percentage of votes shall be

established so that at least two lists of candidates that jointly received more than 50 percent of votes cast by the voters who participated in the voting shall be admitted to distribution of the deputy seats.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

17. If the minimum percent established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation and required for distribution of deputy seats in legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation exceeds 5 percent of votes of voters participated in voting, this law shall provide for deputy seats to be given to lists of candidates that received less than established minimum percent but not less than 5 percent of votes of voters participated in voting and not admitted to distribution of deputy seats. In accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation each such list of candidates receives one deputy seat. This provision shall not apply if such minimum percent established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation amounts to 5 and less percent of votes of voters participated in voting.

(Clause 17 introduced by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

18. Not less than half of deputy seats in representative body of municipal district, urban district with 20 and more deputies elected at municipal elections are distributed between lists of candidates nominated by election associations in proportion to number of votes of voters received by each list of candidates. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may provide minimum percent of votes of voters required for admission to distribution of deputy seats received by the list of candidates that may not be more 5 percent of the number of votes of voters participated in voting. Minimum percent of votes of voters shall be established so that not at least two lists of candidates that jointly received more than 50 percent of votes cast by the voters who participated in the voting shall be admitted to distribution of the deputy seats.

(Clause 18 introduced by the Federal Law of March 20, 2011, No.38-FZ)

Article 36. Procedure for Implementation of Initiative to Conduct Referendum of the Subject of the Russian Federation, Local Referendum

1. Each citizen of the Russian Federation or group of citizens entitled to participate in a corresponding referendum shall be entitled to form a referendum initiative group, the number of members in the group being not less than 20 persons entitled to participate in a referendum, for putting forward an initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, and not less than 10 for putting forward an initiative to conduct a local referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. A referendum initiative group shall submit an application for registration of the group to the election commission of corresponding level that shall, as of the day of such submission, act as a referendum commission.

3. The application of a referendum initiative group shall contain question (questions) proposed by the referendum initiative group, and contain surname, first name and patronymic, date and place of birth, series, number and the date of issue of the passport or document equivalent to a passport of a citizen, name or code of the issuing body, and residential address of each member of the initiative group and each person authorized to act on its behalf in the territory in which the referendum is to be conducted. The application of the initiative group shall be signed by all members of the said group.

4. Attached to the application shall be the minutes of the meeting of the referendum initiative group at which a decision was taken to put forward an initiative to conduct a referendum.

5. Within 15 days after receipt of the application of the referendum initiative group, the commission referred to in Clause 2 of this Article shall consider this application and the attached documents and decide as follows:

if the application and the documents meet the requirements of this Federal Law, the constitution (statute), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of the municipal formation, to forward thereof to the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or to the representative body of municipal formation authorized by the constitution (statute), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation to make a decision to call a referendum;
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ) otherwise, to refuse to register the initiative group.

6. The legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or the representative body of municipal formation referred to in Clause 5 of this Article, shall make sure that the question proposed for a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law in accordance with a procedure and within the period established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of the municipal formation. This period shall not exceed 20 days from the day on which the application for a referendum and the attached documents were submitted to corresponding body by the referendum initiative group.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, №.93-FZ)

7. Within 5 days after an application of an initiative group to conduct a referendum in the subject of the Russian Federation and attached documents are received, the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation shall notify the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation of this initiative.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. If the legislative (representative) body of state power or the representative body of municipal formation establishes that the question to be put to a referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law, the commission indicated in Clause 2 of this Article shall register the referendum initiative group, issue a registration certificate to the group and inform the mass media about this. A decision to register a referendum initiative group shall be taken within fifteen days of the date when the legislative (representative) body of state power or the representative body of municipal formation establishes that the question to be put to a referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. A registration certificate the form of which shall be approved by the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation and which is issued to the referendum initiative group, shall be valid for the period established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of the municipal formation.

10. If a dispute arises over the competence in connection with the initiative to conduct a referendum in the subject of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to suggest that the body which established that the question shall be put to a referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law form a conciliatory commission. Representatives of the referendum initiative group in the subject of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to participate in the work of the conciliatory commission. The period

indicated in Clause 8 of this Article shall be extended for as long as the conciliatory commission operates.

11. If legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or representative body of municipal formation establishes that the question to be put to a referendum does not meet the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law, the commission indicated in Clause 2 of this Article shall refuse to register the referendum initiative group.

(Clause 11 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. If the registration of a referendum initiative group is refused, it shall be provided with a decision of the corresponding commission indicating the reasons for the refusal

13. The reason for the refusal to register a referendum initiative group may only be a violation by the initiative group of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, the constitution (statute), the laws of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation. The refusal of registration may be appealed in a court in the order established by Article 75 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 37. Collection of Signatures in Support of Nomination of Candidates, Lists of Candidates, Referendum Initiative

1. In accordance with the procedure established by law, signatures of voters, referendum participants may be collected in support of nomination of candidates, lists of candidates, a referendum initiative. The number of signatures required for registration of candidates, lists of candidates shall be established by law and shall not exceed 2 percent of the number of voters registered in the territory of the electoral district in accordance with Clause 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law. The number of signatures required to be collected in support of an initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be established by law and shall not exceed 2 percent of the number of referendum participants registered in the territory of the referendum in accordance with Clause 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law, and in support of an initiative to conduct a local referendum, 5 percent of the number of referendum participants registered in the territory of the referendum in accordance with Clause 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law but not less than 25 signatures.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. The number of signatures required by law for registration of candidates in a multi-seat electoral district shall not exceed 2 percent of the number of voters registered in the territory of the corresponding electoral district divided by the number of deputy seats but not less than 10 signatures.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. The quotas for collection of voters' signatures in the territory of one subject of the Russian Federation at elections of federal bodies of state power may be established by the federal laws.

4. No quotas shall be established for the collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants at elections of bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum for a part of the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, a part of the territory of the municipal formation.

5. Signature lists shall be prepared at the expense of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fun. At elections to federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the

subjects of the Russian Federation, at proposal of initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation signatures may be collected starting from the day of payment for production of signature lists. At elections to bodies of local self-government, at proposal of initiative to conduct a local referendum, signatures may be collected from the day following the day when the commission received a notice about nomination of a candidate, certification of list of candidates, registration of referendum initiative group. The period established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation for collection of signatures of referendum participants in support of an initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be at least 30 days, in support of an initiative to conduct a local referendum, at least 20 days. (Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

6. Signatures may be collected only among voters who are entitled to an active electoral right in the electoral district that nominated a candidate, list of candidates or among referendum participants who are entitled to participate in a relevant referendum. Participation of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, governing bodies of organizations of any form of ownership, institutions, voting members of election commissions in signature collection, as well as coercion of voters, referendum participants in the process of signature collection and their remuneration for signing is not allowed. Collection of signatures at places of work, study, places where and when salaries, pensions, allowances, grants, other social benefits are paid, and during provision of charity is prohibited. Signatures collected with violation of provisions of this Clause are invalid. (as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ), of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

7. A legally capable citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained to the age of 18 years by the time of signature collection shall be entitled to collect signatures of voters, referendum participants. A candidate, an election association, an authorized representative of the referendum initiative group may conclude a contract for signature collection with a person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants. Remuneration for such work shall be paid only through the electoral funds of the candidate, election association out of referendum funds established by the referendum initiative group. (as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21m 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

8. The form of a signature sheet in support of nomination of federal lists of candidates for deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, nomination (self-nomination) of candidates for the President of the Russian Federation, the procedure of its filling in and certification, verification of signatures of voters and grounds for recognizing voters' signatures as unauthentic and (or) invalid shall be established by federal law. Signature lists for collection of signatures of voters in support of nomination of lists of candidates, nomination (self-nomination) of candidates for deputies of legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation are prepared in accordance with forms in Annexes 4 and 5 to this Federal Law, in support of nomination (self-nomination) of candidate for head of municipal formation – in accordance with Annex 6 to this Federal Law, in support of nomination of lists of candidates, nomination (self-nomination) of candidates for deputies of representative bodies of municipal formation – in accordance with Annexes 7 and 8 to this Federal Law. Signature lists for collection of signatures of referendum participants in support of an initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum are prepared in accordance with forms in Annex 9 to this Federal Law. Form of signature lists with signatures of voters in support of nomination of members of elective body of local self-government, the procedure of its filling in and certification, verification of signatures of voters and grounds for recognizing voters' signatures unauthentic and (or) invalid is established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation. (Clause 8 as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

9. If a candidate for deputies of legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, candidate for head of municipal formation, candidate for deputies of representative body of municipal formation, whose data are indicated in signature list has a conviction that is not withdrawn or spent, data on candidate's conviction shall be indicated in a signature list. If a candidate for deputies of legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, candidate for head of municipal formation, candidate for deputies of representative body of municipal formation, whose data are indicated in signature list, in application on his consent to stand for body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, body of local self-government in accordance with Clause 2, Article 33 of this Federal Law stated his membership in political party of this election association, this data shall be indicated in signature list.

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

10. At elections to body of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, at putting forward of an initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, the signature list shall contain the number of special electoral account, special account of referendum fund used for payment for production of signature lists.

(Clause 10 introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

11. Voter, referendum participant shall enter his signature and date in signature lists, as well as his surname, name, patronymic, date of birth (if 18 on the voting day – additionally day and month of birth), residential address, series, number of passport or document equivalent to a citizen's passport. Data in voter, referendum participant who enter their signatures and dates in signature lists, may be entered into signature list at request of voter, referendum participant by the person collecting signatures in support of candidate, list of candidates, initiative to conduct a referendum. This data is entered only by hand, and use of pencils shall not be allowed. Voter, referendum participant shall personally enter signature and date. Voter is entitled to sign in support of nomination of various candidates, lists of candidates, but only once in support one and the same candidate, list of candidates. Referendum participant is entitled to sign in support of one and the same initiative to conduct referendum only once.

(Clause 11 as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

12. Each signature list shall be certified by signature of a person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants. At certification of signature list a person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants shall personally enter his surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, residential address, series, number and date of issue of passport or a document equivalent to a citizen's passport, name or code of the issuing body, and also his signature and the date of signature.

(Clause 12 introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

13. Each signature list with voters' signatures in support of nomination of lists of candidates shall be certified by authorized representative of election association. Each signature list with voters' signatures in support of nomination (self-nomination) of candidate shall be certified by a candidate. Each signature list with voters' signatures in support of nomination of an initiative to conduct a referendum shall be certified by authorized representative of referendum initiative group. When certifying a signature list an authorized representative of election association, candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group shall enter their signature and the date of signature opposite their surnames, names and patronymics.

(Clause 13 introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

14. When collecting signatures in support of nomination of candidate, list of candidates, initiative to conduct a referendum, a signature list can be filled on front and back of the page. The back shall be a continuation of front with single numeration of signatures, and certifying notes shall be made on the back of signature list directly after the last voter's signature.

(Clause 14 introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

15. Upon completion of voters' collection candidate, authorized representatives of election association, authorized representatives of referendum initiative group shall count the total number of collected signatures of voters, referendum participants and compile a protocol in two copies of the results of signature collection in the form established by commission organizing elections, referendum. Each copy of protocol shall be signed respectively by candidate, authorized representative of election association, authorized representative of referendum initiative group.

(Clause 15 introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

16. Signature lists to be submitted to commission shall be sewn and numbered. Together with signature lists commission shall be provided with a protocol of results of signatures collection on paper in two counterparts and in machine-readable format. The law may establish that during the election of deputies of legislative (representative) body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, at putting forward of initiative to conduct a referendum, a candidate, election association, referendum initiative group shall prepare and submit to commission a list of person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants, notarize data on persons collecting signatures and their signatures, and also submit to commission a list of such persons in machine-readable format in the form established by commission organizing elections, referendum. The law shall not require submission of list of persons collecting signatures of voters if all signatures were collected by a candidate nominated directly in support of his own candidacy.

(Clause 16 introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

Article 38. Registration of Candidates, Lists of Candidates, Procedure for Calling of Referendum

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. A candidate, a list of candidates shall be registered by corresponding election commission upon availability of documents stated in Clauses 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law, other documents required by the law, to be submitted to corresponding election commission for notice on nomination of candidate, lists of candidates, and upon availability of required number of signatures of voters collected in support of nomination of candidate, list of candidates (unless otherwise is provided for by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation in accordance with Clause 17 of this Article), or upon availability of decision of political party stated in Clause 16, 16² or 16⁴ of this Article. Availability of required number of signatures of referendum participants collected in support of initiative to conduct a referendum, put forward by referendum initiative group shall be the ground for calling a referendum in the order established by the law.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ, of March 20, 2011, No.38-FZ)

¹ If corresponding election commission identifies that data on candidates is incomplete or requirements to preparation of documents are not met, not later than in three days before the meeting of such election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of candidate, list of candidates, such election commission shall notify a candidate, election association to this effect. Not later than in one day before the day of the meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of candidate, list of candidates, a candidate is entitled to make supplements and amendments to documents that contain data on him, and election association – to documents that contain data on candidate (candidates) nominated by such association, including within the list of candidates, and to other documents (except signature lists with signatures of voters and the list of persons collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants) submitted to election commission for the purpose of notifying candidate (candidates), list of candidates of nomination and registration, in order to bring such

documents in compliance with requirements of the law, including with regards to their preparation. Candidate, election association is entitled to replace the submitted document in case it was prepared with violation of the law requirements.

(Clause 1¹ introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

2. The number of signatures of voters, referendum participants collected in support of candidate, list of candidates, referendum initiative and submitted for the purposes of registration of candidate, list of candidates, for calling a referendum may exceed the number of signatures required for such registration, but not more than by 10 percent unless otherwise is established by the federal law. If registration of candidate, list of candidates, calling a referendum requires less than 40 signatures, the number of submitted signatures of voters, referendum participants may exceed the number of signatures required for registration of candidate, list of candidates, for calling a referendum, but by no more than four signatures.

3. The law shall provide for a procedure to check compliance of the procedure of collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants, preparation of signature lists, authenticity of data on voters, referendum participants and their signatures, as well as grounds for invalidation of signatures. All or some of the signatures submitted may be subjected to verification, but not less than randomly selected (drawn) 20 percent of the number of signatures required by law for registration of candidate, list of candidates, for calling a referendum. Verification may be carried out by members of subordinate commissions, experts out of specialists of internal affairs bodies, justice institutions, military commissariats, bodies of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation, and other state bodies. Opinions of experts may form the grounds for recognizing data on voters, referendum participants and their signatures unauthentic and (or) invalid. Opinions of experts shall be stated in written form in signature lists verification statements or in other documents.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

3¹ GAS "Vybory" is used to identify authenticity of data on voters, referendum participants contained in signature lists during election of deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, head and deputies of representative bodies of urban district with no territorial division, municipal district, city territory of the federal city, at putting forward of initiative to conduct a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, referendum of urban district with no territorial division, municipal district, city territory of the federal city, including the registry of voters, referendum participants. GAS "Vybory" is used to identify authenticity of data on voters, referendum participants contained in signature lists during election of head and deputies of representative body of urban district with territorial division, settlement, at putting forward of initiative to conduct a referendum of urban district with territorial division, settlement by decision of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

4. Signatures in signature lists excluded (crossed out) by persons initiating nomination of candidate, list of candidates, initiating referendum are not subject to verification and account if such actions are specifically noted by them in signature list or in protocol of results of signatures collection before submission of signature lists to commission.

5. No abbreviations of words or dates contained in the data on voter, referendum participant shall constitute grounds for declaring his signature invalid, provided such abbreviations do not prevent unambiguous interpretation of such data.

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

6. Any candidate that submitted the number of voters' signatures required for registration, his authorized representatives or attorneys, authorized representatives or attorneys of any election association that nominated candidates, lists of candidates and submitted the number of voters' signatures required for registration, authorized representatives of referendum initiative group that submitted the number of referendum participants' signatures are entitled to be present at verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants. Candidate, authorized representative of election association, referendum initiative group that submitted the established number of signatures of voters, referendum participants shall be notified of corresponding verification.

6¹ On the results of verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants and corresponding data in voters, referendum participants contained in signature lists, the signature of voter, referendum participant may be recognized authentic or unauthentic and (or) invalid. (Clause 6¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

6² If during verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants several signatures of one and the same voter, referendum participant in support of nomination of one and the same candidate, list of candidates, one and the same initiative to conduct a referendum are detected, only one signature is recognized as authentic, and other signatures are recognized as unauthentic. (Clause 6² introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

6³ Signature entered by a person on behalf of another person is recognized unauthentic on the ground of an opinion of an expert engaged in verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article. (Clause 6³ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

6⁴ The following signatures are recognized as invalid:

a) signatures of voters, referendum participants collected prior to the day of payment for production of signature lists, and at election to bodies of local self-government, at putting forward of initiative to conduct a local referendum – prior to the day following the day of notifying of commission on nomination of candidate, certification of list of candidates, registration of local referendum initiative group;

b) signatures of persons without the active electoral right, right to participate in referendum;

c) signatures of voters, referendum participants that entered incorrect data into signature list. In this case a signature may be recognized as invalid upon availability of official certificate of body in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation, or opinion of an expert engaged in verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article;

d) signatures of voters, referendum participants without provision of data required in accordance with this Federal Law and (or) without personal entering of the date by voter, referendum participant into a signature list;

e) signatures of voters, referendum participants whose data was entered into a signature list other than by handwriting or with a pencil;

f) signatures of voters, referendum participants with corrections in dates of their entering into a signature list, if such corrections were not specified by voters, referendum participants, as well as signatures of voters, referendum participants, dates of which were entered other than by handwriting – on the ground of opinion of an expert engaged in verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article;

g) signatures of voters, referendum participants with corrections in corresponding data on voters, referendum participants, if these corrections were not specified by voters, referendum participants or persons collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants;

h) all signatures of voters, referendum participants in signature list if such signature list was not personally certified by person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants and (or) authorized representative of election association that nominated list of candidates, candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group, or at least one of such signatures is unauthentic, or if such signature list was certified by a person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants who did not attain to the age of 18 years and (or) such person was recognized by the court as incompetent, or if at least one of date of certification of signature list was not stated or was not stated personally, or if the data on person collection signatures of voters, referendum participants and (or) the date of signing this list by such person and (or) authorized representative of election association that nominated the list of candidates, by candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group contain corrections not specified by person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants, authorized representative of election association that nominated the list of candidates, by candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group and if the data on person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants, and (or) authorized representative of election association that nominated the list of candidates, candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group entered into signature list are not complete or accurate, or if the data on person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants was not entered by him personally;

i) all signatures of voters, referendum participants in signature lists, form of which does not meet the requirements established by Annexes 4-9 to this Federal Law, and (or) which does not contain data required by Clauses 9 and 10 of this Federal Law, and (or) prepared without compliance with requirements stipulated by Clause 5, Article 37 of this Federal Law;

j) signatures of voters, referendum participants collected with violation of requirements stipulated by Clause 6, Article 37 of this Federal Law;

k) signatures of voters, referendum participants, if data in such lists was entered not by voters, referendum participants signing the lists and not by person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants entered into such list – on the grounds of opinion of an expert engaged in verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article;

l) all signatures of voters, referendum participants in signature list that was certified by a person collecting signatures and not included in the list prepared in accordance with Clause 16, Article 37 of this Federal Law (if preparation of the list of persons collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants, is required by the law);

m) signatures of voters, referendum participants that were entered into signature list after certification of such signature list by person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants, and (or) authorized representative of election association that nominated list of candidates, candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group;

n) all signatures of voters, referendum participants in signature list, if the certifying note of person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants was entered after certifying note of authorized representative of election association that nominated list of candidates, candidate, authorized representative of referendum initiative group.

(Clause 6⁴ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

6⁵ If a signature list contains filled line (lines) that does (do) not meet requirements of this Federal Law, only one signature in such line (lines) shall not be accounted save as otherwise stipulated by Paragraphs “h”, “i”, “l” and “n”, Clause 6⁴ of this Article.

(Clause 6⁵ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

6⁶ Corrections and erasures specifically stipulated by voter, referendum participant certifying signature list shall not serve as grounds for invalidation of signature of voter, referendum participant, if it is not recognized as unauthentic or invalid in accordance with Paragraphs “h”, “i”, “l” and “n”, Clause 6⁴ of this Article.

(Clause 6⁶ introduced by the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, No.259-FZ)

7. Upon completion of verification of signature list a final protocol is prepared that states the number of declared signatures, number of submitted signatures and number of verified signatures of voters, referendum participants, as well as the number of signatures recognized as unauthentic and (or) invalid with stating the grounds for such recognition. Copy of protocol shall be given to candidate, authorized representative of election association, referendum initiative group not later than in two days before the meeting of commission that will consider the issue of registration of this candidate, list of candidates, conduct of referendum. If verification of signature lists carried out by commission leads to consequences stipulated in Paragraph "e", Clause 24 or Paragraph "d", Clause 25 of this Article, a candidate, authorized representative of election association, referendum initiative group is entitled to receive copies of signature lists verification statements together with copy of final protocol provided by commission, that will indicate grounds (reasons) for recognition of signatures of voters, referendum participants as unauthentic and (or) invalid, with indication of numbers of folder, signature list and line in signature list that contains each of such signatures, as well as receive copies of official documents on the grounds of which corresponding signatures were recognized as unauthentic and (or) invalid. Final protocol shall be attached to decision of commission on registration of candidate, list of candidates or on refusal to register candidate, list of candidates, on results of putting forward of initiative to conduct a referendum. Repeat verification of signature lists after commission takes such decision can be carried out only court or commission in accordance with Clause 6, Article 76 of this Federal Law and only in relation to signatures subject to verification.
(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

8-15. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ.

16. Registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by political parties which federal list of candidates on the basis of officially published results of the closest previous election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation was admitted to distribution of deputy seat (federal list of candidates received deputy seat in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law "On Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation"), as well as registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional branches or other structural subdivisions of such political party (if it is provided for by statute of political party) shall be carried out without collection of signatures on condition that such official publication was made before the documents required for registration of candidate, list of candidates were submitted to election commission. Registration of such candidate, list of candidates is carried out on the basis of decision on nomination of such candidate, list of candidates taken by political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision in the order established by the federal law. On the basis of such decision collection of signatures is not required for registration of candidate, list of candidates nominated by political party which lists of candidates were admitted to distribution of deputy seats (lists of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation under Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law) in legislative (representative) bodies of state power operating as of the day of official publication of decision on calling election in not less than one third of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional branches or other structural subdivisions of such political party (if it is provided for by statute of political party).
(as amended by the Federal Laws of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, of June 3, 2009, No.108-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

16¹ List of political party subject to provisions of Clause 16 of this Article is prepared by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and published on its site in information-telecommunication network "Internet" and updated in accordance with results of election of deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power.
(Clause 16¹ introduced by the Federal Law of June 3, 2009, No.108-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

16² During election to legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, as well as during the election to bodies of local self-government in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, registration of candidate, list of candidates nominated by political party which list of candidates on the basis of officially published results of the closest previous election of deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power of this subject of the Russian Federation was admitted to distribution of deputy seats (list of candidates received deputy seat in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation under Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law), as well as registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional branches or other structural subdivisions of such political party (if it is provided for by statute of political party) shall be carried out without collection of signatures on condition that such official publication was made before the documents required to registration of candidate, list of candidates were submitted to election commission. Registration of such candidate, list of candidates is carried out on the basis of decision on nomination this candidate, list of candidates taken by political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision in the order established by the federal law.
(Clause 16² introduced by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

16³ List of political parties subject to provisions of Clause 16² of this Article is prepared by election commission of corresponding subject of the Russian Federation and published on its site in information-telecommunication network "Internet" and updated in accordance with results of election of deputies of legislative (representative) body of state power of this subject of the Russian Federation.
(Clause 16³ introduced by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

16⁴ During elections to bodies of local self-government of municipal formation registration of candidate, list of candidates nominated by political party which list of candidates on the basis of officially published results of the closest previous election of deputies of representative body of this municipal formation (during elections to bodies of local self-government of settlement – also on the basis of officially published results of the closest previous elections of deputies representative body of corresponding municipal district) was admitted to distribution of deputy seats, as well as registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional branch or other structural subdivisions of such political party (if it is provided for by the statute of political party) is carried out without collection of signatures of voters on conditions that such official publication was made before documents required for registration of candidate, list of candidates were submitted to corresponding election commission. Registration of such candidate, list of candidates is carried out on the basis of decision on nomination of this candidate, list of candidates taken by political party, its regional branches and other structural subdivision in the order established by the federal law.
(Clause 16⁴ introduced by the Federal Law of March 20, 2011, No.38-FZ)

16⁵ List of political parties subject to provisions of Clause 16⁴ of this Article is prepared by election commission organizing elections of deputies of representative body of corresponding municipal formation and published on its site and (or) at its request on site of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation in information-telecommunication network "Internet" and updated in accordance with results of election of deputies of representative body of this municipal formation.
(Clause 16⁵ introduced by the Federal Law of March 20, 2011, No.38-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

17. During elections to representative bodies of municipal formations with the average quota of voters' representation established by the law of less than ten thousand signatures of voters in support of nomination of candidates is not required if the law of the subject of the Russian Federation provides for registration of candidates on the basis of applications.

(as amended by the Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ)

18. Within an established period that shall not exceed ten days, election commission shall check the compliance of the procedure of nomination of candidate, list of candidates with the requirements of the law and shall decide to register candidate, list of candidates or to refuse such registration.

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

19. At one and the same election, a candidate may only be registered in one electoral district. This rule shall not apply to registration of candidate when the candidate is nominated at the same election, by one election association simultaneously in a single-seat (or multi-seat) electoral district and in a list of candidates.

20. During registration of candidate nominated by election association, decision of election commission shall indicate the fact of his nomination by election association and the name of this election association. If a candidate is registered both in a single-seat (or multi-seat) electoral district and in a list of candidates, the decision of election commission shall indicate the fact that the candidate is also registered in the list of candidates.

21. If the procedure of putting forward the initiative to conduct a referendum complies with the requirements of the law, the statute of a municipal formation, referendum commission specified in Clause 2, Article 36 of this Federal Law shall, within 15 days of the date when referendum initiative group submits signature lists and a protocol of signature collection, forward these signature lists, a copy of the signature collection protocol and a copy of its decision to the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or to the representative body of municipal formation which in accordance with the constitution (statute), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of municipal formation are authorized to take a decision to call a referendum. A copy of such commission's decision shall also be sent to referendum initiative group.

22. If a dispute on competence in connection with the calling of a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation arises between bodies of state power of the Russian Federation and bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, preparation of the referendum shall be suspended pending the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

23. In the event of a refusal to register candidate, list of candidates, removal of candidate out of the list of candidate, refusal to call a referendum, a corresponding commission shall, within one day of the date of the decision on refusal of registration, removal out of the list, refusal to conduct a referendum, issue to candidate, authorized representative of election association that nominated candidate, list of candidates, authorized representative of referendum initiative group respectively a copy of the commission's decision stating the grounds for the refusal, removal of candidate out of the list of candidates.

24. The following may constitute grounds for refusal to register a candidate:

a) candidate is not entitled to a passive electoral right;

b) candidates nominated by a political party do not observe requirements to nomination of candidate specified by the Federal Law "On Political Parties"; candidates nominated by other public associations do not observe requirements of Clause 2, Article 35 of this Federal Law;

c) documents presented for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of candidate do not include documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law for the purpose of notifying of nomination and (or) registration of candidate;

(Paragraph "c" as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

c¹) as of the day preceding the day of meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of candidate documents submitted for the purpose of notifying

of nomination and registration of candidate contain documents prepared with violation of requirements of this Federal Law, other law;

(Paragraph "c¹" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

c²) as of the day preceding the day of meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of candidate documents submitted for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of candidate do not contain data stipulated by Clauses 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law, other law;

(Paragraph "c²" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

d) out of signatures of voters submitted for registration of candidate over 10 percent of signatures were collected in places where collection of signatures is not allowed in accordance with the law, unless otherwise is provided for by the federal law;

e) for registration of a candidate, a list of candidates, for calling a referendum, any document is not available in the set of documents submitted for registration, provided for by this Federal Law, another law;

d) insufficient number of submitted authentic and valid signatures of voters submitted for registration of candidate, or identification of 10 and more percent of unauthentic and (or) invalid signatures out of total number of signatures selected for verification, unless otherwise is provided for by the federal law. Identification of 10 and more percent of unauthentic and (or) invalid signatures out of total number of signatures selected for verification shall not become the ground for refusal to register a candidate when less than 200 signatures shall be submitted for his registration, if there is a sufficient number of authentic signatures for registration of candidate;

f) candidate conceals data on conviction that is not withdrawn or spent that shall be provided in accordance with Clause 2¹, Article 33 of this Federal Law;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

g) candidate did not establish electoral fund (except cases when in accordance with Article 58 of this Federal Law electoral fund is not required to be established). Lack of funds in such electoral fund shall not become the ground for refusal to register a candidate;

h) during financing of his election campaign a candidate uses monetary funds, except out of his electoral fund, that are over 5 percent of limit expenditure out of electoral fund established by the law;

i) during financing of his election campaign a candidate uses over 5 percent of limit expenditure of electoral fund established by the law;

j) fact of non-observance of restrictions stipulated by Clause 1 or 1¹, Article 56 of this Federal Law during election campaigning that was established by the court;

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

k) candidate repeatedly abused his official position;

l) registration of candidate in other electoral district at these elections, except when candidate is nominated by election association simultaneously in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district and in the list of candidates;

m) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ.

n) candidate, his attorney, authorized representative for financial issues and other person or organization acting by their order bribed voters, which is established by the court.

(Paragraph "n" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

25. The following may constitute grounds for refusal to register candidates, refusal to conduct a referendum:

a) non-observance of requirements to nomination of list of candidates stipulated by the Federal Law "On Political Parties", except requirements stipulated by Clause 3¹, Article 36 of this Federal Law;

(Paragraph "a" as amended by the Federal Law of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ)

b) documents presented for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of list of candidates do not include documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law for the purpose of notifying of nomination and (or) registration of list of candidates (except lack of such documents in relation to certain candidates included in the list of candidates);

(Paragraph "b" as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

b¹) as of the day preceding the day of meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of list of candidates documents submitted for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of list of candidates contain documents prepared with violation of requirements of this Federal Law, other law (except cases of improper preparation of documents in relation to certain candidates included in the list of candidates);

(Paragraph "b¹" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

b²) as of the day preceding the day of meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of list of candidates documents submitted for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of list of candidates do not contain data stipulated by this Federal Law, other law (except cases of lack of data on certain candidates included in the list of candidates);

(Paragraph "b²" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

b³) documents submitted for calling a referendum do not contain documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law for the purpose of calling a referendum

(Paragraph "b³" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

c) out of signatures of voters, referendum participants submitted for registration of list of candidate, calling a referendum over 10 percent of signatures were collected in places where collection of signatures is not allowed in accordance with the law, unless otherwise is provided for by the federal law;

d) insufficient number of submitted authentic and valid signatures of voters, referendum participants submitted for registration of list of candidates, calling a referendum, or identification of 10 and more percent of unauthentic and (or) invalid signatures out of total number of signatures selected for verification, unless otherwise is provided for by the federal law. Identification of 10 and more percent of unauthentic and (or) invalid signatures out of total number of signatures selected for verification shall not become the ground for refusal to register a list of candidates, calling a referendum when less than 200 signatures shall be submitted for registration of list of candidates, calling a referendum, if there is a sufficient number of authentic signatures for registration of list of candidates, calling a referendum;

e) association, referendum initiative group did not establish electoral fund, referendum fund (except cases when in accordance with Article 58 of this Federal Law referendum fund is not required to be established). Lack of funds in such electoral fund, referendum fund shall not become the ground for refusal to register a list of candidates, refusal to conduct a referendum;

f) during financing of election campaign election association and referendum initiative group financing activities aimed at putting forward of initiative to conduct a referendum, organizing of collection of signatures of referendum participants and achievement of a certain result during a referendum use funds that are over 5 percent of limit expenditure out of electoral fund, referendum fund established by the law;

g) number of candidates removed out of the list of candidates on the basis of applications of candidates on withdrawal of their candidacies, decision of election association (except withdrawal under compelling circumstance), as well as decision of election commission taken in regards to the grounds for such removal stipulated by Clause 26 of this Article, exceeds the total number of candidates in certified list of candidates at election to federal bodies of state power by more than 25 percent and by more than 50 percent of the total number of candidates in certified list of candidates at election to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government;

h) fact of non-observance of restrictions stipulated by Clause 1 or 1¹, Article 56 of this Federal Law by election association, referendum initiative group that was established by the court;

(Paragraph "h" as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

i) authorized representative or attorney of election association, member or authorized representative of referendum initiative group repeatedly abused their official positions;

j) removal of candidates as the result of which the number of regional groups of candidates in the list of candidates is less than established by the law;

k) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ.

l) election association, its attorney, authorized representative and other person or organization acting by their order bribed voters, which is established by the court.
(Paragraph "m" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

26. The following may constitute grounds for removal of candidates out of certified list of candidates:

a) candidate is not entitled to a passive electoral right;
b) candidate conceals data on conviction that is not withdrawn or spent that shall be provided in accordance with Clause 2¹, Article 33 of this Federal Law;
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

c) fact of non-observance of restrictions stipulated by Clause 1 or 1¹, Article 56 of this Federal Law during election campaigning that was established by the court;
(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

d) candidate repeatedly abused his official position;
e) registration of candidate in another list of candidates at these elections;
f) certified list of candidates nominated by political party, as well as certified list of candidates nominated by regional branch or other structural subdivision of political party (if it is provided for in the statute of political party) includes a candidate who is a member of another political party;
(Paragraph "e" introduced by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.106-FZ)

g) documents presented for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of list of candidates do not include documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law for the purpose of notifying of nomination and (or) registration of candidate included in the list of candidates;
(Paragraph "g" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

h) as of the day preceding the day of meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of list of candidates documents submitted for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of list of candidates contain documents in relation to a candidate prepared with violation of requirements of this Federal Law, other law;
(Paragraph "h" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

i) as of the day preceding the day of meeting of election commission that shall consider the issue of registration of list of candidates documents submitted for the purpose of notifying of nomination and registration of list of candidates do not contain data in relation to a candidate stipulated by Clauses 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law, other law;
(Paragraph "i" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

27. The list of grounds for refusal to register a candidate, a list of candidates, for removal of a candidate out of list of candidates by a decision of the commission, refusal to call a referendum established by Clauses 24-26 of this Article shall be exhaustive.

28. If the commission makes a decision to refuse to call a referendum on the issue proposed for putting to the referendum, members of corresponding respective initiative group shall not, for two years after the day such decision is taken, repeat the initiative to conduct a referendum on the issue with the same meaning or content.

29. If the registration of a candidate, a list of candidates is refused, re-nomination of the candidate, list of candidates shall be possible in compliance with the procedure and within the time limits established by the law.

30. A candidate nominated within the list of candidates, not later than in 15 days prior to the voting day and in presence of compelling circumstances not later than in one day prior to the voting day (including repeat voting), candidate nominated directly not later than in five days prior to the voting day and in presence of compelling circumstances not later than in one day prior to the voting day (including repeat voting) is entitled to submit to corresponding election commission a written application on withdrawal of his candidacy. If a candidate nominated

within a list of candidates submits such application before certification of list of candidates, election commission shall remove such candidate out of the list of candidates prior to such certification. If a candidate that submitted an application on withdrawal of his candidacy is nominated within a list of candidates, election commission that certified or registered a list of candidates shall remove such candidate out of the list of candidates. If a candidate nominated directly and submitted an application on withdrawal of his candidacy was registered, election commission that registered such candidate shall take a decision on cancelation of his registration.

31. The body of an election association that took the decision to nominate a candidate in a single electoral district, a list of candidates shall be entitled to take a decision to recall this candidate, list of candidates. Such decision shall be submitted to the election commission that registered this candidate, list of candidates not later than in five days before the voting day (including the day of repeat voting). If candidate, list of candidates was registered, election commission that registered candidate, list of candidates shall take a decision to cancel the registration of candidate, list of candidates.

32. An election association in the order and on the grounds stipulated by the federal law and (or) the statute of election association is entitled to recall a candidate nominated by such association in a single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district and in the order stipulated by its statute to remove some candidates from the list of candidates nominated by such association. Candidate nominated in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district may be recalled not later than in five days prior to the voting day, and candidate included into the list of candidates may be removed out of this list not later than in 15 days prior to the voting day, save as referred to in Clause 11, Article 76 of this Federal Law. Persons who previously were not in the list of candidates shall not be included in such list, and change of order of candidates in the list except when this change is connected to change of order due to withdrawal or removal of certain candidates is not allowed.

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

33. If, by voting day, the number of registered candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district is smaller than the established number of deputy seats or is equal to this number, or if only one candidate, list of candidates is registered in single electoral district or there are not registered candidate, list of candidates at all, voting in such electoral district shall be postponed by decision of corresponding election commission for the purpose of additional nomination of candidates, lists of candidates and performance of further election activities, except for cases stipulated by clause 35 of this Article. The voting then is carried out on the nearest day established by Article 10 of this Federal Law when election can be called.

34. If additional nomination of candidates, lists of candidates is required due to the fact that a registered candidate without any compelling circumstances withdrew his candidacy or election association without any compelling circumstances recalled a registered candidate, registered list of candidates, or due to the fact that registration of candidate, list of candidates was canceled by court or election commission in accordance with Clause 3 or 4, Article 76 of this Federal Law (except cancelation of registration due to withdrawal of candidate out of the list of candidates because of compelling circumstances), all expenses incurred by election commission organizing elections during preparation and conduct of the election shall be compensated at the expense of this candidate, election association.

35. If the circumstances referred to in Clause 33 of this Article occur and there is only one registered candidate in single-seat or single electoral district, voting for such candidate is allowed at a repeat voting, as well as (if it is established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation) at election of deputies of representative bodies of municipal formations. At this a candidate is considered elected, if he received at least 50 percent of the votes of voters participated in voting.

36. Circumstances compelling a registered candidate to withdraw his candidacy and election association to recall their nominated registered candidates mean declaration of a registered candidate partially capable by court, serious health problems of registered candidate, his close relatives. According to the law such circumstances may include election (appointment) of registered candidate to state or municipal position (at corresponding level of elections) established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the constitution (statute), law of the subject of the Russian Federation, statute of municipal formation. Circumstances compelling an election association to recall a list of candidates mean withdrawal under compelling circumstances (including death) of candidates that occupied three top lines in the list of candidates, or more than 25 percent of candidates out of the list of candidates at election to federal bodies of state power, or more than 50 percent of candidates out of the list of candidates at election to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government.

Chapter VI. STATUS OF CANDIDATES, REFERENDUM INITIATIVE GROUP

Article 39. Equality of Candidates

1. All candidates shall have equal rights and bear equal responsibilities, save as otherwise provided by this Federal Law.

2. Only authorized representatives for financial issues and attorneys of candidates may act on behalf of such candidates or, if a candidate is nominated in a list of candidates – also authorized representatives and attorneys of election association that nominated such list.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 40. Restrictions Connected with Official Position

1. Candidates that occupy state or elective municipal positions or are on state or municipal service as well as candidates that members of management bodies of organization regardless of form of ownership (in organizations where the high managing body is a meeting – members of bodies governing activities of such organizations), except political parties, and candidates that are officials, journalists, other creative employees of organizations of mass media, shall not abuse advantages of their official positions during their election campaigning.
(Clause 1 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Registered candidates occupying state or municipal positions or working in organizations of mass media, shall for the period of their participation in elections, be relieved from their official duties and shall submit certified copies of relevant orders (regulations) to the election commission within five days of the day of registration. It may be established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation that at elections to representative bodies of municipal formations, if there is a certain number of voters in an electoral district (which shall not exceed five thousand voters), registered candidates occupying state positions for the period of their participation in elections may not be relieved from their official duties.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

4. People who are not candidates occupying state or elective municipal positions or are on state or municipal service as well as members of management bodies of organization regardless of form of ownership (in organizations where the high managing body is a meeting – members of bodies governing activities of such organizations), except political parties, during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign shall not abuse advantages of their official positions for the purpose of nomination candidate, list of candidates and (or) election of

candidates, nomination and support of initiative to conduct a referendum, receiving certain answers to referendum questions.

(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Under this Federal Law abusing advantages of official position means:

a) engagement of persons who are subordinate to or otherwise dependent on a candidate, other state and municipal employees in activities carried out during the working hours to promote nomination of candidates, lists of candidates and (or) election of candidates, nomination and support of initiative to conduct a referendum and receive certain answers to referendum questions;

b) use of premises occupied by state bodies or bodies of local self-government for activities promoting nomination of candidates, lists of candidates and (or) election of candidates, nomination and support of initiative to conduct a referendum and receive certain answers to referendum questions, if the use of the same premises is not guaranteed to other candidates on the same terms and conditions;

c) use of telephone, fax and other means of telecommunication, information services, office equipment of state bodies or bodies of local self-government, state and municipal institutions, organizations regardless of form of ownership except indicated kinds of communication, office equipment and information services ensuring operating of political parties, for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning, if their use is not paid for out of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund;

d) use of state- or municipal formation-owned transport facilities at no charge or reduced charges (except for transport facilities owned by political parties) for activities promoting nomination of candidates, lists of candidates and (or) election of candidates, nomination and support of initiative to conduct a referendum and receive certain answers to referendum questions. This provision shall not apply to persons using the said transport facilities in accordance with the Russian Federation laws on the security services provided by the state;

e) collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants, election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning carried out by persons who occupy state or elective municipal offices or are on state or municipal service, or heads of local administrations, or members of management bodies of organization regardless of form of ownership (in organizations where the high managing body is a meeting – members of bodies governing activities of such organizations), except political parties, during business trips paid for out of corresponding budget, funds of corresponding organization;

f) access (ensuring of access) to state and municipal mass media for the purpose of collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants, election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning, if other candidates, election associations, referendum initiative groups are not guaranteed same access in accordance with this Federal Law, other law;

g) campaigning speeches during election campaigning, referendum campaigning at mass events organized by a state and (or) municipal bodies, organizations regardless of form of ownership, except political parties;

h) publication during election campaigning, referendum campaigning in mass media, campaigning printed reports on work progress, distribution on behalf of a citizen who is a candidate, of congratulations and other materials not paid for out of corresponding electoral fund.

(Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Compliance with the restrictions listed in Clause 5 of this Article must not prevent deputies, the President of the Russian Federation from exercising their powers and performing their obligations to voters.

7. Officials, journalists and other persons holding creative jobs in mass media organizations, if these persons are candidates or their attorneys or authorized representatives for financial issues, attorneys or authorized representatives of election associations, are not allowed to participate in coverage of election campaign in mass media.

(Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 41. Guarantees for Activity of Registered Candidates

1. At a written request or report of a registered candidate, administration of organization, commanding officer of military unit, head of the body of internal affairs where the candidate works, serves, undergoes alternative civil service or military training, studies shall relieve the candidate from work, service, studies on any day and for any time in the period from the day of the candidate's registration to the day of the official publication of the election results.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. During the election period, a registered candidate shall not, at the initiative of administration (employer), be dismissed from his job, service, expelled from an educational institution, transferred to another job without his consent, sent on business trips, called up for military service or military training or sent for alternative civil service.

3. The time of participation of a registered candidate in the election shall be included in his overall service time in accordance with his specialty before the registration as a candidate.

4. A registered candidate shall not be subjected to criminal prosecution, arrested and no administrative punishments shall be imposed on such candidate by a court without the consent of the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, head of investigative body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation (according to elections level). Petition to court for detention of a registered candidate may be filed only with consent of the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, head of investigative body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation (according to elections level). Upon giving such consent, the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, head of investigative body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, the prosecutor shall notify election commission that registered such candidate to this effect.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 24, 2007, No.214-FZ, of December 28, 2010, No.404-FZ)

5. A candidate shall forfeit the rights and be relieved of the responsibilities associated with the status of a candidate, with the exception of responsibilities referred to in Clause 9, Article 59 of this Federal Law, from the time of the official publication of the general data on the election results, or, in the event of an early withdrawal from the elections, on the date of such withdrawal. If corresponding election commission sets, in accordance with the law, a repeat voting, the candidates who are not included in the repeat voting shall forfeit their status on the day for which the election commission sets the repeat voting.

6. In case referred to in Clause 3, Article 71 of this Federal Law, the candidate who takes the place of a removed candidate, shall acquire the rights and responsibilities associated with the status of a candidate.

Article 42. Status of Members of Referendum Initiative Group and Other Groups of Referendum Participants

1. Members and authorized representatives of a referendum initiative group shall not take advantage of their official position in order to put forward and support a referendum initiative, obtain a certain answer to the referendum question.

2. It may be provided for by the law that after a referendum initiative group is registered, other groups of referendum participants may be established and registered by referendum commissions, and that the leading bodies of public associations, leading bodies of regional branches or other structural subdivisions of public associations the statutes of which allow

participation in elections and (or) referenda and which were registered in accordance with the procedure established by the federal law at a level corresponding to the level of the referendum or a higher level not later than in six months before the day when the referendum initiative was put forward may operate in the capacity of such groups. It shall be provided by the law that the leading bodies of political parties, regional branches and other structural subdivisions of political parties may act in the capacity of such groups, in accordance with the level of a referendum. Provisions of this Federal Law governing the activities of a referendum initiative group after its registration, its members and authorized representatives shall also apply to other groups of referendum participants, their members and authorized representatives unless otherwise provided by this Federal Law.

Article 43. Status of Attorneys

1. A candidate, an election association that nominated candidates, a list of candidates shall be entitled to appoint their attorneys. Registration of attorneys shall be carried out by the election commission in three days from the day of receipt of a written application of a candidate (presentation of election association) on nomination of attorneys together with applications of citizens expressing their consent to become such attorneys.

(Clause 1 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Persons occupying state or elective municipal positions, heads of local administrations, and members of administrations of election commissions may not be appointed as attorneys of candidates, election associations. State or municipal officials may be appointed attorneys provided that they are relieved from their official duties for the period of exercising of the powers of attorneys. Registration of attorney who is a state or municipal official shall be effected provided that an order relieving such official from his official duties (including the period of his vacation) is submitted to corresponding election commission.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Election commission shall provide attorneys with certificates. Attorneys perform campaigning activity in favor of candidate, election association that appointed him. For the period of attorney's powers his employee shall provide attorneys with unpaid leave at their request. Candidates, election associations that appointed attorneys shall be entitled to recall such appointments at any time by notifying election commission that shall cancel certificated issued to such attorneys. The number of attorneys of a candidate, an election association shall be established by law.

(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. The powers of attorneys shall be terminated by the decision of the candidate, the election association together with loss of statute by candidate that appointed them, or with loss of statute by candidates included into the list of candidates nominated by election association that appointed such attorneys.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Chapter VII. GUARANTEES OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

Article 44. Informational Support of Elections and Referenda

Informational support of elections and referenda shall include information of voters, referendum participants, election campaigning, referendum campaigning and facilitate conscious expression of citizens' will and to openness of elections, referenda.

Article 45. Informing of Voters and Referendum Participants

1. Voters and referendum participants shall be informed by bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, election commissions, mass media organizations, physical and legal entities in accordance with this Federal Law. Bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government shall not be entitled to inform voters on candidates, on election associations.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Informational materials published in mass media or distributed in other way, shall be objective and accurate and shall not violate the equality of candidates, election associations
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Informing of voters, referendum participants, in particular through the mass media, on preparation and conduct of elections, referenda, the periods and procedures for the performance of electoral actions, actions relating to participation in a referendum, on election and referendum legislation of the Russian Federation, on candidates, election associations shall be carried out by commissions. Commissions also take reasonable measures to inform disabled voters, referendum participants.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

4. Mass media organizations shall be free to inform voters, referendum participants.

5. Information on conduct of pre-election activities, activities related to a referendum in television and radio programs and in publications in print periodicals shall be always presented in the form of separate information bloc without any comments. Such blocs shall not express preference with regards to any candidate, election association, referendum initiative group, another group of referendum participants, in particular with regards to the time allocated to coverage of their election activities, activities related to conduct of a referendum, the amount of print space for such information blocs.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Journalists, other creative workers and officials of a mass media organization engaged in activity related to informational support of elections, a referendum in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation shall not be dismissed from their positions at the initiative of administration (employer) and shall not be transferred to other positions without their consent during the period of correspondent election campaign, referendum campaign, and during one year thereafter, save the case where a disciplinary action was taken against them in accordance with the labor legislation of the Russian Federation and this action has not been appealed in court or has been declared lawful and appropriate by court.

7. On the voting day, before the end of the voting in corresponding electoral district, referendum district, no information shall be published (made public) on the voting results, results of elections, referendum and no such information shall be placed in information-telecommunications networks with public non-restricted access (including the Internet).
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

Article 46. Opinion Polls

1. Publication of the results of opinion polls related to elections or referenda is a form of informing of voters, referendum participants.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. When publishing the results of opinion polls related to elections or referenda, editorial boards of mass media organizations, citizens and organizations that publish (make public) these results shall indicate the organization which conducted the poll, the time when it was

conducted, the number of respondents (sample group), the method of information collection, the region where the poll was conducted, the precise wording of the question, statistical assessment of a possible error, the person (persons) who ordered the poll and paid for such publication.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Within five days before the voting day and on the voting day, it shall be prohibited to publish (make public) the results of opinion polls, forecasts of the results of election, referendum, other studies relating to the current election or referendum, in particular in information-telecommunications networks with public non-restricted access (including the Internet).

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

Article 47. Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and Print Periodicals Used for Informational Support of Elections and Referenda

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. The informational support of elections and referendums of the corresponding level shall be provided by means of state, municipal and non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial boards of national, municipal and non-state print periodicals.

2. In this Federal Law, state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and state print periodicals shall mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media periodicals that as of the day of the official publication of decision to call elections, the official publication of decision to call a referendum are founded (co-founded) or the editorial boards of which are founded (co-founded) by state bodies and organizations and (or) which, a year before the day of the official publication of the decision to call election, official publication of decision to call a referendum, received state support in the form of subsidies and (or) subventions for their operation out of funds of the federal budget, budget of the subject of the Russian Federation and (or) which authorized (share) capital as of the day of official publication of decision to call elections, official publication of decision to call a referendum, has a share (contribution) of the Russian Federation and (or) the subject (subjects) of the Russian Federation.

3. In this Federal Law, municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print periodicals shall mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print periodicals that as of the day of the official publication of decision to call elections, the official publication of decision to call a referendum are founded (co-founded) or the editorial boards of which are founded (co-founded) by municipal bodies and organizations and (or) which, a year before the day of the official publication of decision to call elections, the official publication of decision to call a referendum, received municipal support in the form of subsidies and (or) subventions for their operation out of the local budget and (or) which authorized (share) capital as of the day of official publication of decision to call elections, official publication of decision to call a referendum, has a share (contribution) of municipal formation (municipal formations).

4. In this Federal Law, non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and non-state print periodicals shall mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print periodicals that are not subject to provisions of Clauses 2 and 3 of this Article.

5. In this Federal Law, depending on the territory where information is distributed, TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print periodicals are divided into:

a) national TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e. TV and radio organizations which have a broadcasting license covering the territories of a half or more than a half of the subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as TV and radio broadcasting organizations that release mass media (TV and radio programs) distributed under agreement by other TV and

radio broadcasting organization in the territories of a half or more than a half of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

b) regional TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e., TV and radio broadcasting organizations which have a broadcasting license and distributing mass media (TV and radio programs) in the territories of less than a half of the subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as corresponding branches of TV and radio broadcasting organization referred to in Paragraph "a" of this Clause;

c) national print periodicals, i.e. periodicals registered for distribution in the territories of a half or more than a half of the subjects of the Russian Federation;

d) regional print periodicals, i.e. periodicals registered for distribution in less than a half of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

6. Print periodicals founded by state power bodies, bodies of local self-government exclusively for publication of their official documents and reports, regulatory and other acts, shall not publish any campaign materials and editorial materials covering activities of candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group.

7. A list of state and (or) municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and state and (or) municipal periodicals that must provide air time, print space for election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall be published by commission organizing elections, referendum, or a subordinate commission specified by the law on presentation of executive body of state power, authorized to carry out activities in the sphere of registration of mass media.

8. The list referred to in Clause 7 of this Article shall be submitted to corresponding commission not later than on the fifth day after the day of the official publication of decision to call elections, the official publication of decision to call a referendum. This list shall include the following data on each TV and radio broadcasting organization, each print periodical:

a) name of TV and radio broadcasting organization and corresponding mass media or print periodical;

b) legal address of TV and radio broadcasting organization or editorial board of print periodical;

c) founder (co-founder) of TV and radio broadcasting organization or founder (co-founder) of editorial board of print periodical and print periodical;

d) type and volume of state (municipal) support (if any a year before the day of the official publication of decision to call elections, the day of official publication of decision to call a referendum);

e) share (contribution) of the Russian Federation, the subjects of the Russian Federation, municipal formations in authorized (share) capital (if any as of the day of the official publication of decision to call elections, the day of the official publication of decision to call a referendum);

f) publication frequency of print periodical;

g) note if TV and radio broadcasting organization, print periodical is specialized (for specialized TV and radio broadcasting organizations, print periodicals).

Article 48. Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation, public associations shall be entitled to conduct election campaigning, referendum campaigning in the forms permitted by law and by legal methods.

2. The following shall be regarded as election campaigning in the period of an election campaign:

a) calls for voting for or against a candidate (list of candidates);

b) expression of preference with regards to any of the candidates, election association, in particular, statements indicating the candidate, list of candidates, election association for

which a voter will vote (save for publication of the results of an opinion poll in accordance with Clause 2, Article 46 of this Federal Law);

c) description of possible consequences of the election or non-election of a candidate, admittance or non-admittance of list of candidates to distribution of deputy seats;

d) distribution of information with an obvious predominance of information on a certain candidate (candidates), election associations in combination with positive or negative comments;

e) distribution of information on activities of a candidate unrelated to his professional activity or performance of his official duties;

f) activity promoting formation of a positive or negative attitude of voters towards a candidate, an election association that which nominated a candidate, a list of candidates.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2¹ Actions performed by representatives of mass media while carrying out their professional activities and referred to in Paragraph "a", Clause 2 of this Article are recognized as election campaigning if such actions are performed for the purpose of inducing voters to vote for candidate, candidates, list, lists of candidates or against him (them), and actions referred to in Paragraphs "b"-“f”, Clause 2 of this Article – if such actions are performed for the mentioned purpose repeatedly.

(Clause 2¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning may be conducted:

a) on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in print periodicals;

b) by means of public campaigning events;

(Paragraph "b" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) by producing and distributing printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials;

d) by other methods which are not prohibited by the law.

4. A candidate, an election association, a referendum initiative group may select the contents, forms and methods of their election campaigning at their own discretion, conduct election campaigning independently and may engage other persons to conduct such campaigning in the order established by the law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning expenditure shall be paid exclusively out of corresponding electoral funds, referendum funds in order established by the law. Campaigning in favor of a candidate, an election association, that is paid for out of electoral funds of other candidates, election associations, shall be prohibited.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Persons who have not attained to the age of 18 years as of the voting day shall not be involved directly or indirectly in election campaigning, referendum campaigning, as well as pictures and opinions of such persons shall not be used in campaigning materials save as provided by Paragraph "e", Clause 9 of this Article.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall not be conducted and any kind of campaigning materials shall not be produced and distributed by:

a) federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other state bodies, bodies of local self-government;

b) persons occupying state and elective municipal positions, members of management bodies of organizations regardless of the form of ownership (in organizations where the high managing body is a meeting – members of bodies governing activities of such organizations), except political parties, while they perform their official duties save as stipulated by Article 8¹ of this Article, and (or) with using advantages of their official position;

(Paragraph "b" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) military units, military institutions and organizations;

d) charity and religious organizations and organizations founded by them as well as members and participants of religious associations when they perform rites and ceremonies;

(Paragraph "d" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

e) commissions, voting members of commissions;

f) foreign nationals, save as referred to in Clause 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law, stateless persons, foreign legal entities;

f¹) international organizations and international public associations;

(Paragraph "f" introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

g) representatives of mass media organizations when they perform their professional activities;

h) persons in regards to which a fact of violation of restrictions stipulated by Clause 1, Article 56 of this Federal Law during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign is established by the decision of court.

(Paragraph "h" introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

8. Persons who occupy state or elective municipal positions shall not conduct election campaigning on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in print periodicals except the cases when such persons are registered as candidates for deputies or for elective positions.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8¹ Persons occupying state or elective municipal positions are entitled to conduct campaigning on referendum questions, including on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in print periodicals, issue and distribute campaigning materials, but shall not use advantages of their official positions.

(Paragraph 8¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Pictures of a physical entity, opinions of a physical person on candidate, election association in campaigning materials can be used only with a written consent of such physical entity. A document confirming such consent shall be submitted to the commission together with copies of campaigning materials presented in accordance with Clause 3, Article 54 of this Federal Law. If campaigning material is to be distributed through the channel of TV and radio broadcasting organization or print periodical, such documents shall be submitted to election commission at its request. This restriction shall not be applied to:

a) use of opinions of candidates nominated by election association on this election association, as well as on candidates nominated by such election association for the same elections;

b) use of published opinions on candidates, elections associations with indication of date (period of time) when such opinions were published and the names of mass media they were published in. References in campaigning materials to an opinion of a physical entity that has no right to carry out election campaigning under this Federal Law is allowed only if such opinion was published before the official publication of the decision to call elections. Such reference shall indicate date (period of time) when such opinion was published and the name of mass media it was published in;

c) citation of opinion on election association, candidate, published by other election associations, as well as by candidates in their campaigning materials produced and distributed in accordance with the law;

d) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of April 26, 2007, No.64-FZ;

e) use by candidate of his pictures, use by election association of pictures of candidates nominated by such election association, including candidate's spouse, children (including children that have not attained to the age of 18 years), parents and other close relatives, as well as with undefined persons.

(Paragraph "e" as amended by the Federal Law of April 26, 2007, No.64-FZ)

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. A political party that nominated candidates, list of candidates registered by election commission not later than in 10 days prior to the voting day shall publish its election program in at least one state or municipal (according to elections level) print periodical, as well as publish it in information-telecommunication network "Internet". Such publication shall use free print space provided to election associations, candidates in accordance with this Federal Law, other law, or such publication is paid out of the electoral fund of political party, electoral fund of candidate nominated by such political party.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

Article 49. Campaigning Period

1. A campaigning period shall commence from the day of nomination of a candidate, list of candidates, referendum initiative group. A campaigning period shall end at 00.00 hours local time one day before the voting day.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in the print periodicals shall begin in 28 days before the voting day and end at 00.00 hours local time one day before the voting day.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. No election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning shall be conducted on the voting day and the day preceding the voting day.

4. Printed campaigning materials (leaflets, posters, etc.), which were earlier displayed on buildings and constructions, except buildings where commissions, polling stations are located, and at the minimum distance of 50 meters from the entrance to such buildings in accordance with the order established by the federal law, shall remain in place on the voting days.

(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. In the event of a repeat voting, the campaigning period shall be resumed on the day on which corresponding commission sets the date of the repeat voting and end at 00.00 hours local time one day before the repeat voting day.

Article 50. General Conditions of Election Campaigning, Referendum Questions Campaigning on the Channels of TV and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and in Print Periodicals

1. State and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals shall ensure equal conditions for election campaigning for registered candidates, election associations that registered lists of candidates, including presentation of their election programs to voters, and for the referendum initiative group, equal conditions for campaigning on the referendum questions in accordance with the procedure established by this Federal Law, other law. Air time on channels of the said TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print space in print periodicals shall be provided to registered candidates, election associations that registered lists of candidates, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups for a charge, and, in cases and in accordance with the procedure established by this Federal Law, other law, free of charge as well (free air time, free print space).

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

1¹ The law may establish that election association that nominated list of candidates at closest previous elections and such list was not admitted to distribution of deputy seats, or a candidate that was not elected and received less votes of voters participated in the voting than it is established by the law, is not entitled to use free air time, free print space. The number of votes of voters established by the law may not exceed 3 percent of the number of votes of voters participated in voting. In this case the law may establish that such election association is entitled under a corresponding agreement to receive its share or its part of total amount of free air time, free print space, the amount of which shall not exceed the payment for air time, print space reserved by state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals in accordance with Clause 6, Article 51 and Clause 2, Article 52 of this Federal Law for conduct of election campaigning. Distribution of air time and print space provided under an agreement stipulated by this Clause shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure for distribution of free air time, free print space established by this Federal Law.

(Clause 1¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

1² The Federal Law may establish that free air time, free print space are not provided to a candidate nominated by election association if at closest previous corresponding elections a candidate nominated by this election association received less votes of voters participated in the voting than it is established by the law.

(Clause 1² introduced by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

1³ At elections to legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation an election association that nominated candidates and (or) list of candidates shall not be refused provision of free air time, free print space if at the closest previous corresponding elections:

a) list of candidates nominated by this election association received not less number of votes of voters participated in voting established by the law and defined in accordance with Clause 1¹ of this Article;

b) election association nominated candidates only for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts.

(Clause 1³ introduced by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

2. Registered candidates, election associations shall not be entitled to use free air time, free print space provided to them for campaigning in favor of other registered candidates, other election associations. A registered candidate nominated by election association shall be entitled to use air time, print space provided to him for campaigning in favor of election association that nominated such candidate, and for other candidates nominated by this election association during the same elections. An election association that nominated candidates, list of candidates are entitled to use air time, print space provided to such candidate for election campaigning for any candidate nominated by such election association during the same election.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. If more than one election campaign, referendum campaign is conducted simultaneously in the same territory, and the periods of campaigning on TV and radio channels and in print periodicals of such campaigns coincide, the total amount of free air time and free space in print periodicals shall not be increased without consent of the TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial boards of print periodicals.

4. Non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of non-state print periodicals releasing mass media production that were registered not later than a year before the commencement of election campaign, referendum campaign, and editorial boards of non-state print periodicals founded by election associations (including by their structural subdivisions) and registered not later than a year before the commencement of election campaign, referendum campaign are entitled to provide registered candidates, election

associations, referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups with air time, print space in corresponding mass media. Other non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of non-state print periodicals are not entitled to provide their air time, print space to registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups.

(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. The terms of payment for the air time, print space provided by non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of non-state print periodicals shall be equal for all registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative groups, other referendum participant groups. This requirement shall not apply to editorial boards of non-state print periodicals founded by candidates, election associations, citizens who are members of the referendum initiative group.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. During the elections, information on the amount (in the Russian Federation currency) and other conditions of payment for air time, print space shall be published by corresponding TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial boards of print periodical not later than in 30 days after the day of the official publication of the decision to call election. This data and notice of readiness to provide air time, print space for election campaigning shall be submitted, within the same period, to election commission organizing elections or subordinate election commission stipulated by the law. During the conduct of referendum this data shall be published by TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial board of print periodical and submitted to corresponding referendum commission not later than in one day from the day of issue of first campaigning material.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial boards of non-state print periodicals, editorial boards of state print periodicals that publish new issues less frequently than once a week, specialized TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of specialized print periodicals (cultural-educational, children technical, scientific, etc.), and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organization and editorial boards of municipal print periodicals (during elections to federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, referendum of the Russian Federation, referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation) are entitled to refuse to provide air time, print space for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning. Failure to submit a notice established by Clause 6 of this Article to corresponding commission in term established by this Clause shall be considered as such refusal.

8. Mass media organizations shall maintain separate account of the amount and cost of the air time and print space provided for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning in the format and in accordance with the procedure established by corresponding commission and submit data on such account to commission not later than in ten days from the voting day.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Mass media organizations shall keep the records of free and paid provision of air time and print space referred to in Clause 8 of this Article for at least three years after the voting day.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

10. Expenses of state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals connected to provision of free air time and free print space for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning shall be accounted as results of operational activity of these organizations and editorial boards.

11. Air time on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print space in print periodicals for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning are provided under an agreement concluded in written form between a TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial board of print periodical and candidate, election association, representative of referendum initiative group, other referendum participants group before the provision of air time, print space.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

12. If more than one election campaign is conducted in the same territory and periods of election campaigning for these campaigns on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print periodicals coincide, a registered candidate nominated in more than one electoral districts for different elections is entitled to receive free air time and free print space in state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organization and print periodicals in amount that does not exceed the amount that should have provided to such candidates at elections of higher level.

Article 51. Election Campaigning, Referendum Questions Campaigning on Television and Radio

1. Free air time, and in case stipulated by Clause 1¹, Article 50 of this Federal Law paid air time on channels of state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be provided correspondingly to registered candidates, election associations that registered lists of candidates on equal terms and conditions (the amount of provided air time, the time of airing, and other conditions). Free air time on the channels of state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be provided on equal terms and conditions after the official publication of the decision to call a referendum only to a referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups formed out of the leading bodies of public associations (their structural subdivisions) referred to in Clause 2, Article 42 of this Federal Law, provided that the lists of candidates nominated by them were admitted to distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and (or) in accordance with the level of the referendum in legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation, or federal lists of candidates nominated by them received deputy seats in accordance with Article 82¹ of the Federal Law "On Election to Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" and (or) in accordance with the level of referendum lists of candidates nominated by them received deputy seats under the law of the subject of the Russian Federation referred to in Clause 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No.94-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ, of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

2. National and regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall provide air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article to registered candidates, election associations for election campaigning at elections to federal bodies of state power, and to initiative group for conducting of a referendum of the Russian Federation and other groups of referendum participants referred to in Clause 1 of this article for campaigning on the questions of the referendum of the Russian Federation. Regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall provide air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article to registered candidates, election associations for election campaigning at elections to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and to initiative group for conducting of a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation and other referendum participant groups referred to in Clause 1 of this Article for campaigning on the questions of the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation. Municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall provide air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article to registered candidates, election associations for election campaigning at elections to bodies of local self-government, and to the initiative group for conducting of a local referendum and other referendum participant groups referred to in Clause

1 of this Article for campaigning on the questions of a local referendum. Air time shall be provided during the period established by corresponding TV and radio broadcasting organization when TV and radio programs have the most audience.
(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

3. The total amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article to be provided for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning by each national state TV and radio broadcasting organization on each of its channels shall be not less than 60 minutes on working days. The total amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article to be provided for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning by each regional state TV and radio broadcasting organization on each of its channels shall be not less than 30 minutes on working days and, if the total broadcasting time of a TV and radio broadcasting organization is less than two hours a day, not less than not less than one-fourth of the total broadcasting time. Amount of air time provided by regional state or municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations for election campaigning during by-elections or repeat election of deputy (deputies) of legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district is established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation. If, as a result of providing air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article, each registered candidate, each election association that nominated a registered list of candidates, each referendum initiative group or each other group of referendum participants referred to in Clause 1 of this article receives more than 60 minutes of air time, the total amount of air time that each of the TV and radio broadcasting organizations provides for campaigning shall be reduced to total 60 minutes multiplied, respectively, by the number of registered candidates, election associations that nominated registered lists of candidates, by the number of groups that have been granted the right to campaign on referendum questions.

(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

4. Not less than a half of the total amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article shall be provided to registered candidates, election associations for joint debates, "roundtables" and other joint campaigning events. This rule shall not apply if each candidate registered in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district receives less than five minutes of the total amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article. The law may establish that registered candidates (including those in the lists of candidates) may participate in joint campaigning event only in person. At a referendum, not less than a half of the total amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article shall be provided to the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups referred (with account of provisions of Clause 1 of this Article) for joint debates, "roundtables" and such other joint campaigning events.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

5. Registered candidate, election association, referendum initiative group may refuse to participate in joint campaigning event. In this case, the air time allocated for this joint campaigning event shall not be reduced even if only one participant may take part in it, save as otherwise provided by the law. Refusal by a registered candidate, an election association, referendum initiative group to participate in a joint campaigning event shall not increase the amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article to which they are entitled save as otherwise provided by the law.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

⁵ The remaining part of total amount of free air (if any) referred to in Clause 1 of this Article shall be provided by state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations to registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups referred to in Clause 1 of this Article for distribution of campaigning materials.

(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

6. State and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall reserve air time for election campaigning, referendum campaigning that is provided on a paid basis. The amount and the terms of payment shall be equal for all registered candidates, election associations that nominated registered lists of candidates referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants. The total amount of air time to be reserved shall be equal to the established total amount of air time referred to in Clause 1 of this Article or exceed it but not more than twice. Registered candidate, the said election association, referendum initiative group, other groups of referendum participants shall be entitled for a certain payment to a part of the total amount of reserved air time within the share calculated by dividing this total amount by the total number of registered candidates, the said election associations, the number of groups having the right to conduct referendum campaigning, respectively.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

7. The provision of extra free and paid air time on equal conditions to election associations that nominated registered candidates may be established by the law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations that meet the requirements of Clause 6, Article 50 of this Federal Law, shall provide air time to registered candidates, election associations that nominated registered lists of candidates, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups on equal conditions (in particular, in terms of the time of airing).
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Transmission of campaigning materials on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall not be interrupted by transmission of other TV and radio programs, other campaigning materials.

10. Any other terms and conditions of election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning on television and radio shall be regulated by the law.

Article 52. Terms and Conditions of Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning in Print Periodicals

1. Editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals circulated in the territory where elections, referendum are conducted and published at least once a week shall provide print space for campaigning materials presented by registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. Total minimum amount of such print space, availability of provision print space free of charge, ratio between print space provided by editorial boards free of charge and on paid basis shall be established by the law.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

2. Editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals published at least once a week shall reserve print space for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning on paid basis. Total amount and terms of payment shall be equal for all registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. The total amount of print space thus reserved shall be established by law. Registered candidate, election association that nominated registered lists of candidates, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group shall be entitled for corresponding payment to receive print space out of total amount of reserved print space within the share received as the result of division of this amount by the number of registered candidates, the said election associations or division by the number of groups entitled to conduct referendum campaigning.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. The lay may establish provision of paid and free print space to election associations that nominated registered candidates.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. Editorial boards of non-state print periodicals that meet requirements of Clause 6, Article 50 of this Federal Law, shall be entitled to refuse to provide space in print periodicals for election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning.

5. Campaigning materials published in accordance with this Article shall not be accompanied by any forms of editorial comments or by headlines and illustrations that are not agreed upon with corresponding candidate, election association, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. All campaigning materials published in print periodicals shall carry information on which candidate, election association electoral fund or on which group entitled to conduct referendum questions campaigning referendum fund was used to pay for the given publication. If campaigning materials were published free of charge, the publication shall indicate this information stating who published such material. Editorial board of print periodical shall bear the responsibility for the compliance with this requirement.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ)

7. Editorial boards of print periodicals that publish campaigning materials, except for periodicals founded by candidates, election associations, shall not give preference to any candidate, election association, referendum initiative group, other referendum participants group by changing the circulation and publication frequency of print periodicals.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Any other terms and conditions of election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning in print periodicals shall be regulated by the law.

Article 53. Conditions of Election Campaigning, Referendum Questions Campaigning by Means of Mass Campaigning Events

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. State bodies and bodies of local self-government shall assist registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups in organizing mass campaigning events.

2. Notices of organizers of rallies, demonstrations, marches and picketing are submitted and considered in the order established by the Russian Federation.

3. On the basis of an application made by a registered candidate, election association, referendum initiative group, other referendum participants groups, they shall be provided with premises suitable for holding mass campaigning events in the form of meetings and owned by state or municipal formation free of charge by owner, proprietor of such premises for the period established by commission vested with such responsibility by law to registered candidate, his attorneys, representatives of election association for their meetings with voters, and to representatives of referendum initiative group and other group of referendum participants for their meetings with referendum participants. Commissions shall ensure equal conditions of conducting mass events for registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups.

4. If the premises indicated in Clause 3 of this Article, as well as the premises owned by an organization that as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call elections, the official publication of the decision to call a referendum has in its authorized (share) capital a share contribution) of the Russian Federation, the subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) municipal formations that exceed 30 percent, were provided to one registered candidate, election association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participants group), the owner, proprietor of the premises shall not refuse to provide the premises to another registered candidate, election association, other referendum participants group (referendum initiative group) on the same conditions at another time during the campaigning period. If the premises were provided to registered candidate, election association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participants group), the owner, proprietor of the premises shall, not later than the day following the day of provision of the premises, deliver a written notice to commission established by the law on the fact of provision of the premises, terms of such provision, as well as on the period when such premises may be provided during the campaigning period to other registered candidates, election associations, other referendum participants groups (referendum initiative group).

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 27, 2010, No.222-FZ)

4¹ Commission that received a notice of the fact of provision of the premises to registered candidate, election association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participants group), shall within two days from the day of receipt of such notice publish the information it contains in information-telecommunication network "Internet" or otherwise inform other registered candidates, election associations, other referendum participants groups (referendum initiative group).

(Clause 4¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 27, 2010, No.222-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

5. Applications for provision of the premises referred to in Clauses 3 and 4 of this Article for the purpose of meeting of registered candidates, their attorneys, representatives of election associations that registered lists of candidates with voters, and representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups with referendum participants shall be considered by owners, proprietors of these premises within three days from the day of receipt of these applications.

6. Candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups may rent under agreement buildings and premises that belong to citizens and organizations regardless of the form of ownership for organizing of mass campaigning activities.

7. No election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall be allowed in the territory of military units, in military organizations and institutions, save the case where the only building, premises suitable for meetings with voters is (are) located within the territory of a military unit, or military organization or institution. Such building, premises shall be provided by the commanding officer of the military unit at the request of corresponding commission for the purpose of meetings of registered candidates, their attorneys, representatives of election association that registered lists of candidates, with voters out of members of the military unit, and for meetings of representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participants group with referendum participants out of military men. Organization of such meetings shall be provided for by the commanding officer together with corresponding commission. All registered candidates or their attorneys, representatives of all election associations that registered lists of candidates, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups shall be notified on the location and time of the meeting not later than in three days before such meeting.

8. Security at mass campaigning events organized shall be ensured in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Article 54. Conditions for Production and Distribution of Printed, Audio-Visual and Other Campaigning Materials

1. Candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups shall be free to distribute printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials in the procedure established by the legislation of the Russian Federation. All campaigning materials shall be produced in the territory of the Russian Federation.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1¹ Organizations, individual entrepreneurs performing works or providing services related to production of printed campaigning materials shall ensure equal conditions of payment for production of such materials to registered candidates, election associations that registered lists of candidates, referendum initiative groups, other referendum participants groups. Information on the amount (in the Russian Federation currency) and other terms of payment for works or services of these organizations, individual entrepreneurs related to production of printed campaigning materials shall be published by corresponding organization, corresponding individual entrepreneur not later than in 30 days from the day of the official publication of the decision to call elections, registration of referendum initiative group, and during the same period of time shall be submitted to commission established by the law. Organization, individual entrepreneur that do not meet these requirements are not entitled to perform works of provide services related to production of printed campaigning materials.
(Clause 1¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. All printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials shall indicate name and legal address and taxpayer identification number of the organization (surname, first name and patronymic of the person and the name of the Russian Federation subject, district, city, other settlement where the person's place of residence is located) that produced these materials, name of the organization (surname, first name and patronymic of the person) that placed an order for these materials, as well as information on the number of copies printed and the date of publication and the note on payment for their production out of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund.
(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Prior to their distribution, printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials or their copies, photos of other campaigning materials shall be submitted to corresponding election commission, referendum commission by candidate, election association, referendum initiative group or another referendum participant group. Along with the aforementioned materials corresponding commission shall be provided with information concerning the location (place of residence) of the organization (person) that produced and ordered these materials.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ.

5. Campaigning materials shall not be produced without prepayment made out of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund and in violation of the requirements set forth in Clauses 2 and 4 of this Article.

6. Distribution of campaigning materials in violation of the requirements set forth in Clause 3 of this Article and Clause 9, Article 48 of this Federal Law shall not be allowed.

7. On the recommendation of corresponding commission, bodies of local self-government shall designate special places for displaying printed campaigning materials in the

territory of each election precinct, referendum precinct. Such places shall be accessible for voters, referendum participants and arranged so that voters, referendum participants could examine the displayed information. The area of such designated places must be sufficient to display the information materials of commissions and campaigning materials of registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. Registered candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups shall be allocated equal areas for displaying their printed campaigning materials. A list of such places shall be communicated by commissions that proposed these places to candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Printed campaigning materials may be displayed (posted, placed) inside premises, on buildings, structures, and other objects (with the exception of places specified in Clause 7 of this Article) only with consent of and on conditions stated by the owners, proprietors of such objects. Placement of campaigning materials on an object that is state or municipal property or property of an organization that as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call elections, the official publication of the decision to call a referendum has in its authorized (share) capital a share contribution) of the Russian Federation, the subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) municipal formations that exceed 30 percent is carried out on equal conditions applicable to all candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups. No fee shall be charged for placement of campaigning materials on an object that is state- or municipally owned property.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Organizations, individual entrepreneurs providing advertising services shall ensure that candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups are offered equal conditions for placement of campaigning materials.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. Campaigning materials shall not be placed (posted, displayed) on monuments, obelisks, buildings, structures and premises which have a historical, cultural or architectural value, as well as inside the buildings and premises of election commissions and at polling stations, and at a distance less than 50 meters from the entrance thereto.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. Provisions of this Article shall not be applied in relation to campaigning materials distributed in accordance with Articles 51 and 52 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 11 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 55. Guarantees of the Right of Referendum Participants to Timely Inspection of the Text of the Draft Law, Another Regulatory Act Put to Referendum

If a draft law, another regulatory act is put to a referendum, each referendum participant shall be entitled to receive, not later than in 30 days before the voting day, the text of such draft law at the territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation). The responsibility for production and distribution of this text shall be imposed on referendum initiative group, unless otherwise provided by the law. Payment for production of the said text shall be made out of corresponding referendum fund, unless otherwise provided by the law.

Article 56. Restrictions at Conduct of Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. Election programs of candidates, election associations, other campaigning materials (including those published in information-telecommunication networks with public unrestricted

access, including Internet), presentations of candidates and their attorneys, representatives and attorneys of election associations, representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups, citizens at public events, in mass media (including those published in information-telecommunication networks with public unrestricted access, including Internet), shall not contain any calls for performing of actions determined in Article 1 of the Federal Law of July 25, 2002, No.114-FZ "On Countering Extremist Activity" (hereinafter – the Federal Law "On Countering Extremist Activity") as extremist activity, or otherwise encourage to such actions, as well as substantiate or justify extremism. Campaigning exciting social, racial, ethnic or religious discord, humiliating national dignity, promulgating exclusiveness, superiority or inferiority of citizens on grounds of their relation to religion, social, racial, national, religious or language identity, as well as campaigning that includes promulgation and public demonstration of Nazi symbols or attributes or symbols or attributes similar to Nazi symbols or attributes to the extent of their confusion shall be prohibited. If campaigning is aimed at defense of ideas of social justice, it shall not be considered as campaigning exciting social discord.
(as amended by the Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

1¹ During election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning abuse of freedom of mass information in forms, other than stipulated by Clause 1 of this Article is not allowed. Campaigning that breaches the legislation of the Russian Federation on intellectual property shall be prohibited.
(Clause 1¹ introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

2. Candidates, election associations, their attorneys and authorized representatives, referendum initiative group, other referendum participants groups and their authorized representatives as well as other persons and organizations engaged in election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning shall not bribe voters, referendum participants: they shall not give them money, gifts and other things of value otherwise than for the performance of organizational work (collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants, campaigning activities); remunerate voters, referendum participants who performed the said organizational work depending on the voting results or promise such remuneration; sell goods at reduced prices; distribute free of charge any goods other than printed materials (including illustrated booklets) and badges specially produced for election campaign, referendum campaign; provide services free of charge or at reduced rates, or influence voters by promises of money, securities, other things of value (in particular, depending on the voting results) or by providing services other than on the basis of decisions of bodies of state power or local self-government taken in accordance with the law.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. During the period of election campaign, referendum campaign no lotteries or other risk-based games shall be allowed, if the award of prize or participation in prize drawing depends on voting results, results of elections, referendum, or otherwise connected to elections, referendum.
(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. In the course of election campaign, referendum campaign, payment for any commercial advertising or advertising that is not related to elections, referendum with the use of surname or picture of candidate, member or authorized representative of referendum initiative group, other referendum participants group, as well as advertising with the use of name, logo, other symbols of election association that nominated candidate, list of candidates during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign shall be made solely out of funds of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund. On the voting day and on the day preceding the voting day such advertising, including advertising paid out of funds of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund is not allowed.
(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Candidates, election associations that nominated candidates, lists of candidates, their attorneys and authorized representatives, members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups, as well as organizations registered after the commencement of election campaign, referendum campaign, founders, owners, proprietors and (or) members of managing bodies of which (in organizations where high management body is a meeting – members of bodies governing activities of such organizations) are the said persons and (or) organizations, during election campaigning, referendum campaigning are not allowed to carry out charity activities. Other physical and legal entities during the period of election campaign, referendum campaign are not allowed to carry out charity activities at the request, on instructions and on behalf of candidates, election associations, their attorneys and authorized representatives, members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups, as well as to carry out election campaigning, referendum questions campaigning together with charity activities. Candidates, election associations, their attorneys and authorized representatives, members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participants groups are not allowed to apply to other physical and legal entities with proposals on provision of financial support or services to voters, referendum participants.
(Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5¹ Campaigning materials must not contain commercial advertising.
(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

5² Registered candidate, election association is not allowed to use air time on the channels of TV broadcasting organization provided to them for distribution of campaigning materials for the purpose of:

- a) calls to vote against candidate, candidates, list of candidates, lists of candidates;
 - b) description of possible negative consequences in case this or that candidate will be elected, this or that list of candidates will be admitted to distribution of deputy seats;
 - c) distribution of information with obvious predominance of facts on certain candidate (candidates), election association in combination with negative comments;
 - d) distribution of information promoting creation of negative attitude of voters towards candidate, election association that nominated candidate, list of candidates.
- (Clause 5² introduced by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

6. If mass media organizations published any campaigning and advertising materials (including those that contain correct information) that may damage honor, dignity or business reputation of a candidate, business reputation of election association, shall provide corresponding candidate, election association a possibility to publish a refutation or other explanation till the end of campaigning period in defense of their honor, dignity or business reputation. Candidate, election association shall be provided with air time to make such refutation or other explanation public at the same time of the day when initial information was made public, and its amount shall not be less than amount of air time provided for making public of initial information, but not less than two minutes. While publication of this refutation or another explanation its text shall be printed in the same font, placed on the same part of the page and its volume shall be not less than the refuted text. The failure to provide candidate, election association with a possibility to publish (make public) such refutation or another explanation till the end of campaigning period shall constitute the ground for bringing such mass media organizations and their officials to responsibility under the legislation of the Russian Federation. Requirements established by the Clause shall not be applied to cases of publication of advertising materials provided by registered candidates, election associations within the frames of their use of free and paid air time, free and paid print space in accordance with this Federal Law.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Commissions shall monitor compliance with the established procedure for conducting election campaigning, referendum campaigning and take measures to remove committed violations.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. In case of distribution of forged printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials, distribution of printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials with violation of requirements of Clauses 2-6, 8 and 10, Article 54 of this Federal Law, as well as in case of violation by TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial board of print periodical of the procedure of conduct of election campaigning, referendum question campaigning established by this Federal Law, correspondent commission shall apply to law enforcement authorities, courts, bodies of executive power in charge of supervision and control over mass media with application to prevent unlawful campaigning activities and bringing the TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial boards of print periodicals, their officials, other persons to responsibility in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 8 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Law enforcement and other authorities shall take measures to stop unlawful campaigning activities, prevent production of and seize false and unlawful printed, audio-visual and other campaigning materials, identify the producers of such materials and the source from which they are paid for and promptly inform corresponding election commission, referendum commission about the facts established and measures taken.

Chapter VIII. FUNDING OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM

Article 57. Funding of Preparation and Conduct of Elections and Referendum

1. Expenses related to preparation and conduct of elections of a relevant level in the Russian Federation, operation and improvement of means of automation, training of election officials and voter education shall be paid by election commissions out of the funds allocated for these purposes from an appropriate budget (the federal budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation and (or) the local budget). Financing of these expenses is carried out in accordance with approved budget financing list on distribution of expenditure of the corresponding budget, but not later than in ten days from the day of the official publication (making public) of the decision to call elections.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Expenses related to conduct of a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be paid out of the funds allocated from the federal budget for such purpose in the manner and in term established by the Federal Constitutional Law "On Referendum of the Russian Federation". Expenses related to conduct of other referenda shall be paid out of the funds allocated, respectively, from the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, the local budget for such purpose. Before the decision to call a referendum is officially published, the funds allocated to commissions from the federal budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, the local budget respectively may only be used to cover the commissions' expenditure related to verification of signatures collected in support of the referendum initiative.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Major agents of the funds allocated in corresponding budgets (the federal budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, the local budget) for conduct of elections and referenda include the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, election commission of municipal formation.

(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4-5. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of August 22, 2004, No.122-FZ.

6. Reports of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipal formations on spending the budgetary funds on elections, a referendum shall be submitted, respectively, to the Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, representative bodies of municipal formations. Chairmen of commissions shall manage the funds allocated for preparation and conduct of elections, referendum and be responsible, in accordance with the law, for compliance of financial documents with financial decisions of the commissions and for filing statements on expenditure of such funds in accordance with the procedure and by the time established by law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. The procedure for establishment and maintenance of accounts, records, reports, and the procedure for transfer of funds allocated from the federal budget of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to other commissions for preparation and conduct of elections to federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation, operation and improvement of means of automation, training of election officials and education of voters, and supporting the operation of election commissions shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in coordination with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. The procedure for establishment and maintenance of accounts, records, reports, and the procedure for transferring funds allocated from the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local budget to election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, other commissions for preparation and conduct of elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, to bodies of local self-government, referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum, operation and improvement of means of automation, training of election officials and education of voters, and supporting the work of election commissions shall be established by election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation in coordination with the main office (the national bank) of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in the subject of the Russian Federation. Funds shall be transferred to accounts opened by commissions in offices of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, and in their absence – in offices of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Banks shall charge no fee for opening accounts of election commissions, referendum commissions and for transactions to these accounts and no interest shall be accrued on the funds kept on the said bank accounts.

9. Commissions that receive funds from budgets of different levels shall maintain separate accounting records, cash records and reports related to funds received from the said budgets.

(as amended by the Federal Budget of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 58. Procedure of Creation of Electoral Funds, Referendum Funds

1. Candidates shall establish their own electoral funds for funding their election campaigns in the period between the submission of a written notice of their nomination (self-nomination) to relevant election commission and submission of documents for their registration by this election commission. At elections to bodies of local self-government a candidate is not required to create an electoral fund, if the number of voters in the electoral district does not exceed five thousand people and candidate does not finance his election campaign. In this case the candidate shall notify corresponding election commission of the said circumstances. Election associations that nominated lists of candidates shall, for the purpose of funding their election campaigns, establish electoral funds after their authorized representatives, including

authorized representatives for financial issues, are registered by relevant election commissions. Election association that nominated candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district is not required to create an electoral fund.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

2. A referendum initiative group shall create its own fund for funding its activities related to putting forward of the referendum initiative, organization of the collection of signatures in support of such initiative, and activities aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may establish that, when an initiative to conduct a local referendum with a certain number of referendum participants in the territory of corresponding municipal formation (that shall not exceed five thousand), the referendum initiative group is not required to create a referendum fund, provided that the group does not fund preparation and conduct of the referendum. The maximum limit of expenditure out of a referendum fund, sources of its creation, and the maximum limit of donations and contributions to the referendum fund shall be established by the law. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation that regulates preparation and conduct of referendum shall provide for the possibility of creation of referendum funds by other referendum participant groups, including funds for campaigning against conduct of a referendum, participation in a referendum, against questions put for a referendum. The said funds shall be governed by the rules established by this Federal Law for a referendum fund created by the referendum initiative group.

3. In cases established by the law candidates shall be entitled to, and election associations, a referendum initiative group must appoint authorized representatives for financial issues. Registration of authorized representatives for financial issues shall be made by commissions in the procedure established by the law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. Candidates standing for election only within a list of candidates nominated by an election association shall not be entitled to create their own electoral funds.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Electoral funds of candidates, election associations may be created using the following sources:

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

a) own money of a candidate, election association;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

b) sums allocated to a candidate by the election association that nominated him;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) voluntary donations of citizens;

d) voluntary donations of legal entities;

e) funds allocated to a candidate, election association by corresponding election commission in cases established by the law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. No donations to electoral funds of candidates, registered candidates, election associations to referendum funds shall be allowed from:

a) foreign states and foreign legal entities;

b) foreign nationals, save the case referred to in Clause 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law;

c) stateless persons;

d) citizens of the Russian Federation who have not attained to the age of 18 years as of the voting day;

e) Russian legal entities with foreign participation if the foreign share (contribution) in their authorized (share) capital exceeds 30 percent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call elections, as of the day of commencement of referendum campaign (for open

joint stock companies – as of the date of preparation of the list of shareholders entitled to participate in the annual general meeting for the previous financial year);

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ)

f) international organizations and international public movements;

g) bodies of state power, other state bodies and bodies of local self-government;

h) state and municipal institutions, states and municipal unitary enterprises;

i) legal entities in authorized (share) capital of which share (contribution) of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) municipal formations exceeds 30 percent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call elections, as of the day of commencement of referendum campaign (for open joint stock companies – as of the date of preparation of the list of shareholders entitled to participate in the annual general meeting for the previous financial year);

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ)

j) organizations established by state and (or) local self-government bodies (except joint stock companies, established as the result of privatization); organizations established by legal entities referred to in Paragraphs “e” and “i” of this Clause; organizations in authorized (share) capital of which share (contribution) of legal entities referred to in Paragraphs “e” and “i” of this Clause exceeds 30 percent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call elections, as of the day of commencement of referendum campaign (for open joint stock companies – as of the day of preparation of the list of persons entitled to vote at a general meeting of shareholders for the previous financial year);

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ)

k) military units, military institutions and organizations and law enforcement authorities;

l) charity organizations and religious associations as well as organizations established by them;

m) anonymous donators. "Anonymous donator" means a citizen who has not indicated or indicated incorrectly any of the following data in the donation payment document: surname, first name and patronymic, residential address; a legal entity which has not indicated or indicated incorrectly any of the following data in the donation payment document: taxpayer's identification number, corporate name, bank details);

n) legal entities registered less than a year before the voting day of the election, referendum.

o) non-profit organizations if, during a year preceding the day of the donation to an electoral fund, referendum fund they received sums of money or other property from:

- foreign states and bodies, organizations or physical entities mentioned in Paragraphs “a”-“d”, “f”-“h”, “k”-“n” of this Clause;

- Russian legal entities with foreign participation, if share (contribution) of the foreign participation in their authorized (share) capital exceeded 30 percent as of the day on which these sums or other property was received (for open joint-stock companies - as of the date of preparation of the list of shareholders entitled to participate in the annual general meeting for the previous financial year);

- legal entities with an authorized (share) capital in which the share (contribution) of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) municipal formations exceeded 30 percent as of the day on which these sums or other property was received (for open joint-stock companies - as of the date of preparation of the list of shareholders entitled to participate in the annual general meeting for the previous financial year);

- organizations established by state bodies and/or bodies of local self-government (with the exception of joint-stock companies established by way of privatization);

- organizations established by the legal entities mentioned in sub-Paragraphs three and four of this Paragraph;

- organizations with an authorized (share) capital in which the share (contribution) of the legal entities mentioned in sub-Paragraphs three and four of this Paragraph exceeded 30 percent as of the day on which these sums or other property was received (for open joint-stock companies - as of the date of preparation of the list of shareholders entitled to participate in the annual general meeting for the previous financial year);

(Paragraph "o" introduced by the Federal Law of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ)
(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6¹ The non-profit organizations mentioned in Paragraph "o", Clause 6 of this Article shall not be allowed to make donations to the electoral fund of candidate, registered candidate, election association, to referendum fund only if the sums of money or other property received by these non-profit organizations were not returned by them to the foreign states, bodies, organizations or physical entities mentioned in sub-paragraphs two-seven of Paragraph "o", Clause 6 of this Article, which gave them these sums of money or other property (if these sums of money or this property was not transferred to the budget of the Russian Federation before the day of the donation to the electoral fund because it was impossible to return them).

(Clause 6¹ introduced by the Federal Law of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ)

7. When making a donation, a citizen shall indicate in the payment document the following personal data: surname, first name, patronymic, date of birth, address of his place of residence, series and number of passport or document equivalent to a citizen's passport, citizenship.

8. When making a donation, a legal entity shall indicate in the payment document the following data: taxpayer identification number, name, date of registration, bank details, and notes on absence of restrictions referred to in Clause 6 of this Article.

(Clause 8 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Candidate, election association, referendum initiative group is entitled to return any donation to electoral fund, referendum fund to donator except donation of anonymous donator. If donation is made by a citizen or legal entity with no right to make such donation, or if donation is made in violation of requirements referred to in Clauses 7 and 8 of this Article, or such donation is in excess of the maximum amount established by the law, it shall be returned to donator in full or the part that exceeds the maximum amount established by the law shall be returned with explanation of the reason for such return. Donation made by anonymous donator shall be transferred to revenue of corresponding budget. Terms for return of donations and terms of transfer of donations to revenue of corresponding budget shall be established by the law. Candidate, election association, referendum initiative group are not responsible for receipt of donations if donators did not provide data referred to in Clauses 7 and 8 of this Article or turned out to be unauthentic, if candidate, election association were not timely provided with information on unlawfulness of such donations.

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. Maximum limits for sums that may be transferred to electoral funds out of own money of candidate, election association, money allocated to a candidate by the election association that nominated him, voluntary donations of citizens and legal entities, as well as the maximum limits of expenditure out of electoral funds shall be established by law. Such maximum limits for expenditure out of electoral funds may be increased by up to 20 percent for electoral funds of registered candidates included in the ballot for a repeat voting. A candidate who is simultaneously nominated in more than one electoral district at different elections, if such elections are conducted in the same territory or in territories one of which is located within the other, shall create electoral funds in accordance with Clause 1 of this article, however, the maximum total limit of expenditure out of funds shall be calculated by the greatest of the above limits.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. All sums of an electoral fund, a referendum fund shall be transferred to a special electoral account, special referendum account that is opened with the consent of corresponding commission by candidate or his authorized representative for financial issues, authorized

representative for financial issues of election association, referendum initiative group in branches of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation, and, in the absence of such branches, in other credit institutions located in the territory of the electoral district, referendum territory. In the absence of any credit institutions in the territory of the electoral district, referendum territory candidate, election association, referendum initiative group shall in coordination with corresponding commission choose a credit institution at which a special electoral account, a special referendum account is to be opened. The law of the Russian Federation may establish that during the election to bodies of local self-government of settlements transfer of electoral fund means to a special electoral account is not required, if expenditure related to financing of election campaign of candidate does not exceed three thousand rubles.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. At elections of federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation, the procedure for opening, maintenance and closing of accounts referred to in Clause 11 of this Article shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in coordination with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. At elections to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and to bodies of local self-government, a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, the procedure for opening, maintenance and closing of the said accounts shall be established by corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation in coordination with the main office (the national bank) of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in the subject of the Russian Federation. Procedure and forms of accounting and reporting on receipt of means from electoral funds, referendum funds and expenditure of these means shall be established by corresponding election commission.

(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 59. Procedure of Expenditure of Electoral Funds, Referendum Funds Means

1. The authority to manage electoral funds, referendum funds belongs to candidates, election associations, referendum initiative groups, and other referendum participant groups that created these funds.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Electoral funds, referendum funds shall be intended for particular purposes. Electoral funds may be used by candidates, election associations only to cover expenses related to their election campaigns. Referendum funds may be used by referendum initiative group only for activities aimed at putting forward a referendum initiative, collection of signatures in support of this initiative, and obtaining a certain result at the referendum, other referendum participant groups may use the funds only for activities aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Electoral funds, referendum funds may be used for:

a) financial support of organizational-technical measures aimed at collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants in support of nomination of candidate, list of candidates, referendum initiative, including remuneration to persons engaged in collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants;

b) election campaigning, referendum campaigning, and payment for works (services) of information and advisory nature;

c) payment for other work (services) performed by citizens or legal entities, and payment of other expenses directly related to conduct of their election campaigns by candidates, election associations, to the activity of the referendum initiative group aimed at putting forward a referendum initiative, collecting signatures in support of this initiative, and

obtaining a certain result at the referendum, to the activity of other referendum initiative groups aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

d) Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ

3¹ The Federal Law may establish creation of electoral funds means of which shall be used only to cover expensed referred to in Paragraphs “b” and “c”, Clause 3 of this Article.

(Clause 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. Contracts (agreements) with citizens and legal entities for performance of certain work (services) related to the election campaign of candidate, election association, to a referendum campaign, shall be concluded personally by candidate or his authorized representative for financial issues, authorized representative for financial issues of election association, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. Settlements for performance of such work (services) between candidate, election association, referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group and legal entities shall be effected only by bank transfers.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Citizens and legal entities shall be entitled to provide financial support to candidate, election association, referendum initiative group only through corresponding electoral funds, referendum funds. Expenditure for the purpose of achieving a certain result at elections, referendum of funds not transferred to electoral funds, referendum funds shall be prohibited. It shall be prohibited without a written consent of candidate or his authorized representative for financial issues, authorized representative for financial issues of election association, referendum initiative group, and without payment out of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund, to perform paid work, sell goods, render paid services that are directly or indirectly related to elections, referendum or aimed at obtaining certain results at elections, at putting forwards referendum initiative, obtaining a certain result at a referendum. Legal entities, their subsidiaries, branches, representative offices, and other subdivisions are not allowed to perform free of charge, or at unreasonably low rates, any work, services, sell goods that are directly or indirectly related to elections, referendum or are aimed at obtaining a certain result at elections, at putting forward referendum initiative, obtaining a certain result at a referendum. Material support of a candidate, election association, referendum initiative group aimed at achieving a certain result at elections, referendum may only be provided in case of its compensation at expense of corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund. A citizen may voluntarily and personally perform work, services in relation to preparation and conduct of elections, referendum without engaging any third parties.

(Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Candidates, election associations, referendum initiative groups are entitled to use for payment of administrative and technical events aimed at collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants, and at election campaign, referendum question campaign, and other activity aimed at achieving of a certain result at elections, referendum only monetary fund (including their own funds and funds of election association) that were transferred to their electoral funds, referendum funds in the order established by the law.

Election association that nominated list of candidates is entitled to use for the purpose of its election campaign and without payment out of its electoral fund its movable and immovable property (except securities, print materials and consumables) at his disposal (including on a leasehold basis) as of the day of the official publication (making public) of the decision to call elections.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. Credit institution that is a holder of a special electoral account, a special referendum account shall, at the request of corresponding commission, candidate, election association,

referendum initiative group, periodically provide them with information on receipt of funds on and withdrawal of funds from the electoral account of this candidate, election association, special referendum account of this referendum initiative group. At the request of corresponding commission and in relation to corresponding electoral fund, referendum fund at the request of the candidate, election association, referendum initiative group the credit institution that is a holder of a special electoral account, a special referendum account shall, within three days or if the request is submitted three days prior to the voting day - immediately, issue certified copies of initial financial documents evidencing receipt and spending out of electoral funds, referendum funds.

(Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Before the voting day at elections, referendum, corresponding election commission shall periodically provide the information on receipt and spending out of electoral funds, referendum funds to mass media for publication. Editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals, in accordance with the level of the election, referendum shall publish the said information provided to them by commissions for publication within three days of receipt of such information. The scope of information that is required to be published shall be established by the law.

9. Not later than in 30 days from the day of the official publication of the election results, candidate, election association shall provide corresponding commission with final financial report on the size of their electoral fund, sources used for its creation and on all expenditure out such electoral fund. Term of provision of the final financial report by referendum initiative group shall be established by the law. The final financial report shall be provided together with initial financial documents evidencing receipt and spending out of the electoral fund, referendum fund. The list of documents to be attached to final financial documents shall be established by commission organizing elections, referendum. The law may establish that candidate, election association shall provide the first financial report together with presentation of documents for registration, and referendum initiative group – together with signature lists.

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9¹ Copies of financial reports referred to in Clause 9 of this Article shall be submitted by commission to editorial boards of mass media for their publication not later than in five days from the day of their receipt. The law may establish that editorial boards of state and municipal print periodicals (according to the level of elections, referendum) shall publish financial reports (extracts from financial report) provided by commissions in term established by this law.

(Clause 9¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. Ceased to be in force from August 1, 2009. – The Federal Law of July 19, 2009, No.203-FZ.

11. Candidates, election associations, referendum initiative groups shall transfer any unspent funds remaining on the special electoral account, referendum account after the voting day to citizens and legal entities that made donations to their electoral funds, referendum funds in proportion to the donations. After the expiration of the period of thirty days from the voting day, the credit institution at written order of corresponding commission without further authorization shall transfer funds due to such commission to commission account, and the rest of unspent funds on special electoral fund, special referendum funds shall be transferred to the revenue of corresponding budget in 60 days from the voting day.

(Clause 11 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. The procedure for taxation of electoral funds, referendum funds, voluntary donations and transfers to the said funds, and spending of the said funds shall be established by the federal laws.

13. Commissions shall exercise control over formation and spending of electoral funds, referendum funds. Bodies of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at their place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation, executive power bodies in charge of state registration of legal entities or authorized to register non-profit organizations within five days from the day of receipt of request of corresponding commission to verify data provided by citizens and legal entities at transfer or contribution of donations to electoral funds, referendum funds free of charge and notify commission of the results of such verification.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 30, 2006, No.274-FZ)

Article 60. Supervisory and Auditing Services

1. For the purposes of supervision over proper spending of funds allocated to commissions for preparation and conduct of elections, a referendum, and over sources, proper accounting, and use of electoral funds, referendum funds, for auditing of financial documents of candidates, election associations, referendum initiative groups, for verification of information provided by candidates under Clause 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law about their property, income and sources thereof, for supervision over the return of budgetary funds allocated by relevant election commissions to electoral funds of candidates, election associations, supervisory and auditing services shall be established.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Supervisory and auditing services shall be established under the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and in cases provided by the law, under other commission with engagement of managers and experts from state and other bodies and institutions, including the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation, main offices (national banks) of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in the subjects of the Russian Federation. The said bodies and institutions, at the request of corresponding election commission and not later than in one month after the official publication of the decision to call elections, the official decision to call a referendum shall delegate their specialists to commissions. Such specialists shall be delegated to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation for the period of at least five months, and to other commissions – for the period of at least two months.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. For the periods of their work in supervisory and auditing services, specialists referred to in Clause 2 of this Article shall be relieved from their main work and retain their jobs, salaries, and other benefits at their main place of work, and they may receive additional compensations out of the funds allocated for preparation and conduct of elections and referenda.

Chapter IX. GUARANTEES OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AT ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF VOTING, COUNTING OF VOTES OF VOTERS, REFERENDUM PARTICIPANTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS, REFERENDUM AND THEIR PUBLICATION

Article 61. Polling Station

1. A polling station shall be made available to a precinct commission free of charge by the head of corresponding municipal formation and in cases established by this Federal Law, another federal law, by the commanding officer of a military unit, the captain of a ship, the head of a polar station, the head of a diplomatic or consular mission of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. A polling station shall have a hall with booths or other special places for secret balloting, provided with a lighting system and writing utensils other than pencils.

3. Inside or directly in front of the polling station a precinct election commission shall set up a notice-board for displaying the following information on all candidates, lists of candidates, election associations, included in the ballot: (as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, №.93-FZ)

a) biographical information of candidates in the scope established by commission organizing elections but not less than the scope of biographical information indicated in the ballot;

b) if candidate, list of candidates were nominated by election association, the words "Nominated by election association" specifying the name of election association that nominated candidate, list of candidates;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) if the candidate is self-nominated, the word "self-nomination";
(Paragraph "c" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

d) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ;

e) information on personal income and property of candidates in the scope established by election commission organizing elections;

f) information on inaccuracy of the data submitted by candidates referred to in Clause 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law (if such information is available).

4. If a registered candidate, including candidates in the lists of candidates, has a conviction that has not been withdrawn or spent, the notice-board shall display information on such candidate's convictions.

5. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ.

6. At a referendum, the notice-board shall carry informational materials on referendum questions, including the text of the regulatory act put to referendum.

7. Materials placed on the notice-board shall not contain elements of election campaigning, referendum campaigning.

7¹ In order to inform voters, referendum participants that are visually impaired, the notice-board shall have materials referred to in Clauses 3, 4 and 6 of this Article printed in large fonts and (or) with the use of Braille alphabet. Election precincts, referendum precincts which notice-boards shall have such materials are determined by the decision of commission organizing elections, referendum, and at election to federal bodies of state power – by the decision of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 7¹ introduced by the Federal Law of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

8. The notice-board shall carry samples of marked ballots that must not contain the names of candidates registered in this electoral district, names of election associations participating in this election, as well as samples of ballots for voting at referendum that must show all options for marking the ballot (ballots).

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. At the polling station, there shall be an enlarged form of the protocol of voting results designed for entering voting results in the course of their establishment. Such enlarged form of the protocol of voting results shall be posted before the commencement of voting so that it is within the field of vision of members of precinct election commission, observers, at a distance at which they can read the information contained therein.

10. Inside the polling station there shall be stationary ballot boxes. The functions of stationary ballot boxes may be performed by vote-counting machines, including programmed technical complexes for processing of ballots. During electronic voting complexes for electronic voting shall be used.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. The polling station shall be equipped in the way ensures that the places where ballots are issued, places for secret balloting, and ballot boxes, technical equipment for vote counting remain in the field of vision of members of precinct commission and observers.

Article 62. Absentee Certificate

(as amended by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

1. The law may establish that voter, referendum participant who cannot come to polling station of election precinct, referendum precinct where he is included in list of voters, referendum participants is entitled to receive an absentee certificated in commission established by the law and in terms established by the law and participate in voting (within the limits of electoral district, referendum district, where such voter, referendum participant has an active electoral right, right to participate in a referendum) at election precinct, referendum precinct where he will stay on the voting day. The term of issue of absentee certificates established by the law shall not be less than 30 days and shall end on the day prior to the voting day.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

2. If the event of coinciding of the voting days at elections and (or) referendum of various levels where the law may establish voting with absentee certificates, such absentee certificated are issued within terms established by the law regulating the procedure of conduct of elections (referendum) of the higher level.

3. Absentee certificates are documents subject to strict accountability with unified numeration in the whole territory of elections, referendum. Absentee certificate used at elections where the law provides for repeat election shall have a coupon. Absentee certificate is produced in accordance with the form specified in Annex 2 or 3 to this Federal Law. The text of absentee certificate and their quantity, the form of the register of issued absentee certificates shall be approved in terms established by law by commission organizing elections, referendum. This commission shall also determine means of protection of protection of absentee certificates from being counterfeited when produced.

4. In order to protect absentee certificates from being counterfeited when produced a special paper with water marks and (or) micro prints and (or) protective grid and (or) special protection elements shall be used.

5. Commission organizing elections, referendum shall place an order to produce absentee certificates centrally on the basis of its decision.

6. Based on a written application of a voter indicating the reasons why the voter needs an absentee certificate the election commission shall issue an absentee certificate either to the voter personally or to his representative provided with a notarized power of attorney. A power of attorney may also be certified by the administration of a hospital (if a voter is undergoing medical treatment at this hospital), by the administration of an institution where persons suspected or accused of commission of a crime are held in custody (if a voter is held in this institution as a person suspected or accused of commission of a crime).

7. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other voting member of commission in charge of issuing of an absentee certificate to a voter, referendum participant shall enter the

surname, name and patronymic of the voter, series and number of his passport or document equivalent to a citizen's passport, number of election precinct, referendum precinct where the voter, referendum participant is included into list of voters, referendum participants, address of precinct commission, name of municipal formation and the subject of the Russian Federation, number and (or) name of single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district (if elections are carried out in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts), in the territory of which such election precinct, referendum precinct is formed, name of commission that issued an absentee certificate. If the law establishes repeat voting, the said data on voter, election precinct and corresponding commission are also entered in a coupon of absentee certificate. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other voting member of commission shall enter his surname and initials, date of issue of absentee certificate in absentee certificate (and if the law establishes repeat voting – also in a coupon), sign and affix the seal of corresponding commission.

8. When voter, referendum participants receives an absentee certificate (in the event of repeat voting at election – absentee certificate without a coupon), such voter, referendum participant shall enter into corresponding boxes of the register of issued absentee certificates or list of voters, referendum participants series and number of his passport or document equivalent to a citizen's passport and sign. The register of issued absentee certificates shall contain residential address of voter, referendum participant. If an absentee certificate is issues on the basis of power of attorney presented by representative of voter, referendum participant, corresponding boxes of the register of issued absentee certificates or list of voters, referendum participants shall indicate series and number of passport of voter, referendum participant or document equivalent to citizen's passport, and representative of voter, referendum participant shall indicate his surname, name and patronymic, series and number of passport or document equivalent to a citizen's passport and sign. After that such power of attorney of representative of voter, referendum participant is removed and attached to the register of issued absentee certificates, list of voters, referendum participants.

9. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other voting member of territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission) who issued an absentee certificate to voter, referendum participant, shall in corresponding boxes of the register of issued absentee certificates enter the number of issued absentee certificate and sign. Territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission) shall in 20 days prior to the voting day provide election commission with the first copy of the list of voters, referendum participants and certified extracts from the register of issued absentee certificates that contain data on voters, referendum participants that received absentee certificates and registered in territories of corresponding election precincts, referendum precincts. Member of precinct commission on the basis of corresponding extract shall make a note "Received in territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission) an absentee certificate No." in box "Special notes" in list of voters, referendum participants with indicating the number of issued absentee certificate and sign it.

10. When issuing an absentee certificate to voter, referendum participant in precinct commission, the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other voting member of precinct commission that issued an absentee certificate to voter, referendum participant shall make a note "Received absentee certificate No." in box "Special notes" in list of voters, referendum participants with indicating the number of issued absentee certificate and sign it.

11. Voter, referendum participant that received an absentee certificated (including through representative on the basis of power of attorney) shall be removed by precinct commission out of list of voters, referendum participants in corresponding election precinct, referendum precinct for these elections, referendum and shall not be accounted among registered voters, referendum participants at preparation of the protocol of voting results by precinct commission.

12. Repeated issue of absentee certificate is not allowed. In case an absentee certificate is lost, its copy shall not be issued.

13. On the voting day before voting starts, unused absentee certificates shall be cancelled. If the law provides for repeat voting at elections, the order and terms of cancellation of absentee certificated and coupons is established by this law. Data on cancellation of unused absentee certificates and coupons with indication of their quantity and numbers of absentee certificates shall be entered by corresponding commission into the act filed in accordance with the form approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

14. Upon presentation of an absentee certificate on the voting day a voter, referendum participant shall additionally included in list of voters, referendum participants at the election precinct, referendum precinct in the territory of which he stays on the voting day. Precinct commission shall make an appropriate note in "Special note" box: "Voted by absentee certificate No." with indicating the number of absentee certificate presented by voter, referendum participant. After that an absentee certificate is suppressed from voter, referendum participant, save as cases when the law provides for repeat voting at elections. In such cases during general elections a coupon is suppressed from voter, and during repeat voting – an absentee certificate. Absentee certificates (coupons) on the basis of which voters, referendum participants are included in list of voters, referendum participants are kept together with the given list.

15. In case of lost of absentee certificate blank commission that established the fact of such loss shall immediately file a corresponding act and take a decision with indicating the number of lost blank of absentee certificate, the fact of loss and the reason of loss. This decision shall on the same day be communicated to superior commission and commission organizing elections, referendum. On the basis of this decision commission organizing elections, referendum recognizes this absentee certificate invalid and informs all subordinate commissions to this effect. Invalid absentee certificate shall not constitute the reason for inclusion of voter, referendum participant into a list of voters, referendum participants. Upon presentation of such absentee certificate by a voter, referendum participant, it shall be suppressed.

16. Transfer of absentee certificates to commissions and account of absentee certificates including with the use of GAS "Vybory" is carried out in the manner established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

Article 63. Ballot

1. In order to participate in elections, a referendum, a voter, referendum participant shall be receive a ballot.

(Clause 1 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Ballots shall be produced solely on the instruction of corresponding commission. Numbering of ballots shall not be allowed. The number of produced ballots shall not exceed the number of registered voters, referendum participants by more than 1.5 percent.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2¹ In order to help visually impaired voters, referendum participants by the decision of corresponding election commission special stencils shall be made for independent filling in of ballots including with the use of Braille alphabet. Election precincts, referendum precincts that shall have such stencils prepared are determined by the decisions of commission organizing elections, referendum, and at election to federal bodies of state power – by the decision of election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 2¹ introduced by the Federal Law of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

3. At election to federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation ballots shall be protected from forgery with the use of paper with water marks or micro-inscriptions and (or) protective grid, or with the use of special mark (stamp). The order of production and use of special marks (stamps), their number and requirements to provision of subordinate commissions with special marks (stamps) by superior commission are approved by commission organizing elections not later than in 60 days prior to the voting day.
(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3¹ At election to bodies of local self-government (except election to representative body of municipal formation carried out in electoral districts, population of which does not exceed five thousand people) ballots are produced with the use of paper with color background printed at a printing organization or micro-inscription and (or) protective grid.
(Clause 3¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)
Ballots shall be produced:

4. The form and the text of the ballot, the quantity of ballots, and the procedure for supervision over their production shall be approved by corresponding commissions not later than 20 days before the voting day. The text shall be printed only on one side of the ballot. In the event of a repeat voting, the text of the ballot, the quantity of ballots shall be approved by corresponding commission together with taking a decision to conduct repeat voting.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. During voting for candidates, surnames of registered candidates shall be arranged in the ballot in the alphabetical order, and the ballot shall contain the following information about each registered candidate:

a) surname, first name, patronymic;

b) year of birth;

c) name of a Russian Federation subject, district, city, other settlement where the candidate resides;

(Paragraph "c" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

d) main place of work or service, official position (occupation, if there is no main place of work or service);

e) if a candidate is a deputy and exercises his powers on a non-permanent basis, this fact and the name of the representative body;

f) if a candidate was nominated by election association – words "Nominated by election association" with abbreviated name of election association;

(Paragraph "f" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

g) if a candidate is a self-nominated candidate – word "self-nomination";

(Paragraph "g" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

h) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ.

Sub-paragraphs from ten to eleven ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

5¹ If a registered candidate nominated directly in accordance with Clause 2, Article 33 of this Federal Law indicated in application to stand for election his membership in some political party, the ballot shall contain abbreviated name of this political party, other public association and the status of the registered candidate in this political party, other public association.

(Clause 5¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

5² If a registered candidate nominated by election association in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district is also included into the registered list of candidates, ballot shall contain this information.

(Clause 5² introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. During voting on lists of candidates, the ballot shall contain abbreviated names of election associations arranged in an order determined during the draw, as well as surnames, first names, patronymics of at least first three candidates from the list and (or) its respective regional part, and black-and-white emblems of election associations.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

7. If a registered candidate indicated in the ballot has a conviction that has not been withdrawn or spent, the ballot shall contain information on candidate's convictions.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 25, 2006, No.128-FZ)

8. A blank box shall be placed to the right of the data of each registered candidate indicated under Clauses 5, 5¹, 5² and 6 of this Article, to the right of the name of each election association.

(Clause 8 as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

8¹ If in accordance with Clause 35, Article 38 of this Federal Law the voting is carried out with relation to only one candidate, options for will expression of voters with words "Yes" and "No" shall be placed under data on registered candidate referred to in Clauses 5, 5¹, 5² and 6 of this Article and blank boxes shall be placed to the right of such words.

(Clause 8¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

9. For voting at a referendum, the ballot shall contain the text of the question put to referendum and indicate the options for will expression of voters with words "Yes" or "No" with blank boxes to the right of such words. If a regulatory act draft is put to referendum, ballot shall contain its text or the name of such regulatory draft.

(Clause 9 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. Ballots shall be printed in Russian language. Subject to a decision of the commission specified by the law, ballots shall be printed in Russian language and in the official language of the given republic comprised in the Russian Federation and, in the necessary cases, in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation in the territories of their dense settlement. If ballots for election precinct, referendum precinct are printed in two or more languages, the Russian text shall be printed in each ballot.

11. The ballots produced by a printing organization shall be handed over, on the basis of a certificate, to members of commission that placed an order for their production. The certificate shall indicate the date and time when it was filed and the quantity of the ballots delivered. After the ballots packed in bundles are handed over in the quantity corresponding to the order, the personnel of the printing organization shall destroy surplus ballots (if any) and shall file a certificate to this effect. Not later than in two days before the receipt of ballots from corresponding printing organization, commission that placed order for ballots production shall take a decision on place and time of delivery of ballots to members of this commission, destroying of ballots. Any member of this commission, any candidate whose surname is in a ballot (except candidates whose surnames are in the list of candidates), or representative of such candidate, representative of any election association which is named in ballot, referendum initiative group, any other referendum participants group are entitled to put their signatures in the certificates mentioned in this Clause.

(Clause 11 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

12. Commission that placed an order for production of ballots upon receiving ballots from printing organization shall deliver them under an acceptance certificate to subordinate commissions in term established by commission organizing elections, referendum on the basis of its decision on distribution of ballots. Subordinate commissions shall deliver ballots in the same order to commission that are subordinate to them, including precinct commission. Delivery of ballot by superior commission to subordinate commission shall be registered in an

acceptance act, in two copies, which shall indicate date and time of its filing and the number of delivered ballots.

(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. Delivery of ballots to precinct commissions shall be made not later than in one day before the voting day (including early voting). At each election precinct, referendum precinct the number of delivered ballots shall not exceed the number of voters, referendum participants registered in given election precinct, referendum precinct by 0.5 percent (but not less than by two ballots), and cover less than 70 percent of voters, referendum participants included in lists of voters, referendum participant in corresponding election precinct, referendum precinct as of the day of delivery of ballots. At delivery of ballots to precinct commissions ballots shall be counted and discarded, and discarded ballots (if any detected) shall be destroyed by members of commission that delivers ballots, which shall be recorded in a special certificate.

(Clause 13 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14. Delivery of ballots by superior commission to subordinate commission, their discard and destruction may be attended by members of these commissions, candidates referred to in Clause 11 of this Article or their representatives, as well as representatives of election associations referred to in Clause 11 of this Article, referendum initiative group, other referendum participants groups. Corresponding commission shall notify the listed person on place and time of delivery of ballots. This commission shall also provide an opportunity to attend delivery of ballots to each candidate referred to in Clause 11 of this Article and to not less than one representative of such candidate, to not less than one representative of each election association referred to in Clause 11 of this Article, and to not less than one representative of referendum initiative group, other referendum participants groups. Each of the listed persons is entitled to sign acts filed during delivery of ballots as well as during their discard and destruction (if any).

(Clause 14 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

15. Chairmen of commissions that perform delivery, acceptance and storage of ballots shall be responsible for delivery and safety of ballots.

(Clause 15 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

16. Signatures of two voting members of precinct commission certified by the precinct commission's seal shall be put in the upper right corner on the face of all ballots received by precinct commission.

17. If a registered candidate whose surname, name and patronymic are entered into a ballot is withdrawn from the list of candidates, upon cancelation of registration of candidate, list of candidates after ballots are produced, territorial, district, precinct commissions shall, on the instruction of the commission that registered this candidate, list of candidates, cross out the data on this candidate, list of candidates in ballots. If amendments regarding data on candidate, election association shall be entered into produced ballot, these amendments may be entered by members of territorial, district or precinct commission in handwriting or with the use of technical equipment.

(Clause 17 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

18. If in accordance with the law a decision is taken to register candidates, lists of candidates, on transfer the seat in case of repeat voting to next registered candidate instead of withdrawn after ballots are produced and in less than ten days prior to the voting day, commission that registered candidate, list of candidates is entitled to take decision on entering data on such registered candidate, list of candidates into produced ballots in handwriting or with the use of technical equipment.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ) .

19. In exceptional cases, in election precincts, referendum precincts formed in remote and hard-to-reach areas, on ships at sea on the voting day, at polar stations, in precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation electoral documents, including ballots, may be produced by precinct commission itself. Decision to produce such documents, indicating the required quantity of ballots and the deadline for their production shall be taken by this precinct commission in coordination with superior commission.

20. On the voting day, after the voting time ends, commissions shall count and cancel unused ballots. In precinct commissions, this procedure is carried out in accordance with Clause 3, Article 68 of this Federal Law. In other commissions, certificates of ballot cancelation specifying the number of canceled ballots shall be drawn up. Persons indicated in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law may be present when ballots are being canceled. Canceled ballots shall be kept by commission secretary together with other commission documents.

21. During elections, referendum with the use of complex for electronic voting an electronic ballot is used. The form and text of electronic ballot shall be approved by corresponding commission not later than in 20 days prior to the voting day and shall meet requirements stipulated by Clauses 5-10 of this Article. In case of repeat voting the text of electronic ballot shall be approved by corresponding commission together with taking the decision on conduct of repeat voting.

(Clause 21 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 64. Voting Procedure

1. The time of commencement and end of voting at elections, referendum shall be established by the law. Duration of voting shall not be less than ten hours. The law may establish that if working time of voters, referendum participants reside in the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct coincides with the voting time during election to bodies of state power, referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation (in case of enterprises with continuous operation or shift work), election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation may decide to shift the voting time in this election precinct, referendum precinct, but not for more than two hours. If the voting day at election to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum coincides with the voting day at election to federal bodies of state power, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Union State, at referendum of the Russian Federation, commencement and end of voting is established by the federal law.

(Clause 1 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. The time and place of voting shall be communicated to voters, referendum participants by territorial and precinct commissions not later than in 20 days prior to the voting day through mass media or otherwise, and if early or repeat voting is conducted the time and place of voting shall be communicated in the procedure and at the time established by the law but not later than in five days before the voting day.

3. On the voting day and before the commencement of voting, the chairman of a precinct commission shall provide for inspection by members of precinct commission, attending voters, referendum participants, persons specified in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law empty ballot boxes (correspondent compartments of the technical vote counting equipment, if any) that are then sealed with the precinct commission's seal.

4. Each voter, referendum participant shall vote in person, voting on behalf of other voters, referendum participants shall be prohibited.

5. Ballots shall be issued to voters, referendum participants who are included in a list of voters, referendum participants against presentation of their passports or document equivalent to citizen's passport, and if a voter, referendum participant votes on the basis of an absentee certificate, against presentation of such absentee certificate.

6. When receiving a ballot, a voter, referendum participant shall write the series and number of his passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport in the list of voters, referendum participants. With the consent of a voter, referendum participant or at his request, the series and number of the passport or document equivalent to citizen's passport presented by him may be written in the list of voters, referendum participants by a voting member of precinct commission. The voter, referendum participant shall verify the correctness of the entry and sign in the respective box of the list of voters, referendum participants for receipt of a ballot. In the event of voting on the basis of an absentee certificate, additional notes shall be made in the list of voters, referendum participants. In the event of voting with more than one ballot at a time, a voter, referendum participant shall sign for receipt of each ballot. The member of precinct commission who issued a ballot (ballots) to a voter, referendum participant shall also sign in corresponding box of the list of voters, referendum participants.

7. A voter, referendum participant shall vote by putting any mark in the box (boxes) corresponding to the candidate (candidates) or a list of candidates chosen by the voter or to any other options of will expression chosen.
(Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

8. A ballot shall be marked by a voter, referendum participant in a specially equipped booth or another specially equipped place where the presence of other persons shall not be allowed, save as otherwise provided by Clause 10 of this Article.

9. If a voter, referendum participant thinks that he has made a mistake when marking a ballot, he may ask the commission member who had issued the ballot to give him a new ballot in place of the spoilt one. The commission member shall issue a new ballot to the voter, referendum participant and note this fact in the list of voters, referendum participants against the name of this voter, referendum participant. Voting member of commission shall mark the spoilt ballot correspondingly and seal this note with his signature. After that this spoilt ballot shall also be signed by precinct commission secretary and cancelled immediately after this.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. A voter, referendum participant who is not able to sign for receipt of a ballot or mark a ballot by himself or take part in electronic voting may be assisted by another voter, referendum participant who is not a member of the commission, or a registered candidate, or an authorized representative or attorney of an election association, registered candidate, a referendum initiative group, or an observer. In this case, a voter, referendum participant shall orally inform commission of his intention to ask for assistance in marking the ballot, taking part in electronic voting. The surname, first name and patronymic, series and number of the passport or a document equivalent to citizen's passport of the person assisting such voter, referendum participant shall be indicated in the appropriate box (boxes) of the list of voters, referendum participants.
(Clause 10 as amended by the Federal Law of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

11. Voters, referendum participants shall drop marked ballots into sealed ballot boxes or into the technical vote counting equipment, if such equipment is used.

12. A member of a precinct commission shall be immediately barred from participation in its work and an observer and other persons shall be expelled from the polling station if they commit a violation of a law governing the election, the referendum. In this case, a reasoned written decision to this effect shall be taken by precinct or superior commission. The law

enforcement authorities shall enforce the decision and take steps to bring the barred member of the precinct commission, expelled observer and other offenders to responsibility under the legislation of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. Registered candidates, election associations, attorneys and authorized representatives of election association, attorneys of registered candidates, members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative group, as well as organizations, whose founders, owners, proprietors and (or) members of management bodies and supervision bodies are the abovementioned persons and organizations, and other physical and legal entities acting by request or on the instruction of the abovementioned persons and organizations, are not allowed to perform any actions aimed at arrangement of transportation of voters, referendum participants for participation in voting.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

14. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may provide voters, referendum participants with the possibility to vote by mail. In this case these votes of voters, referendum participants shall be accounted that were received by corresponding commission not later than by the end of voting on the voting day. The procedure of voting by mail at election to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, at referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, locals referendum shall, until this issue is regulated by a federal law, be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

15. Electronic voting may be conducted during elections, referendum instead of voting with the use of paper ballots. Total number of election precincts, referendum precincts where electronic voting is conducted shall not exceed 1 percent of the total number of election precincts, referendum precincts formed in the territory where elections, referendum are conducted. If 1 percent of total number of election precincts, referendum precincts formed in the territory where elections, referendum are conducted, is less than five election precincts, referendum precincts, this total number may not be less than five election precincts, referendum precincts. Decision to conduct electronic voting is taken by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or on its instruction by corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. The order of electronic voting, counting of votes of voters, referendum participants and establishment of voting results for election precinct, referendum precinct, the form of the protocol of precinct commission of voting results, as well as specifics of establishment of voting results and results of elections, referendum by superior commissions with account of results of electronic voting are established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 15 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 65. Early Voting

(as amended by the Federal Law of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ)

1. In cases and in the order established by the law a corresponding commission is entitled to permit early (but not earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) voting of all voters, referendum participants in one or several election precincts, referendum precincts formed in hard-to-reach and remote places, on ships at sea on the voting day, at polar stations. In cases and in the order established by the law a corresponding commission is entitled to permit early voting within several days (but not earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) of voters, referendum participants located in places remote from polling station with limited or lack transportation connections (in hard-to-reach and remote places, at polar stations and similar places), where early voting in election precinct, referendum precinct within one day is impossible to be conducted. In cases and in the order established by federal law, at election to federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation the Central Election

Commission of the Russian Federation is entitled to permit early (but not earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) voting of all voters, referendum participants in one or several election precincts, referendum precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, and (or) voting of groups of voters, referendum participants residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation. At election to federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, at referendum of the Russian Federation, early voting upon other reasons except provided for by this Clause, and in the order similar to the order established in Clauses 2-9 of this Article, is not conducted.

2. At referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum, unless the law establishes voting by absentee ballots, referendum participant who on the voting day reasonably (vacation, business trip, work or education, performance of state or public duties) is absent at his place of residence and cannot arrive to polling station at referendum precinct where he is included in the list of referendum participants, shall be provided with an opportunity to vote early by filling in a ballot in the premises of corresponding territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation (15-4 days prior to the voting day) or precinct commission (not earlier than in three days prior to the voting day). If the voting day at referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum coincides with the voting day at election, referendum of the Russian Federation and the law establishes voting by absentee certificated, a referendum participant may vote early (but not earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) in the premises of the commission that issues absentee certificates. Referendum participant who votes early shall submit an application with the reason for early voting to corresponding commission. This application shall be attached to the list of early voted referendum participants. The commission shall ensure the secrecy of voting, prevent any possibility of the will of referendum participant being distorted, arrange for safety of the ballot and ensure that the vote cast by referendum participant will be counted when voting results are established. Commission is entitled to check the reason for early voting stated in application of referendum participant and if such reason is not verified, to refuse issuing of a ballot.

3. If referendum participant votes in the premises of the territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation, signatures of two members of corresponding commission certified by the commission's seal shall be put in the upper right corner on the face of the ballot issued to him. The territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation shall compile a list of referendum participants who voted early. This list together with ballot of referendum participants who voted early shall be submitted to precinct election commission that continues preparing such list for corresponding precinct. If early voting is conducted only in the premises of precinct commission, the list of referendum participants who voted early shall be prepared by precinct commission. The list of referendum participants who voted early shall be attached to the list of referendum participants.

4. A ballot marked by referendum participant voting early shall be put by referendum participant into an envelope and the envelope shall then be sealed. Two voting members of, respectively, territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation or precinct commission and non-voting members of the commission, observes (upon their wish) shall put their signatures on the envelope seam. The said signatures shall be certified by the seal of corresponding commission.

5. The sealed envelope with ballots shall be kept by the secretary of corresponding commission in the premises of territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation until the time when all ballots are delivered to precinct commissions, and in the premises of precinct commission, until the voting day.

6. Immediately after receipt of ballots by precinct commission, it shall make a note "Voted early" in the list of referendum participants opposite the surnames of referendum participants who voted early in the premises of territorial commission, election commission of

municipal formation. If referendum participant votes early in the premises of precinct commission, such note is made in the list of referendum participants at issuing of a ballot.

7. On the voting day, the chairman of precinct commission upon verifying the readiness of the technological vote counting equipment and turning it into voting mode (if such equipment is used) and official opening of polling station in the presence of members of precinct commission, observers, other persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, before the commencement of voting shall inform on total number of referendum participants who voted early, including in the premises of territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation, presents sealed envelopes with ballots for visual inspection and the list of referendum participants who voted early. After that the chairman of precinct commission shall open envelopes one by one.

8. If the number of referendum participants who voted early is more than one percent of the number of referendum participants included in the list of referendum participants for referendum precinct (but not less than ten referendum participants), the ballots of referendum participants who voted early shall be stamped on the back with the seal of precinct commission immediately after the ballots are taken out of the envelopes.

9. After the performance of actions described in Clauses 7 and 8 of this Article, the chairman of precinct commission shall, while observing the secrecy of the expression of the referendum participants' will, drop the ballots into a stationary ballot box or a technological vote counting equipment (if such equipment is used). If an envelope does not bear the required marks provided for by Clause 4 of this Article, or more than one ballot of the standard form established for voting at referendum with regards to corresponding referendum question is taken out of the envelope, all ballots taken out of this envelope are recognized as invalid and a corresponding statement is made. A note stating the reasons for recognizing a ballot invalid, certified by signatures of two voting members of precinct commission and a seal of precinct commission, shall be made on the face of each ballot in the boxes located to the right of options "Yes" and "no" ("For" and "Against").

Article 66. Procedure of Voting of Voters, Referendum Participants Outside Polling Station

1. Precinct commission shall make proper arrangements to enable voters, referendum participants to vote if they are included in the list of voters, referendum participants in the given election precinct, referendum precinct but are unable to come to the polling station for valid reasons (poor health, physical disability). Precinct commission shall also make voting arrangements for voters, referendum participants who are included in the list of voters, referendum participants of the given election precinct, referendum precinct but are kept in places of confinement of persons suspected or accused of commission of crimes.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Save as otherwise provided by Clause 1, Article 65 of this Federal Law, voting outside the polling station shall be conducted only on the voting day on the basis of a written or oral application of a voter, referendum participant (which may be delivered through other persons) for voting outside the polling station. Precinct commission shall record all received applications (oral applications) in a special register and, after the end of voting, shall keep this register together with the list of voters, referendum participants.
(as amended by the Federal Law of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ)

3. An entry in the register mentioned in Clause 2 of this Article recording an oral application shall indicate the time when the application was received; surname, first name and patronymic of the voter, referendum participant who stated his intention to vote outside the polling station; residential address of the voter. The entry shall be signed by a member of the

precinct commission who received the application. If such application was delivered by another person, the register shall also indicate surname, first name and patronymic of this person and his residential address. When members of the precinct commission come to the voter, referendum participant, such voter, referendum participant shall confirm his statement by a written application.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. A written or oral application of a voter, referendum participant for voting outside the polling station must state the reason why the voter, referendum participant is unable to come to the polling station. The application shall contain his surname, first name and patronymic of the voter, referendum participant and his residential address.

(Clause 4 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. Written or oral applications referred to in Clause 4 of this Article may be submitted to precinct commission at any time after such precinct commission is formed but not later than in six hours before the voting ends. Written or oral application that was received later than indicated time shall not be satisfied, and voter, referendum participant, or the person that provided assistance in delivering such application shall be informed about it at the moment of receiving a written or oral application.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

6. Chairman of precinct commission shall announce that members of precinct commission will conduct voting outside the polling station but not later than in 30 minutes before they leave to start such voting, and offer voting members of precinct commission and observers to present at such voting.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

7. Precinct commission may recognize the reason why voter, referendum participant cannot come to polling station unsatisfactory and on this ground to refuse voter, referendum participant to vote outside the polling station. Commission shall immediately notify voter, referendum participant of such refusal to carry voting outside polling station.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. Precinct commission shall have the necessary number of mobile ballot boxes to conduct voting outside the polling station. The number of such boxes shall be determined by a decision of immediately superior commission, and if at election to bodies of local self-government, local referendum the territory of single electoral district, referendum district coincides with the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct – by a decision of precinct commission. Maximum quantity of mobile ballot boxes for voting outside the polling station at one election precinct, referendum precincts depending on the number of voters, referendum participants registered in the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct amounts to:

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

1) less than 501 voters, referendum participants – 1 mobile ballot box;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

2) from 501 to 1001 voters, referendum participants – 2 mobile ballot boxes;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

3) over 1000 voters, referendum participants – 3 mobile ballot boxes.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

⁸ By the decision of corresponding commission stated in Clause 8 of this Article the quantity of mobile ballot boxes for voting outside the polling station stated in Paragraphs “a” and “b”, Clause 8 of this Article may be increased but by no more than 1 mobile ballot box in presence of any of the following conditions:

1) election precinct, referendum precinct includes territories of several settlements and settlement where polling station is located is outside walking distance to other settlements during the voting period;

2) absence of election precinct, referendum precinct in the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct where voters, referendum participants stay temporarily;

3) over 50 voters over 80 years old and (or) disabled voters, referendum participants are registered in accordance with Clause 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law in the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct data on which are submitted in accordance with Clause 16¹, Article 20 of this Federal Law;

4) when the voting days of several elections coincide, a voter may vote simultaneously using more than two ballots.

(Clause 8¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

9. Voting members of precinct commission who conduct voting outside the polling station on written or oral applications shall receive ballots and sign for their. Total number of received ballots may not exceed by more than 5 percent the number of written or oral applications received by the moment of such voting (not less than two ballots). Voting outside the polling station shall be conducted by not less than two voting members of precinct commission, who shall bring with them a mobile ballot box sealed beforehand in precinct commission; the required number of ballots of the standard form; the register mentioned in Clause 2 of this Article or a certified excerpt from the register containing the necessary data on the voter, referendum participant and the information on the received written or oral application for voting outside the polling station; the written applications of voters, referendum participants for voting outside the polling station; the necessary writing utensils (except pencils) for voters, referendum participants to mark the ballots. If not less than two persons referred to in Clause 14 of this Article are present at voting outside the polling station, the voting outside polling station may be conducted by one voting member of precinct commission.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

10. Voting outside the polling station shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 of this Federal Law.

11. In the written application for voting outside the polling station a voter, referendum participant shall write the series and number of his passport or a document equivalent to citizen's passport and shall sign for receipt of the ballot. With the consent or upon the request of the voter, referendum participant the series and number of his passport or a document equivalent to citizen's passport may be written in the application by a voting member of the precinct commission. Voting members of the precinct commission shall confirm the issuance of a ballot by putting their signatures in the written application. A corresponding note shall be made on the application when a new ballot is issued in place of a spoilt one and in case of receipt by voter, referendum participant of two and more ballots (with account of type of elections and coincidence of elections, referenda) – on total number of received ballots.

11¹. If a voter, referendum participant due to his disability or health condition cannot independently sign for receipt of a ballot or fill in a ballot, he may use the assistance of other voter, referendum participant in the manner prescribed by Clause 10, Article 64 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 11¹. introduced by the Federal Law of June 14, 2011, No.143-FZ)

12. The voting members of the precinct commission who conduct voting outside the polling station in accordance with written or oral applications of voters, referendum participants may issue ballots only to those voters, referendum participants whose written or oral applications were recorded in the register as provided by Clause 2 of this Article.

13. The series and number of the passport or a document equivalent to citizen's passport of a voter, referendum participant who voted outside the polling station shall be entered in the list of voters, referendum participants by the voting members of the precinct commission who conducted voting outside the polling station, on the basis of written or oral applications of voters, referendum participants. At the same time, the note "Voted outside the polling station," signed by the aforementioned commission members, shall be written in the appropriate box (boxes) of the list of voters, referendum participants.

14. When voting is conducted outside the polling station, non-voting members of commission, observers may be present at the voting. In this case, the precinct commission shall make the same arrangements for at least two persons from among non-voting members of the commission, observers appointed by different candidates, election associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participants groups, public associations to go to the place where the voting is to be conducted as those made for the voting members of the precinct commission who are to conduct voting outside the polling station. Non-voting members of election commission, observers appointed by candidate nominated by election association and non-voting members of election commission, observers appointed by this election association are not considered as persons appointed by different registered candidates, election associations.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

15. Voting outside the polling station shall be organized so as to prevent any violations of electoral rights and right to participate in a referendum of voter, referendum participant and distortion of the expression of will of voter, referendum participant.

16. If a voter, referendum participant who made a written or oral application for voting outside the polling station comes to the polling station to vote after voting members of the precinct commission were sent to him to conduct voting outside the polling station, a corresponding member of precinct commission is not entitled to issue a ballot to this voter, referendum participant at the polling station until the members of the precinct commission who were sent to conduct voting outside the polling station in response to a written or oral application of this voter, referendum participant come back and it has been established that the voter, referendum participant has not voted outside the polling station.

17. After the end of voting conducted with the use of each mobile ballot box the precinct commission shall file a certificate to record the number of ballots issued to voting members of the precinct commission who conducted voting outside the polling station; the number of written and oral applications of voters, referendum participants for voting outside the polling station; the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants and returned ballots (ballots which were not used or were spoilt by voters, referendum participants); the information on the voting members of the precinct commission who conducted voting outside the polling station and about non-voting members of the precinct commission and observers who were present at the voting conducted outside the polling station.

(Clause 17 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 67. Protocol of Voting Results of Precinct Commission

1. The precinct shall deliver its decision on voting results in the form of a protocol of voting results for the given election precinct, referendum precinct.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. The protocol of voting results shall be drawn up on one sheet. In exceptional cases the protocol may consist of more sheets than one and each sheet of such protocol shall be numbered, signed by all present voting members of the precinct commission and sealed with the commission's seal. The protocol of voting results shall contain the following:

a) copy No.;

b) name of the election, referendum, date of voting;

c) word "Protocol";

d) address of the polling station and the number of the election precinct, referendum precinct;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

e) the following lines of the protocol:

line 1: number of voters, referendum participants entered in the list as of the end of voting;

line 2: number of ballots received by the precinct commission;

line 3: number of ballots issued to early voters, referendum participants, and in case of early voting at referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum – as a single line 4 – in the premises of territorial commission;

line 5: number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants at the polling station on the voting day;

line 6: number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted outside the polling station on the voting day;

line 7: number of canceled ballots;

line 8: number of ballots in the mobile ballot boxes;

line 9: number of ballots in the stationary ballot boxes;

line 10: number of invalid ballots;

line 11: number of valid ballots;

line 12 and the following lines: number of votes of voters cast for each option in all ballots, number of votes of referendum participants cast for options "Yes" and "No" ("For" and "Against") in ballots for voting at referendum.

If the law provides for voting by absentee certificates, the protocol of voting results shall also contain the following lines:

line 11a: number of absentee certificates received by precinct commission

line 11b: number of absentee certificates issued by precinct commission to voters, referendum participants at election precinct, referendum precinct before the voting day;

line 11c: number of voters, referendum participants who voted at election precinct, referendum precinct on the basis of absentee certificates;

line 11d: number of cancelled absentee certificates at election precinct, referendum precinct;

line 11e: number of absentee certificates issued to voters, referendum participants by territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission);

line 11f: number of lost absentee certificates.

In order to enter data received in cases referred to in Clause 22, Article 68 of this Federal Law, the protocol of voting results shall also contain the following lines:

line 11g: number of lost ballots;

line 11h: number of ballots unaccounted when received;

(Paragraph "h" as amended by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

f) information on the number of complaints (appeals) attached to the protocol, which were received by the precinct commission on the voting day and before the end of counting of votes of voters, referendum participants;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

g) surnames and initials of the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary and the other voting members of precinct commission and their signatures;

h) date and time when the protocol was signed;

i) seal of precinct commission.

3. The numbers mentioned in Clause 2 of this Article shall be entered by the precinct commission in digits and words. Numbering of the protocol sheets is established by the law.

Article 68. Procedure of Counting Votes Cast by Voters, Referendum Participants and Compilation of Protocol of Voting Results by Precinct Commission

1. Vote counting shall be open and transparent, with all actions and results of the counting of ballots and votes of voters, referendum participants carried out by the voting members of the precinct commission being consecutively announced and entered in the enlarged form of the protocol of voting results.

2. Counting of votes of voters, referendum participants starts after the voting time expires and shall be continued without interruption until the voting results are established. The said voting results shall be made known to all members of the precinct commission and observers. If elections of different levels coincide, the counting of votes for election to federal bodies of state power shall be carried out first, then – to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, and then – to bodies of local self-government.

3. After the end of voting, the voting members of the precinct commission in the presence of the persons mentioned in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law shall count unused ballots, cancel them by cutting off the lower left corner of such ballots, announce the number of cancelled unused ballots, as well as ballots spoilt by voters, referendum participants during the voting, and enter these numbers into line 7 of the protocol of voting results and in the enlarged form of this protocol in the polling station. If technical equipment for vote counting is used, obtained data upon its announcement is entered into line 7 of the enlarged form of the protocol of voting results.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. The chairman, the deputy chairman or the secretary of the precinct commission shall clarify, announce the number of ballots received by the precinct commission and enter this number in line 2 of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission and its enlarged form (data on ballots taken out of envelopes of early voters, referendum participants in the premises of territorial commission, commission of municipal formation is not included in this number). If technical equipment for vote counting is used, obtained data upon its announcement is entered into line 2 of the enlarged form of the protocol of voting results.

(as amended by the Federal Law of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ)

5. Before starting to count votes of voters, referendum participants the voting members of the precinct commission shall enter the following summary data in each page of the list of voters, referendum participants related to this page:

a) the number of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants as of the end of voting (without account of voters, referendum participants who received absentee certificates from territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission) and precinct commission and voters, referendum participants removed from the list for other reasons);

(as amended by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

b) the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants at the polling station on the voting day (as established on the basis of the number of signatures of voters, referendum participants in the list of voters, referendum participants);

c) the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted outside the polling station (as established on the basis of the number of appropriate entries in the list of voters, referendum participants);

d) the number of ballots issued to early voters, referendum participants (as established on the basis of the number of appropriate entries in the list of voters, referendum participants and verified in accordance with the list of early voted voters, referendum participants);

e) the number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct commission to voters, referendum participants at the election precinct, referendum precinct;

e¹) the number of absentee certificates issued by territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission) to voters, referendum participants;

(Paragraph "e¹" introduced by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

f) the number of voters, referendum participants who voted at the election precinct, referendum precinct on the basis of absentee certificates;

6. After the data mentioned in Clause 5 of this Article has been entered, each page of the list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the voting member of the precinct commission who entered this data and then this voting member of the precinct commission shall announce this data and make it known to the chairman, the deputy chairman or the secretary of the precinct commission and to the persons present at vote counting. The chairman, the deputy chairman or the secretary of the precinct election commission shall announce the summarized data obtained by summing up the data established in accordance with Clause 5 of this Article for all pages of the list of voters, referendum participants, write this data on the last page of the list of voters, referendum participants and certify it with his signature and the seal of the precinct commission. The announced data shall be entered in the corresponding lines of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission and its enlarged form, and if technical equipment for vote counting was used – only in the corresponding lines of the enlarged form of the protocol:

a) number of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants as of the end of voting - in line 1;

b) number of ballots issued to early voters, referendum participants - in lines 3 and 4;

c) number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants at the polling station on the voting day - in line 5;

d) number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted outside the polling station on the voting day - in line 6;

e) number of absentee certificates received by precinct commission - in line 11a;

f) number of absentee certificates issued by precinct commission to voters, referendum participants at election precinct, referendum precinct – in line 11b;

g) number of voters, referendum participants who voted at election precinct, referendum precinct on the basis of absentee certificates - in line 11c;

h) number of absentee certificates cancelled at election precinct, referendum precinct – in line 11d;

i) number of absentee certificates issued to voters, referendum participants by territorial commission (election commission of municipal formation, district election commission) - in line 11e.

Upon exercising of these activities the following check proportion is verified: the number of absentee certificates received by precinct commission shall be equal to the sum of number of absentee certificates issued by precinct commission to voters, referendum participants at election precinct, referendum precinct before the voting day and number of cancelled absentee certificated at election precinct, referendum precinct. If this check proportion is not satisfied, precinct commission takes decision on additional counting of data entered in list of voters, referendum participants and cancelled absentee certificates. If as the result of additional counting the check proportion is not satisfied either, precinct commission takes a corresponding decision that is attached to a protocol of voting results and enters the data on the difference into line 11f of the protocol of voting results and its enlarged form. If the given check proportion is satisfied, the line 11f contains "0".

Data is entered into lines 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e and 11f of the protocol of voting results and its enlarged form if the law establishes voting on the basis of absentee certificates.

If the law establishes repeat voting at elections, the order of accounting of absentee certificates shall be established by this law.

After that the list of voters, referendum participants shall be made available for examination of observers and other persons mentioned in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal

Law, and the non-voting members of the precinct commission may make sure that the counting was carried out correctly.

(Clause 6 as amended by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

7. No further work shall be carried out with the list of voters, referendum participants until check proportion of data entered in the protocol of precinct commission of voting results is verified in accordance with Clause 22 of this Article. In the meantime, the list of voters, referendum participants shall be kept in a safe or at some other place specially equipped for safe storage of documents. The chairman or the secretary of the precinct commission shall make arrangements for the safe storage of the list of voters, referendum participants so as to make it inaccessible to the persons present at the polling station.

8. Vote counting shall be carried out on the basis of ballots contained in the ballot boxes by the voting members of the precinct commission.

9. Non-voting members of the precinct commission, other persons mentioned in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law may be present when votes of voters, referendum participants are being counted.

10. Votes of voters, referendum participants shall be counted at the polling station, in special places fitted out so as to be accessible to the voting and non-voting members of the precinct commission. Voting members of the precinct commission, with the exception of the chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary of the precinct commission, shall be prohibited from using any writing utensils during vote counting, save as otherwise provided by Clauses 12, 16 and 17 of this Article. All actions of members of the precinct commission shall be in the field of vision of the persons present at vote counting.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. When sorting out the ballots the precinct commission shall separate ballots of non-standard form. Non-standard ballots shall not be accounted when votes are counted.

12. First of all, ballots shall be counted in the mobile ballot boxes. Before opening the mobile ballots boxes, integrity of the seals on the boxes shall be checked. Votes shall be counted so as to avoid violating the secrecy of voting. The number of standard ballots taken out of the ballot boxes shall be announced and entered in line 8 of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission and its enlarged form. If the number of standard ballots found in the mobile ballot box exceeds the number of applications of voters, referendum participants, with notes on the number of received ballots, all ballots in the given mobile ballot box shall be declared invalid by the decision of the precinct commission and this fact shall be recorded in a separate certificate which shall be attached to the corresponding protocol of voting results. This certificate shall indicate the surnames and initials of the members of the precinct commission who conducted voting outside the polling station using this mobile ballot box. The number of ballots thus invalidated shall be announced, entered in the aforementioned certificate and subsequently added to the number of invalid ballots found when the ballots were sorted out. The reason why the ballot was invalidated shall be noted on the face of all such ballots, in the boxes related to options "Yes" and "No" ("For" and "Against"). The note shall be signed by two voting members of the precinct commission and certified by the precinct commission's seal. Such ballots shall be packed separately, sealed and shall not be accounted during further vote counting.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

13. Stationary ballot boxes shall be opened after the integrity of their seals is checked.

14. Members of the precinct commission shall sort out the ballots taken out of the mobile and stationary ballot boxes and put them into separate bundles according to the votes cast for

each candidate (each list of candidates), for options “Yes” and “No” (“For” and “Against”) and separate non-standard and invalid ballots. While sorting out the ballots, the voting members of the precinct commission shall read aloud the notes made by voters, referendum participants on ballots and show the ballots for examination to all persons present at vote counting. The notes on two and more ballots shall not be read aloud simultaneously.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

15. During elections in multi-seat electoral districts and in case a voter has more than one vote, sorting out of ballots marked in favor of each candidate is not performed. Notes made by voter in each of ballots shall be announced with presentation of the ballot to examination to all persons present at vote counting. The notes on two and more ballots shall not be read aloud simultaneously. Upon announcement the data in the ballot shall be entered into a special table containing surnames of all candidates in the ballot and summed up.

16. If the number of referendum participants who voted early in the premises of territorial commission, election commission of municipal formation and precinct commission (in the event of early voting only in the premises of precinct commission – the number of referendum participants who voted early in the premises of precinct commission) amounts to less than one percent of the total number of referendum participants included in the list of referendum participants at referendum precinct (but not less than ten referendum participants), precinct commission by the request of any commission member, observer shall carry out separate counting of votes with relation to ballots, back of which have a seal of precinct commission in accordance with Clause 8, Article 65 of this Federal Law. The results of this counting shall be recorded in a certificate that is attached to the protocol of voting results. Such ballots shall be packed separately and sealed.

(Clause 16 as amended by the Federal Law of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ)

17. Invalid ballots shall be counted and summed up separately. Ballots shall be recognized invalid if they do not contain any marks in the boxes against the surnames of candidates, names of election associations in the boxes related to options “Yes” and “No” (“For” and “Against”) or if more boxes than one are marked in a ballot. If any doubts arise with regard to the expression of will of voter, referendum participant, the ballot shall be put apart in a separate bundle and, after the ballots are sorted out, the precinct commission shall take a decision on the validity of each doubtful ballot by voting. A note explaining the reasons why the ballot was recognized valid or invalid shall be made on the back of such ballots. This note shall be certified by the signatures of not less than two voting members of the precinct commission and the commission's seal. The ballot pronounced valid or invalid shall be put in the corresponding bundle of ballots. The total number of invalid ballots (including the ballots invalidated in accordance with Clause 9, Article 65 of this Federal Law) shall be announced and entered in line 10 of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission and its enlarged form.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ, of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ)

18. After that the sorted out standard ballots shall be counted separately in each bundle, according to the votes cast for each candidate, list of candidates, options “Yes” and “No” (“For” and “Against”). Ballots are counted by putting them from one part of bundle to another so that people present at vote counting could see the mark made by the voter, referendum participant on each ballot. Ballots from different bundles shall not be counted simultaneously. The data thus obtained shall be announced and entered in line 12 and subsequent lines of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission and its enlarged form.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, №.93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, №.107-FZ)

19. The voting members of precinct commission count and enter the number of valid ballots into line 11 of the protocol of voting results and its enlarged form.

20. The voting members of the precinct commission shall count, announce and enter the number of valid ballots of standard form in stationary ballot boxes into line 9 of the protocol of voting results and its enlarged form..

21. After that observers may examine the sorted out ballots under the supervision of voting members of the precinct commission, and non-voting members of the commission may make sure that the counting was carried out correctly.

22. After non-voting members of the precinct commission and observers examine the sorted out ballots, verification of check proportion of data entered in the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission shall be carried out. If this check proportion is not satisfied, the precinct commission shall decide to carry out additional data calculation for all or some of the lines of the protocol, including additional counting of ballots. If, after additional calculation the check proportion is not satisfied either, the precinct commission shall draw up a statement to this effect to be attached to the protocol and shall enter the information about the difference in lines 11g and 11h of the protocol. If changes have to be made to the protocol on the basis of additional calculations, a new blank form of the protocol shall be completed and appropriate alterations shall be made in the enlarged form of the protocol. If the check proportion is satisfied, the digit "0" shall be put in lines 11g and 11h.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

23. After the counting has been completed the sorted ballots shall be packed in separate bundles and then put in bags or boxes with indication of the number of election precinct, referendum precinct. The bags or boxes shall be sealed and may be opened only by a decision of superior commission or a court. Voting and non-voting members of the precinct election commission may sign these bags or boxes. Packing is carried out in the presence of persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law that are provided with opportunity to sing such bags or boxes.

24. In case of use of technical equipment for vote counting upon completion of work with the list of voters, referendum participants in the presence of non-voting members of precinct commission, observers, other persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law:

a) if by any reason voting at the polling station was temporarily carried out without the use of technical equipment for vote counting, precinct commission shall check integrity of seals on a special compartment of this technical equipment or on reserved stationary ballot box, open this box and put all ballots it contains into the technical equipment for vote counting in the manner that does not violate the secrecy of voting;

b) precinct commission shall count ballots in mobile ballot boxes in the manner provided for by Clause 12 of this Article, then all ballots shall be put into the technical equipment for vote counting switched to the mode of counting of votes from mobile ballot boxes. Ballots shall be put into the equipment in the manner that does not violate the secrecy of voting;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) precinct commission enters the data received at the stage of working with the list of voters, referendum participants, i.e. data entered into lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f of enlarged form of the protocol of voting results into the technical equipment;

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

d) precinct commission shall print the protocol of voting results produced by the technical equipment for vote counting, announce and enter corresponding data into lines 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and subsequent lines of the enlarged form of the protocol of voting results;

e) precinct commission shall verify the check proportion of data entered into the protocol of voting results. If this check proportion is not satisfied, precinct commission may take a decision on additional calculation for all or separate lines of the protocol of voting results

including additional manual count of ballots. If as the result of additional count the check proportion is not satisfied either, precinct commission takes a corresponding decision attached to the protocol of voting results and enters the data on difference in lines 11g and 11h of the protocol of the voting results;

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

f) in case provided for by Clause 16 of this Article precinct commission performs sorting out of ballots by separating the ballots that were taken out of envelopes of early voted referendum participants with the seal of precinct commission on their backs. Separate vote counting for these ballots shall be performed manually or with the use of technical equipment for vote counting. Precinct commission shall file a statement on the results of this count that shall be attached to the protocol of voting results.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of May 31, 2010, No.112-FZ)

25. Precinct commission shall consider all complaints (appeals) of voters, referendum participants, persons present at vote counting received on the voting day before the end of vote counting and take corresponding decisions that shall be filed together with the first copy of the protocol of precinct commission of voting results. In case of reasoned complaints (appeals) of persons present at vote counting, precinct commission that used the technical equipment for vote counting is entitled to make a decision on immediate count of votes without this equipment (manual count). If as the result of this count there is a difference of more than one percent (calculated by division of smaller number by greater number), but not less than three units between the data of manual vote counting and the data received with the use of technical equipment of vote counting for any of the following lines: 10, 11, 12 and subsequent lines of the protocol of voting results of precinct commission, a protocol of voting results on the basis of manual count is filed. If such difference is not revealed, the protocol filed with the use of the data of technical equipment for vote counting is signed and the statement on matching the data received during repeat vote counting with the initial data shall be prepared and submitted to superior commission together with the protocol of voting results of precinct commission.

26. After all necessary actions and all counting operations are completed it shall be mandatory for the precinct commission to hold a final meeting at which it shall consider complaints (appeals) concerning violations committed during the voting and counting of votes of voters, referendum participants. Then the precinct election commission shall sign its protocol of voting results and issue copies of the protocol to persons mentioned in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. The protocol of voting results shall be prepared in duplicate and shall be signed by all present voting members of the precinct commission, with the indication of the date and time (hours and minutes) when the protocol was signed. If prepared with the use of technical equipment for vote counting or an e-voting complex the protocol shall become legally valid after it is signed by the aforementioned persons. The protocol shall not be completed with a pencil and no alterations shall be made therein. Signing of such protocol in violation of these rules may constitute a ground for invalidation of this protocol and for a vote recount.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

27. If some voting members of the precinct commission were absent when the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission was prepared, a note to this effect shall be made in the protocol indicating the reason for their absence. The protocol shall be valid if it is signed by the majority of the established number of the voting members of the precinct commission. If the signature of at least one voting member of the precinct commission under the protocol is put for this member by some other commission member or by some other person, this shall constitute a ground for invalidation of this protocol and for a vote recount.

28. At the signing of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission any voting member of the precinct commission who does not agree with the protocol may append his special opinion to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocol.

29. Upon the request of any member of the precinct commission or any person mentioned in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, immediately after signing the protocol of voting results (including a repeat protocol) the precinct commission, shall provide these persons with certified copy of the protocol. The provision of certified copy of the protocol shall be recorded by the precinct commission in a special register and the person who receives a certified copy of the protocol shall sign for its receipt in the register. The responsibility for completeness and accuracy of the data contained in a copy of the protocol shall be imposed on the person who certified this copy.

(Clause 29 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

30. The first copy of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission, after it was signed by all present voting members of the precinct commission and its certified copies were provided to all persons entitled to receive them, shall be, without delay, delivered to superior commission and shall not be returned to the precinct commission. The attached to the first copy documents shall include special opinions of voting members of the precinct commission; the complaints (appeals) concerning violations of the laws that establish the procedure of conduct of elections, referendum received by the precinct commission on the voting day and before the end of counting of votes of voters, referendum participants; the decisions taken by the precinct commission in connection with these complaints (appeals); certificates, statements and registers of the precinct commission. Certified copies of these documents and decisions of the precinct commission shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol of voting results. The first copy of the protocol of voting results with the attached documents shall be delivered to superior commission by the chairman or the secretary of the precinct commission or some other voting member of the precinct commission designated by its chairman. Such delivery of the protocol may be witnessed by other members of the precinct commission and by observers sent to the given precinct election commission.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

31. The second copy of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission shall be made available for examination to the persons mentioned in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law and its certified copy shall be displayed to the general public at a place designated by the precinct commission. The second copy of the protocol together with the election documents established by the law, including the sealed ballots, the lists of voters, referendum participants, and the seal of precinct commission shall be delivered to superior commission for safe storage.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

32. Precinct commissions shall, by the decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or on its instruction on the basis of the decision of corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation at elections, referenda use technological equipment for vote counting or electronic voting complexes. If the voting days at elections and (or) referenda of various levels coincide, the use of technical equipment for voter counting, electronic voting complexes is mandatory for vote counting at all elections and (or) referenda of all levels. The list of election precincts, referendum precincts that shall use technical equipment for vote counting and electronic voting complexes is determined by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or, on its instruction, by corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

If a precinct commission uses the technical equipment for vote counting, votes shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of Clause 24 of this Article. It may be established by the law or by a decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, if such law does not exist, that at not less than 5 percent of election precincts, referendum precincts (but at least three electoral precincts, referendum precincts) to be determined by draw within the territory of operation of one territorial commission the votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall be subject to check recount to be carried out by voting members of precinct commissions (manual vote counting). Such draw shall be performed by superior commission

within half an hour after the end of the voting time and the results of the draw shall be immediately communicated to each relevant precinct commission. If the voting days at elections and (or) referenda of various levels coincide, the check vote recount procedure shall be determined by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or by corresponding election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, depending on the level of the election, referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

All persons present at a polling station of the election precinct, referendum precinct where the technical equipment for vote counting was used shall be informed on the possibility of a check (manual) vote recount. Manual vote counting shall be carried out in the presence of observers, other persons listed in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. In election precincts, referendum precincts determined by draw, the manual vote counting shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by Clauses 8-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 of this Article. As a result of such manual vote counting, either a new protocol of voting results shall be compiled (if a difference of more than one percent (obtained by division of difference between the data on manual vote counting and the data obtained with the use of technical equipment for vote counting by greater number), but not less than three units, is found between the results of the manual vote counting and the results of the counting with the use of the technical equipment for vote counting equipment in relation to at least one of the following lines: 10, 11, 12 and the subsequent lines of the protocol of voting results of precinct commission), with the note "Repeat" that shall be submitted to superior commission together with the initial protocol of voting results of precinct commission, or a statement on matching the data obtained as the result of vote recounting with the initial data is filed and submitted to superior commission together with the protocol of voting results of precinct commission. The chairman of the precinct commission of election precinct, referendum precinct that was determined by draw for the purpose of check (manual) vote recount shall, immediately after the results of such check (manual) vote recount are established, inform superior commission of the obtained results.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Superior commission that determined by the draw the election precincts, referendum precincts subject to the check (manual) vote recount shall, without delay after the information on the results of the check (manual) vote recount is received from the chairmen of precinct commissions of the said election precincts, referendum precincts, make a relevant decision including a decision to conduct the check (manual) vote recount in all election precincts, referendum precincts where a manual vote count was not conducted and which are located in corresponding territory, if as a result of check (manual) vote recount a new protocol of voting results was compiled due to a difference, in lines 10, 11, 12 and the subsequent lines of the protocol, between the data obtained with the use of the technical equipment for vote counting and the data of the manual vote count even at one election precinct, referendum precinct determined by the draw.

Precinct commissions of election precincts, referendum precincts at which the technical equipment for vote counting was used shall, after the voting results are established through the manual vote count and a new protocol of voting results or certificates stating matching of the data is signed in the procedure set forth in Clause 30 of this Article, submit the protocols to superior commission.

33. While using technical equipment for vote counting it shall be prohibited to disclose the data on vote counting before the end of voting at election precinct, referendum precinct except the data on the total number of voted voters, referendum participants.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

34. The data of the protocol of voting results, including the data obtained with the use of technical equipment for vote counting, shall be submitted to superior commission through technical communication channels (except voice communication channels) of GAS "Vybory" or other technical system of information transfer, and the first copy of the protocol of voting results and all election documents, referendum documents, including ballots, shall be as soon as

possible submitted to superior commission or directly through diplomatic or consular missions of the Russian Federation, or by other means that ensure safety of election documents, referendum documents and its delivery to the point of destination. The Federal Law may establish that all election documents, referendum documents (except the first copy of the protocol of voting results and attached documents to be submitted to superior commission) of election precincts, referendum precincts formed outside the Russian Federation, including ballots, shall be stored in the premises of diplomatic and consular missions of the Russian Federation in coordination with their heads.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

35. The order of use of technical equipment for vote counting, electronic voting complexes, technical system of information transfer, order and terms of transfer, processing and use of information on elections, referendum, including the data of protocols of voting results transferred via technical communication channels in electronic format shall be established by the federal law, and in the part not regulated by the federal law – by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

36. During election to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government of municipal districts and urban districts, as well as during the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum in municipal district and urban district the data of protocols of voting results of precinct commissions shall be published in information-telecommunication network "Internet" in the order established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(Clause 36 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

Article 69. Processing of Voting Results in Territorial Commission, District Election Commissions, Election Commissions of Municipal Formations, Election Commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

1. First original copies of protocol of voting results of precinct commissions, territorial commissions, district election commissions, election commissions of municipal formations, election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall, immediately after they are signed by voting members of the commission and their certified copies and certified copies of the summary tables are issued to persons entitled to receive such copies, be submitted to superior commission for summing up of the data contained in the said protocols and further transfer of this data to the commission that establishes the voting results for the entire territory in which the election, the referendum was conducted and that establishes the results of corresponding election, referendum, including the commission organizing this election, referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. On the basis of the data of the protocol of voting results, and after a preliminary verification of their correct execution, superior commission shall establish the voting results for corresponding territory, district, subject of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation by summing up the protocol data. The decision of commission on voting results is filed as a protocol of voting results.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

The receipt of protocols from subordinate commissions, summing up of the data of these protocols, and compilation of a protocol of voting results for corresponding territory shall be performed at one and the same premises, and all actions of commission members related to the receipt of protocols from subordinate commissions, summing up of the data of these protocols, and compilation of the protocol of voting results shall be within the field of vision of

the commission's members and observers, other persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. At the said premises there shall be an enlarged form of the summary table for corresponding territory into which the data from this protocol shall be entered and the time of the entering be indicated, immediately after the arrival of the chairman, secretary or another voting member of a subordinate commission with the first original copy of the protocol of voting results.

The chairman, secretary or another voting member of a subordinate commission shall submit the first original copy of the protocol of voting results and the documents appended thereto to a voting member of superior commission who shall check the correctness of the protocol's execution, the completeness of the appended documents and the matching of the check proportions.

If a protocol and (or) summary table of a subordinate commission were compiled in violation of the requirements established by the law for compilation of a protocol and a summary table, the said commission shall compile a new protocol and (or) summary table in accordance with the requirements of Clause 8 of this Article, and the initially submitted protocol and (or) summary table shall be retained by superior commission.

If a protocol and (or) summary table of a subordinate commission were compiled in compliance with the requirements established by the law for compilation of a protocol and a summary table, a voting member of superior commission shall enter the data from this protocol into the summary table of superior commission. The chairman, secretary or another voting member of a subordinate commission that submitted the protocol of voting results to the member of superior commission shall put his signature in the enlarged form of the summary table under the data of the protocol of voting results of corresponding commission.

The summing up of the data contained in protocols of voting results of subordinate commissions shall be carried out by voting members of superior commission in person.

3. On the basis of the data of the protocols of subordinate commissions, superior commission shall compile a summary table and a protocol of voting results (on the results of elections, referendum), where the data shall be entered on the number of subordinate commissions in the respective territory, in the district, the subject of the Russian Federation, in the Russian Federation, the number of received protocols of subordinate commissions on the basis of which the said protocol was compiled, and the summarized data for the lines of the protocol of voting results of the precinct commission established by Clause 2, Article 67 of this Federal Law. The protocol of voting results (results of elections, referendum) shall contain the data on the number of absentee certificates issued to subordinate commissions, the number of unused absentee certificates cancelled they corresponding commission, including absentee certificates lost in corresponding commission. The summary table of voting results (results of elections, referendum) that is prepared by commission (except commission that is directly superior to precinct commission) shall contain the data of the protocol of subordinate commission on the number of absentee certificated received by corresponding commission, the number of absentee certificates issued to subordinate commissions, the number of unused absentee certificates cancelled by corresponding commission and the number of absentee certificates lost in corresponding commission. In order to sign its protocol, the commission shall hold a mandatory final meeting at which any complaints (appeals) received by the commission and related to the conduct of voting, vote counting, and execution of subordinate commissions' protocols shall be considered. After this, the commission shall sign a protocol of voting results (results of elections, referendum) and issue copies of this protocol to persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. The protocol of voting results (results of elections, referendum) shall be compiled in two original copies and signed by all present voting members of the commission, and indicate the date and time (hour, minute) of its signing. Signing of a protocol in violation of this procedure shall constitute grounds for invalidating this protocol. (as amended by the Federal Laws of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ, of July 25, 2011, No.262-FZ)

4. The protocols of voting results of the commissions referred to in Clause 1 of this Article shall be appended with a summary table of voting results, compiled in two original copies, for corresponding territory, district, subject of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation, which shall include full data from all protocols of voting results received by corresponding commission. A voting member of the commission who disagrees with the whole protocol or any part thereof may attach his special opinion to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocol.

5. The first original copy of the protocol shall be appended with special opinions of members of the commission that compiled the protocol and any complaints (appeals) related to violations of this Federal Law, other law received by the commission in the period beginning on the voting day and ending on the day of compilation of corresponding protocol of voting results, as well as decisions taken with regard to such complaints (appeals).

6. The second original copy of the protocol of voting results, together with the second original copy of the summary table of voting results, lists of non-voting members of the commission that compiled the protocol, observers, other persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law who were present during the establishment of voting results and at preparation of corresponding protocols, as well as the other documents provided for by this Federal Law shall be kept by the secretary of the said commission and stored in a guarded room.

7. The second original copy of the protocol of voting results together with the second original copy of the summary table of voting results shall be provided for inspection to members of the commission that compiled the protocol, observers, other persons referred to in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, and a certified copy of the protocol shall be displayed to the general public.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. If after the protocol of voting results and (or) summary table of voting results were signed and their first original copies were submitted to superior commission, the commission that submitted the protocol and the summary table, or superior commission in the course of a preliminary inspection finds an inaccuracy (including a slip of the pen, misprint, error in the summation of the data of protocols of territorial election commissions), the commission that submitted the protocol and the summary table shall be entitled to consider at its meeting the issue of amending lines 1-11 (if the law established voting by absentee certificates – lines 11a-11f), 11g and 11h of the protocol and (or) the summary table. The commission's decision shall be made known to its non-voting members, observers and other persons who were present at the preparation of the previously approved protocol and mass media representatives. In such case the commission shall compile a protocol of voting results marked with the word "Repeat." The said protocol and (or) the summary table shall be promptly submitted to superior commission. The violation of the above procedure of preparation of a repeat protocol shall constitute grounds for invalidating this protocol. If amendments to line 12 and subsequent lines shall be introduced, vote recounting shall be organized in the order established by Clause 9 of this Article.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

9. If any mistakes, discrepancies are discovered in protocols of voting results and (or) summary tables of voting results, if any doubts arise about the correctness of the compilation of the protocols and (or) summary tables received from a subordinate commission, superior commission shall be entitled to take a decision to conduct a recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants or to conduct independent recount of votes of voters, referendum participants in corresponding election precinct, referendum precinct, corresponding territory. Recount of votes of voters, referendum participants shall be conducted in the presence of voting member (members) of superior commission by the commission that compiled and

approved the protocol that is subject to the verification or the commission that made the decision to recount the votes cast by voters, referendum participants, and non-voting members of corresponding commission, observers, candidates, other persons indicated in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law who are entitled to attend a recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall receive mandatory notification of such recount. On the basis of the results of the recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants the commission that conducted such recount shall compile a protocol of voting results marked with the words "Vote recount." Its certified copies shall be issued to observers, other persons indicated in Clause 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. The protocol shall be sent to superior commission forthwith. This recount of votes can be conducted before superior commission established voting results, results of elections, referendum and compile a protocol on voting results, results of elections, referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 70. Procedure of Establishment of the Results of Elections, Referendums

1. On the basis of the first original copies of the protocol of voting results received from subordinate commissions, a commission duly authorized by the law shall establish the results of elections, referendum. Voting members of such commission shall establish the results of elections, referendum in person. The results of elections, referendum shall be indicated in a protocol and a summary table that shall be compiled in two original copies each and signed by all present voting members of this commission. Commission takes decision on the results of elections, referendum on the basis of the protocol of results of elections, referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2006, No.93-FZ)

2. Elections are invalidated by corresponding election commission if:

a) ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ;

b) in accordance with Clause 35, Article 38 of this Federal Law voting was conducted for on candidacy and corresponding candidate received less than 50 percent of votes of voters participated in voting;

(Paragraph "b" as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2005, No.107-FZ)

c) less than two lists of candidates during voting for lists of candidates received the right to be admitted to distribution of deputy seats in accordance with the law;

d) during voting for lists of candidates that received the right to be admitted to distribution of deputy seats in accordance with the law, such lists of candidates received in total 50 or less percent of votes of voters participated in voting in single electoral district. The law may increase this percent;

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

e) all candidates were removed as a result of a repeat voting;

f) also in the case referred to in the third paragraph, Clause 1, Article 71 of this Federal Law.

No any additional grounds for invalidating elections shall be established by the law.

2¹ The number of voters, referendum participants that took part in voting is determined on the basis of the number of standard ballots that ballot boxes contain. The number of referendum participants that took part in referendum is determined by the number of signatures of referendum participants in the list of referendum participants that voted at polling station on the voting day, and by the number of notes in the list of referendum participants stating that referendum participant voted outside polling station or voted earlier.

(Clause 2¹ as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

3. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ.

4. A law, save the case stated in Clause 1, Article 71 of this Federal Law, shall not contain any provisions that allow a possibility to declare a candidate who gained the largest number of votes as not elected if elections were recognized as valid and taken place.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

4¹ Each list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in accordance with the law shall be provided at least one deputy seat.
(Clause 4¹ introduced by the Federal Law of April 22, 2010, No.63-FZ)

5. If after tabulating the voting results in multi-seat electoral districts not all seats are taken, a repeat election shall be called with regard to the vacant seats.
(Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

6. Upon establishing the elections results corresponding election commission shall inform a registered candidate that was elected a deputy, elective official to this effect, after which in five days period he shall submit to corresponding election commission a copy of the order (other document) on relieving him from duties incompatible with the status of a deputy, elective official, or copies of documents certifying submission of application to be relieved of such duties in the established period of time.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

6¹ If a registered candidate elected as deputy for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts or an elective official fails to meet the requirement established by Clause 6 of this Article, corresponding election commission will cancel its decision on recognition of such candidate elected.
(Clause 6¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

6² If a registered candidate elected as deputy for single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts or an elective official fails to meet the requirement established by Clause 6 of this Article, his deputy seat is given to another registered candidate in the order established by the law.
(Clause 6² introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

7. It may be provided for by the law that, if a candidate without compelling circumstances did not resign any powers that are incompatible with the status of a deputy, elective official, as a result of which a repeat election was called, this deputy must reimburse, in full or in part, corresponding election commission for its costs related to the conduct of the repeat election. Such law shall also contain a list of circumstances under which such reimbursement shall not be made.

8. A referendum shall be invalidated by corresponding referendum commission if not more than half of the referendum participants included in referendum participant lists took part in it in the territory where the referendum was conducted. Corresponding referendum commission shall declare that a decision has not been adopted at a referendum if not more than half of the referendum participants who took part in voting at the referendum voted for this decision. No other grounds for invalidating a referendum shall be established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

9. Corresponding commission shall invalidate voting results, results of elections, referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum:

a) if violations committed when voting was conducted or voting results were established do not make it possible to determine reliably the results of the expression of the will of the voters, referendum participants;

b) if they were invalidated in some election precincts, referendum precincts where by the time of the end of voting the lists of voters, referendum participants aggregately contain not

less than one fourth of the total number of voters, referendum participants included in the lists of voters, referendum participants by the time of the end of voting in corresponding electoral district, referendum district;

c) in accordance with a court decision.

10. Documents of commissions of all levels, including signature lists with signatures of voters, referendum participants, ballots, absentee certificates and lists of voters, referendum participants shall be stored for the periods established by the law. Such periods established for safekeeping of signature lists with signatures of voters, referendum participants, ballots, absentee certificates and lists of voters, referendum participants shall not be shorter than one year from the day of the publication of voting results and the results of elections, referendum. Established period for safekeeping of absentee certificates shall not be shorter than the period of safekeeping of lists of voters, referendum participants. Established periods for safekeeping of protocols of voting results and summary tables of voting results of election commissions shall not be shorter than one year from the day on which the next election of the same level is announced, and those of referendum commissions, shorter than five years from the day of publication of the voting results. If any appeals against a commission's decision on voting results, the results of elections, a referendum are considered by a court, or any criminal action is initiated in relation to violation of electoral rights, the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum, the periods for safekeeping of corresponding election documents, referendum documents shall be extended until the court decision becomes effective (the case is dropped in accordance with the law). The responsibility for safekeeping of election documents, referendum documents shall be vested on the chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary of corresponding commission until the documents are submitted to superior commission or transferred to an archive.

(as amended by the Federal Law of October 4, 2010, No.263-FZ)

11. The procedure for safekeeping, transfer to an archive, and destruction of election documents, referendum documents shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation in coordination with corresponding state archive authorities.

Article 71. Repeat Voting and Repeat Elections. By-Elections. Taking of Vacant Deputy Seats, Removal of Registered Candidates out of Lists of Candidates Admitted to Distribution of Deputy Seats, out of Lists of Candidates that Received Deputy Seats in Accordance with the Legislation of the Russian Federation

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

1. It may be established by the law that if more than two candidates were included in the ballot and none of them received the number of votes required to be elected, corresponding election commission shall call a repeat voting for two or more candidates who received the largest number of votes. Organization and conduct of a repeat voting, including the order in which information on the candidates for whom repeat voting is to be conducted is arranged in the ballot shall be carried in accordance with the law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Indent ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 11, 2004, No.159-FZ.

If a repeat voting is provided for by the law and the ballot of the main election contained two candidates and neither of them received the number of votes required to be elected, corresponding election commission shall invalidate such elections.

2. The candidate who received in the repeat voting the greater number of votes with regards to the number of votes received by another candidate shall be considered elected on the basis of the repeat voting.

(Clause 2 as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

3. If a candidate on whom the repeat voting is to be conducted has withdrawn his candidature or otherwise dropped out before the voting day, on the basis of a decision taken by the election commission that establishes the results of the election his place shall be passed on to the next candidate with regards of received votes who previously took part in the said election. If all next candidates dropped out, the voting shall be conducted for one remaining candidate. In this case the candidate shall be considered elected if he received at least 50 percent of the votes cast. If all candidates dropped out, repeat elections shall be conducted. (as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

5. If elections were invalidated or a candidate elected in a single-seat or multi-seat electoral district failed to resign his duties incompatible with the status of a deputy, and a candidate elected as elective official failed to resign his duties incompatible with the status of an elective official, as well as in case referred to in Clause 5, Article 70 of this Federal Law, a body authorized by the law shall call repeat elections. (Clause 5 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

6. Repeat elections to federal body of state power shall be called in the procedure and within the period established by corresponding federal law. If main election to legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation or main election of elective official of body of local self-government were conducted on the second Sunday of March, and as the result legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or representative body of municipal formation was not formed in quorum or elective official of body of local self-government was not elected, repeat elections shall be conducted on the second Sunday of October of the year when main elections to given body, main elections of elective official of body of local self-government were conducted, and in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – on the voting day at such election. If main elections were called in connection with early termination of powers of given body or deputies of given body or elective official of body of local self-government, repeat elections shall be conducted not later than in four months after occurrence of grounds for repeat elections. In other cases repeat elections are conducted on the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October, and in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – on the voting day at such election, but not later than in one year after occurrence of grounds for repeat elections. During repeat elections term of election activity by decision of the body authorized by the law to call repeat elections may be reduced by one third. Decision to call repeat elections shall be published not later than in three days after it was taken. (as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

7. If a repeat election is called when the powers of district and precinct election commission are not expired, election commission organizing the election shall issue orders to either extend the term of powers of these election commissions or form these election commissions with new members. (Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. If powers of a deputy elected in a single-seat electoral district are terminated earlier, a body authorized by the law shall call by-election in the electoral district. By-election shall be conducted not later than in one year after the day of early termination of powers of such deputy. By-election shall be conducted on the second Sunday of March. If these elections (with account of terms established by Clause 7, Article 10 of this Federal Law) cannot be called for the second Sunday of March, they are called for the second Sunday of October, and in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of

the next convocation – on the voting day at such election. If as the result of early termination of deputy powers a legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation lost its quorum, by-election shall be conducted not later than in four months from the day of such early termination of powers, and term of election activity by decision of the body authorized by the law to call by-election may be reduced by one-third.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

9. If powers of a deputy elected in a multi-seat electoral district are terminated earlier, a by-election shall be called and conducted in the procedure established by Clause 8 of this Article, if less than two thirds of deputy seats in the district are occupied. Other reasons for holding a by-election in a multi-seat electoral district to replace a deputy whose powers have been terminated may be established by law.

10. A repeat and (or) by-election shall not be called or conducted if, as a result of this election a deputy cannot be elected for a term exceeding one year.

11. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ.

12. If as the result of early termination of deputy powers a legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipal formation lost quorum, and conduct of by-election in accordance with Clause 10 of this Article is not established, new main elections shall be called and conducted in terms established by Clause 4, Article 10 of this Federal Law.

(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

13. No procedure may be established by the law in accordance with which in case a decision to refuse registration of deputy elected in single-seat or multi-seat electoral district, elective official is cancelled, as well as in case of early termination of powers of such deputy and elective official, an election commission decides on registration of the person next in terms of received votes as deputy, elective official.

14. In case of early termination of powers of deputy elected within the list of candidates, a vacant deputy seat is given to another person by election commission organizing elections in the order established by the law. Deputy seat cannot be given to a registered candidate who received a deputy seat previously and terms of powers of which were also terminated earlier if his vacant deputy seat is not taken.

(Clause 14 as amended by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

15. The law may establish that in case of early termination of powers of deputy elected within the list of candidates, a collegiate and permanent leading body of political party within which list of candidates this deputy was elected, or (according to elections level) a collegiate permanent leading body of its regional branch or other structural subdivision (if that is stipulated by the statute of political party) within which list of candidates this deputy was elected, is entitled to propose a registered candidate out of the same list of candidates to be given a vacant deputy seat. If by the law the list of candidates is divided into regional groups of candidates, a candidate may be proposed only out of the number of candidates included in the same regional group of candidates (out of candidates not included in any regional groups of candidates) as the candidate whose powers were early terminated. If there are only registered candidates with deputy seats in corresponding regional group of candidates (part of the list of candidates not included in any regional groups of candidates) and (or) registered candidates who were not given deputy seats and informed a collegiate permanent leading body of political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision in written on their refusal to take this vacant deputy seat, the said body of political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision is

entitled to propose another registered candidate out of different regional group of candidates (part of the list of candidates not included in any regional groups of candidates).
(Clause 15 introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

16. Candidacy of a registered candidate to be given a vacant deputy seat in accordance with Clause 15 of this Article may be proposed within 14 days from the day a corresponding legislative (representative) body of state power (corresponding Chamber of this body), representative body of municipal formation takes a decision on early termination of powers of a deputy. A candidate is proposed in the order established by the statute of political party. Corresponding election commission shall give a vacant deputy seat to a registered candidate proposed by a collegiate permanent leading body of political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision.

(Clause 16 introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

17. The law may establish that a registered candidate included in the list of candidates is entitled to being given deputy seats not more than two times.

(Clause 17 introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

18. Registered candidate included in the list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seat or in the list of candidates received deputy seats in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation shall be removed from this list in case of:

a) filing by a registered candidate of a written application on his withdrawal out of the list of candidates:

b) loss by a registered candidate of a passive electoral right;

c) registered candidate becoming a member of political party other than political party in which list of candidates he is included;

d) candidate's failure to meet requirements of Clause 6, Article 70 of this Federal Law (unless the law establishes that a registered candidate is entitled to being given a deputy seat more than two times);

e) exercising by a registered candidate of his right to being given a deputy seat, including being given such seat twice in accordance with Clause 17 of this Article (unless the law establishes that a registered candidate is entitled to being given a deputy seat more than two times);

f) recognition of a registered candidate missing or dead on the ground of the court decision that came into force;

g) death of a registered candidate.

(Clause 18 introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, No.263-FZ)

Article 72. Publication of Voting results and Results of Election, Referendum

1. Commission shall provide for inspection the voting results for each electoral district, referendum district, the territory within the area of responsibility of the commission, referendum results within the scope of the data contained in its protocol of voting results and protocol of voting results of the commissions of the next subordinate level to voters, referendum participants, candidates, attorneys of candidates, election associations, authorized persons of candidates, election associations, electoral blocs, authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, observers, foreign (international) observers, mass media representatives at their request.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Election commissions that registered candidates (lists of candidates), referendum commissions that establish referendum results shall send the general data on the election results, referendum results to mass media within one day after the election results, referendum results are established.

3. The general results of elections, a referendum, and information on the number of votes received by each candidate (list of candidates), votes cast for options "Yes" and "No" ("For" and "Against") shall be officially published by corresponding commission in the order and terms established by the law but not later than in one month after the voting day.
(Clause 3 as amended by the Federal Law of July 12, 2006, No.107-FZ)

4. Commissions of all levels, with the exception of precinct commissions, shall publish (make public) the data contained in the protocols of voting results and protocols of the results of elections, a referendum of commissions of corresponding levels and the data contained in the protocols of voting results and protocols of the results of elections, a referendum of commissions of the next subordinate level on the basis of which the voting results, the results of the election, the referendum were established by corresponding commissions. The publication of the data listed above and contained in the protocols of election commissions that operated within the territory of the electoral district may be assigned by the law to corresponding district election commission or to the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. The complete data on the results of election to federal bodies of state power, a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be officially published within three months after the voting day. The complete data on the results of elections of bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum shall be officially published within two months after the voting day. Within three months after the day of the official publication of the complete data on the results of elections of bodies of state power, a referendum of the Russian Federation, a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, the data contained in the protocols of voting results of all commissions and in protocols of election results, referendum results of all commissions shall be published in information-telecommunication network "Internet."
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

Article 73. Legal Effect of Decision Adopted at Referendum

1. A decision adopted at a referendum shall be binding and shall not need any additional approval.

2. A decision adopted at a referendum of the Russian Federation shall have effect in the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

3. A decision adopted at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall have effect in the territory of this subject of the Russian Federation.

4. A decision adopted at a local referendum shall have effect in the territory of corresponding municipal formation.

5. A decision adopted at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum shall be registered, respectively, with the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the body of local self-government in the order established for registration of regulatory legal acts of the respective level.

6. A decision adopted at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum may be cancelled or changed by adopting a different decision at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, respectively, but not earlier than in two years after the initial decision was adopted, or if the initial decision was invalidated (ceased to be in effect) by a court. If a regulatory act was adopted at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, this act may be amended in the order established by the said act. If such procedure is not established, modifications may be also introduced in the order provided for the introduction of amendments to a relevant regulatory act, but not earlier than in five years after corresponding decision was adopted at the referendum.

7. A decision made at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum may be cancelled by a court on the following grounds:

the order of conducting a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum established by this Federal Law, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation has been violated that made it impossible to establish the real will of referendum participants;

incompliance of the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of which the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation was conducted with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federal law effective at the time when the referendum was conducted; incompliance of the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the statute of a municipal formation on the basis of which the local referendum was conducted with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federal law, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation effective at the time when the referendum was conducted that made it impossible to establish the real will of referendum participants;

incompliance of the decision made at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federal law, and for a local referendum with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

8. If the results of a referendum were invalidated, the commission organizing voting at a referendum shall call a repeat voting.

9. If a law or other regulatory act shall be additionally adopted to implement the decision made at a referendum, the federal body of state power, the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the body of local self-government or an elective official of the body of local self-government within the competence of which such issue falls, shall establish the period of time for preparation and (or) adoption of this law, regulatory act within 15 days from the day when the decision adopted at the referendum came into effect. This period of time shall not exceed three months.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. If after conducting a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation on a question that falls within joint competence of the Russian Federation and the subject of the Russian Federation, the federal law that governs this issue has become effective, the decision made at the referendum and not complying with this Federal Law shall not be applicable.

Article 74. Use of State Automated Information System "Vybory" (GAS "Vybory") at Election, Referendum

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. In the course of preparation and conduct of elections, referendum, and in order to exercise other powers of commissions in support of the electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum, only GAS "Vybory" shall be used in the order established by this Federal Law, other federal laws. The requirements to GAS "Vybory" and its operation and upgrading shall be established by the federal law, and to the extent such requirements are not covered by the federal law - by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Data contained in the protocols of voting results, results of elections, referendum submitted by commissions shall be compulsory entered into GAS "Vybory" except the data on voting results, results of election to bodies of local self-government of settlements, as well as the data on voting results and the results of local referenda in these municipal formations. Data on voting results, on results of election to bodies of local self-government of settlements, as well as data on voting results, results of local referenda in these municipal formations can be carried out in the order and in cases established by the Central Election Commission.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. Composition of administration of each election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall include, as its structural element, the information center of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the functions of which shall include technical and information support of the activities of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, automation of information processes implemented in the course of preparation and conduct of elections, referenda in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, operation and upgrading of the part of GAS "Vybory" operating in the territory of this subject of the Russian Federation. Employees of the said information center shall arrange and perform work related to the operation and upgrading of GAS "Vybory" within the entire territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, including territorial commissions and (under civil law contracts) in election commissions of municipal formations in territories of which more than one territorial commission is formed.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, №.93-FZ)

3. When GAS "Vybory" (its separate technical components) is used at elections, referendum of corresponding level in accordance with the law for, among other things, registration (account) of voters, referendum participants, preparation of lists of voters, referendum participants, counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, establishment of voting results and results of the election, referendum, corresponding commission shall form a group consisting of its voting and non-voting members to exercise control over the use of GAS "Vybory" (its separate technical components). All members of the commission, observers shall be entitled to receive information contained in GAS "Vybory".

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. From the commencement of voting and till the time when the protocol of voting results (the protocol of results of the election, referendum) is signed by corresponding commission, GAS "Vybory" is used for monitoring of the progress and establishment of voting results by transmitting the data from subordinate commissions to superior commissions, and its separate technical components are used to count votes cast by voters, referendum participants. The data on the progress of voting and establishment of voting results that is obtained through GAS "Vybory" (its separate technical components) shall be regarded as preliminary and legally ineffective information unless otherwise provided by this Federal Law, other law.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4¹ If after precinct commission enters the data of the protocol of voting results into GAS "Vybory", technical errors made during this process that need correction are detected, the data shall be entered into GAS "Vybory" solely at reasoned decision of next superior commission.

(Clause 4¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. When GAS "Vybory" (its separate technical components) is used at elections, a referendum, the data on participation of voters, referendum participants in the election, referendum, on preliminary and final voting results shall be accessible in real time (in the read-only mode) to users of information-telecommunication network "Internet." The order and the period of time for provision of such data shall not conflict with the requirements of the legislation governing elections and referenda.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ, of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

**Chapter X. APPEAL OF VIOLATIONS OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS AND
THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PARTICIPATE
IN A REFERENDUM AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION
OF LEGISLATION ON ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA**

Article 75. Appeal of decisions and actions (inaction) that violate electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum

1. Appeals of decisions and actions (inaction) of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, public associations and officials, as well as of decisions and actions (inaction) of commissions and their officials that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted to a court.

2. Appeals of decisions and actions (inaction) of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be submitted to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, appeals of decisions and actions (inaction) of the election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, district election commissions at election to legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall be submitted to the supreme courts of the republics, regional courts, courts of cities of federal significance, courts of autonomous areas and autonomous regions, appeals of decisions and actions (inaction) of other commissions shall be submitted to district courts.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. Court decisions shall be binding on corresponding commissions.

4. Appeals of decisions of commissions on voting results, results of elections, referendum shall be submitted to courts of corresponding level in accordance with the jurisdictions set forth in Clause 2 of this Article. A court of the appropriate level shall consider the decision of commission organizing the election, referendum, as well as decisions of subordinate commissions that participated in the organization and conduct of the election, referendum in accordance with the law, if violations committed by such commissions could affect the results of the election, referendum.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. In the circumstances established by this Federal Law, other laws, a court may cancel the decision of corresponding commission on registration a candidate (a list of candidates), on refusal to register a candidate (a list of candidates), on voting results, results of elections, referendum or another decision of the commission.
(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

6. Appeals of decisions and actions (inaction) of commissions and their officials that violated electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted to the next superior commission which shall, without forwarding the appeal to the subordinate commission, with the exception of the case when the circumstances stated in the appeal were not considered by the subordinate commission, consider the appeal and take one of the following decisions:

- a) leave the appeal without remedy;
- b) cancel the disputed decision in full or in part (declare an action (inaction) illegal) and take a material decision;
- c) cancel the disputed decision in full or in part (declare an action (inaction) illegal) and demand the subordinate commission to reconsider the issue and take a material decision (perform a certain action).

7. Decisions or actions (inaction) of election commission of a settlement or its official violating electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may

be appealed in election commission of the municipal district. Decision or actions (inaction) of election commission of municipal district, urban district, city territory of the federal city or its official violating electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be appealed in election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. Decisions or actions (inaction) of election commission of the subjects of the Russian Federation or its official violating electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be appealed in the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Election commissions that consider appeals shall take a decision in accordance with Clause 6 of this Article.

(Clause 7 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

8. A preliminary appeal to superior commission, election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall not be a prerequisite for submitting an appeal to court.

9. If an appeal is accepted for consideration by a court, and the same person applies to corresponding commission with a similar appeal, this commission shall suspend consideration of the appeal until the court decision becomes effective. If the court takes a decision on the substance of the appeal, the commission shall terminate the consideration of the appeal.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9¹ The court shall inform commissions at their request on complaints (appeals) of violation of electoral rights and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum as well as on decisions taken with regards to such complaints (appeals).

(Clause 9¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

10. Appeals of decisions and actions (inaction) that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted by voters, referendum participants, candidates, their attorneys, election associations and their attorneys, other public associations, a referendum initiative group and its authorized representatives, observers, and commissions.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 7, 2004, No.46-FZ, of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. Courts and bodies of prosecution shall organize their work (including on days-off) so as to ensure timely consideration of appeals.

12. When commission considers complaints (appeals), and in other cases when commission considers an issue of violation of electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum is considered, applicants and persons whose actions (inaction) are appealed of or considered shall be invited to the meeting of the commission.

(Clause 12 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 76. Grounds for Annulment of Registration of Candidates (List of Candidates), Cancellation of Decision of Commission to Register Candidate (List of Candidates), Refusal to Register Candidate (List of Candidates), Removal of Candidate from the List of Candidates, Cancellation of Registration of Candidate (List of Candidates), Referendum Initiative Group

(as amended by the Federal Law of December 5, 2006, No.225-FZ)

1. The decision of election commission to register a candidate shall be annulled by superior commission if the requirement of Clause 19, Article 38 of this Federal Law is not complied with. In this case, all decisions to register a candidate shall be annulled with the exception of the first one.

2. Registration of a candidate (list of candidates) shall be annulled by a decision of the election commission which registered the candidate (list of candidates) on the basis of application of the candidate to withdraw his candidature, decision of an election association to recall a candidate (list of candidates) submitted to this election commission in accordance with Clauses 30, 31 or 32, Article 38 of this Federal Law.

3. Registration of a candidate shall be annulled by the election commission that registered the candidate if the candidate lost his passive electoral right.

4. Registration of a candidate (list of candidates) nominated by a political party, its regional branch or other structural subdivision shall be annulled by election commission that registered a candidate (list of candidates) on the basis of the decision of court that came into effect on suspension or winding up of political party, its regional branch, other structural subdivision, respectively. Registration of candidate nominated by other public association shall be annulled by election commission that registered a candidate on the basis of the decision of corresponding official or body on suspension of activity of public association (if this decision is not appealed or is not recognized by court as unlawful), or in case of winding up of public association.

(as amended by the Federal Law of April 5, 2009, No.42-FZ)

5. Registration of list of candidates is annulled, if the number of candidates, who were removed from the list of candidates on the basis of applications of candidates to withdraw their candidatures (except withdrawal due to compelling circumstances), as well as on the ground stipulated by Clause 26, Article 38 of this Federal Law and Clause 9 of this Article, exceeds 25 percent of the number of candidates in certified list of candidates at election to federal bodies of state power or 50 percent of the number of candidates in certified list of candidates at election to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government.

6. Decision of election commission on registration of a candidate (list of candidates), refusal to register a candidate (list of candidates) may be cancelled by court, and decision of election commission on refusal to register a candidate (list of candidates) also may be cancelled by election commission in the order stipulated by Article 75 of this Federal Law on the basis of application of election commission that registered a candidate (list of candidates), candidate, election association in relation to which such decision was taken, candidate registered in the same electoral district, election association, list of candidates of which is registered in the same electoral district if it is established that such decision was taken by election commission with violation of requirements stipulated by Clauses 24-26, Article 38 of this Federal Law, other requirements stipulated by this Federal Law, other law.

7. Registration of a candidate may be cancelled by a court on the basis of application of election commission that registered a candidate, candidate that is registered for the same electoral district in the following cases:

a) new circumstances were revealed that constitute a ground for refusal of registration in accordance with Paragraphs "a", "b", "f", "h", "i", "j", "k" or "n", Clause 24, Article 38 of this Federal Law. Such revealed circumstance mean circumstances that existed at the moment when decision on registration of a candidate was taken but were not and could not be known to election commission that registered a candidate;

(as amended by the Federal Law of February 09, 2009, №.3-FZ)

b) in order to achieve a definite result at the election a candidate used financial resources other than those of his own electoral fund in an amount exceeding 5 percent the maximum limit of all expenditure out of electoral fund established by the law or in the event such expenditure out of electoral fund exceeded the maximum limit established by the law, by more than 5 percent;

c) a candidate repeatedly took advantage of his official position ;

d) it has been established that voters were bribed by candidates, his attorney, authorized representative for financial issues, and other persons or organization acting on their instruction;

e) a candidate violated the restrictions stipulated by Clause 1 or 1¹, Article 56 of this Federal Law;

f) a candidate repeatedly violated restrictions stipulated by Clause 5², Article 56 of this Federal Law;

g) it has been established that during the period referred to in Paragraph "d", Clause 3², Article 4 of this Federal Law (before receiving a status of a candidate) this person in his presentations at mass events, in mass media or in information materials distributed by him (including those published in information-telecommunication networks with public non-restricted access, including "Internet") called to actions determined in Article 1 of the Federal Law "On Countering Extremist Activity" as extremist activity, or otherwise encouraged to such actions, as well as substantiated or justified extremism, or performed actions aimed at exciting of social, racial, ethnic or religious discord, humiliating national dignity, promulgating exclusiveness, superiority or inferiority of citizens on grounds of their relation to religion, social, racial, national, religious or language identity, and his campaigning included public demonstration of Nazi symbols or attributes or symbols or attributes similar to Nazi symbols or attributes to the extent of their confusion.

(as amended by the Federal Laws of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

h) it has been established that a candidate concealed the fact of his conviction.

8. Registration of a list of candidates can be cancelled by court on the basis of application of election commission that registered the list of candidates, election association which list of candidates is registered for the same electoral district, in the following cases:

a) new circumstances were revealed that constitute a ground for refusal of registration in accordance with Paragraphs "a", "f", "h", "i", "j" or "m", Clause 25, Article 38 of this Federal Law. Such revealed circumstance mean circumstances that existed at the moment when decision on registration of a list of candidates was taken but were not and could not be known to election commission that registered a list of candidates;

(as amended by the Federal Law of February 9, 2009, No.3-FZ)

b) in order to achieve a definite result at the election an election association used financial resources other than those of its own electoral fund in an amount exceeding 5 percent the maximum limit of all expenditure out of electoral fund established by the law or in the event such expenditure out of electoral fund exceeded the maximum limit established by the law, by more than 5 percent;

c) a head of election association repeatedly took advantage of his official position ;

d) it has been established that voters were bribed by an election association, its attorney, authorized representative for financial issues, and other persons or organization acting on their instruction;

e) an election association violated the restrictions stipulated by Clause 1 or 1¹, Article 56 of this Federal Law, and candidate included into a registered list of candidates violated the restrictions stipulated by Clause 1, Article 56 of this Federal Law, if an election association does not remove such candidate out of its list in accordance with Clause 11 of this Article;

f) an election association repeatedly violated restrictions stipulated by Clause 5², Article 56 of this Federal Law;

g) it has been established that during the period referred to in Paragraph "d", Clause 3², Article 4 of this Federal Law (before nomination of list of candidates) this election association in their presentations at mass events, in mass media or in information materials distributed by them (including those published in information-telecommunication networks with public non-restricted access, including "Internet") called to actions determined in Article 1 of the Federal Law "On Countering Extremist Activity" as extremist activity, or otherwise encouraged to such actions, as well as substantiated or justified extremism, or performed actions aimed at exciting of social, racial, ethnic or religious discord, humiliating national dignity, promulgating exclusiveness, superiority or inferiority of citizens on grounds of their relation to religion, social,

racial, national, religious or language identity, and its campaigning included public demonstration of Nazi symbols or attributes or symbols or attributes similar to Nazi symbols or attributes to the extent of their confusion, as well as if the same has been established for a candidate included into a registered list of candidates during this period (but before this person received a status of a candidate), if election association that nominated this list will not remove such candidate out of the list in accordance with Clause 11 of this Article.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 11, 2011, No.200-FZ)

9. Registration of a candidate included into a registered list of candidates can be cancelled by court on the basis of application of election commission that registered a list of candidates, election association which list of candidates was registered for the same electoral district in cases stipulated by Paragraphs "c", "e" or "h", Clause 7 of this Article, or in case of establishment of the fact of bribery of voters by candidate or other persons or organization acting on his instructions, or in case of revealed circumstances that constitute the ground for removal of candidate out of the list of candidates in accordance with Paragraphs "a", "b", "c", "d" or "f", Clause 26, Article 38 of this Federal Law. Such revealed circumstance mean circumstances that existed at the moment when decision on registration of a list of candidates was taken but were not and could not be known to election commission that registered a list of candidates.

(as amended by the Federal Law of April 26, 2007, No.64-FZ)

10. Registration of referendum initiative group, other referendum participants group can be cancelled by court on the basis of application of commission organizing a referendum not later than in three days before the voting day in the following cases:

- a) the rules for putting forward of a referendum initiative were violated;
- b) members and (or) authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group violated the rules of referendum campaigning or the rules of funding a referendum campaign;
- c) members and (or) authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group took advantage of their positions;
- d) it has been established that referendum participants were bribed by members and (or) authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group;
- e) other grounds established by this Federal Law, other law.

11. Election association in relation to which an action is brought on protection of electoral rights and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum on the basis of Paragraph "e" or "f", Clause 8 of this Article is entitled to remove a candidate whose actions constituted the ground for court proceeding out of the list of candidates this election association nominated. Removal of such candidate out of the list of candidates by election association before the court takes decision to the point shall constitute the ground for dismissal of action.

12. If a candidate, election association violated restrictions stipulated by Clause 1, Article 56 of this Federal Law, or a person before obtaining a status of a candidate, and election association before nomination of its list of candidates performed actions stipulated by Paragraph "g", Clause 7, Paragraph "g", Clause 8 of this Article and in cases stipulated by Paragraphs "b", "c", "d" and "h", Clause 7, Paragraphs "b", "c" and "d", Clause 8 of this Article, respectively, a registration of candidate (list of candidates) may be cancelled by court on the prosecutor's application.

Article 77. Cancellation of Decision on Voting Results, Election Results, Referendum Results

1. In the event any violations of this Federal Law, other law governing the conduct of corresponding election, referendum were committed when voting was conducted or voting

results were established, a superior commission, before it establishes the voting results, election results, referendum results, may cancel the decision of a subordinate commission on the voting results, election results, referendum results and order a vote recount or, if the violations do not make it possible to reliably establish the results of the expression of the will of voters, referendum participants, invalidate the voting results, election results, referendum.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1¹ Upon establishment of voting results, election results, referendum results by superior commission, a decision of subordinate commission on voting results, election results may be cancelled only by court, or a court may take a decision on introduction of amendments to the protocol of voting results, election results and (or) summary table of this commission. This commission shall inform a commission organizing elections, referendum on its decision to appeal to court with application to cancel voting results, election results, on introduction of amendments to the protocol of voting results, election results and (or) summary of commission. In case a court decided on introduction of amendments to the protocol of voting results, election results and (or) summary table, a commission that filed this protocol and (or) summary table shall file a new protocol of voting results, election results with the note "Repeat" and (or) new summary table with the note "Repeat".
(Clause 1¹ introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1² A court of corresponding level upon cancellation of commission on voting results, election results may take decision to call recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, if this Federal Law was violated during the conduct of voting or establishment of its results, establishment of election results. If these violations prevent reliable establishment of the results of expression of will of voters, referendum participants, the court may invalidate voting results, election results.
(Clause 1² introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

2. A court may cancel the decision of an election commission on the results of corresponding election after these results were established, on the basis of the following facts as established by the court:

a) a candidate declared elected, an election association that nominated the list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats spent on their election campaign the funds exceeding 10 percent of the maximum limit of electoral fund established by the law besides their funds of their own electoral fund;
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

b) a candidate declared elected, an election association that nominated the list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats bribed voters and this violation prevents establishment of the real will of voters;
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

c) in the course of election campaigning a candidate declared elected, an election association that nominated the list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats violated restrictions stipulated by Clause 1, Article 56 of this Federal Law and this violation prevents establishment of the real will of voters;
(Clause "c" as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

d) a candidate declared elected, an election association that nominated the list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats took advantage of their official positions and this violation prevents establishment of the real will of voters.
(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

3. A court of an appropriate level may cancel a decision of an election commission on the voting results and election results in an election precinct, territory, electoral district, a municipal formation, in the subject of the Russian Federation, in the whole of the Russian Federation also in case of violations of the rules of preparation of voters lists, order of formation of election commissions, voting and vote counting procedures (including interference with their

observation), establishment of election results, unlawful refusal of registration of a candidate, list of candidates recognized as such after the voting day, and other violations of election legislation if these violations prevent establishment of the real will of voters.

4. A court of an appropriate level may cancel a decision of the referendum commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum commission on the voting results and the referendum results in case of violations of the rules of preparation of list of referendum participants, order of formation of referendum commission, rules of campaigning and financing of a referendum, if members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative group, heads of public association took advantage of their official positions in order to achieve a desirable answer to a referendum question, as well as in case of establishing the fact of bribery of referendum participants by these persons and public associations for the same purpose, in case of violation of the voting and vote counting procedure (including interference with their observation), as well as in case of other violations of referendum legislations if these actions (inaction) prevent establishment of the real will of voters.

5. A decision on voting results, election results shall not be cancelled because of violations of this Federal Law which were conducive to the election of, or which aimed at encouraging or encouraged voters to vote for candidates who have not been elected according to the voting results or for lists of candidates which have not been admitted to distribution of deputy seats.

6. Cancellation of a decision on election results by an election commission or a court in the cases where violations prevent establishment of the real will of voters shall cause invalidation of elections in this electoral district.

7. At elections in a multi-seat electoral district, violations referred to in Clause 2 of this article if committed by individual candidates may cause cancellation of the decision on the results of the election only in relation to these candidates.

8. When voting for lists of candidates, violations committed by individual election associations referred to in Clause 2 of this Article may cause cancellation by court of the decisions on admittance of these election associations to distribution of deputy seats and re-distribution of deputy seats.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

9. Cancellation by court of the decision on referendum results if violations committed prevent from establishment of the real will of referendum participants may lead to invalidation of referendum results.

10. In case of invalidation of voting results in an election precinct, referendum precinct, territory, the subject of the Russian Federation after a corresponding commission files a report of voting results, election results, referendum results, this commission shall prepare a new protocol of voting results, of election results, referendum results with the note "Repeat".

(Clause 10 as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

11. On the basis of the protocols of voting results made by commission with the note "Repeat" or "Repeat vote counting" prepared after a superior commission compiles a protocol of voting results, election results, referendum results and summary table, corresponding amendments shall be introduced to the protocol and summary table prepared by superior commission.

(Clause 11 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 78. Term of Submission and Consideration of Complaints and Appeals

1. A court of the appropriate level shall not deny acceptance of an appeal of violation of electoral rights, the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum.

2. An appeal of the decision of a commission on registration, refusal to register a candidate (list of candidates), a referendum initiative group, other referendum participants group, on refusal to certify the list of candidates, list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) electoral districts may be submitted within ten days after the decision that is appealed of was made. This period shall not be renewed (extended).

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 1, 2010, No.133-FZ)

3. After the official publication of the results of elections, a referendum, an appeal of violation of the electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum that occurred during the period of the election campaign, a referendum campaign may be submitted to a court within one year after the day of the official publication of the results of corresponding election, referendum.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

4. A decision on appeals received before the voting day during the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign shall be taken within five days but not later than the day preceding the voting day, and immediately if received on the voting day or the day following the voting day. If the facts stated in appeals require additional check, decisions on them shall be taken within ten days. A court shall make a decision with regard to an appeal of a commission's decision on voting results, results of elections, referendum within two months after the day on which the appeal was submitted.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

5. An application on cancellation of registration of a candidate, a list of candidates may be submitted to a court not later than in eight days before the voting day (including the repeat voting day). The court shall take a decision not later than in five days before the voting day.

Article 79. Responsibility for the Violation of Legislation of the Russian Federation on Elections, Referenda

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Responsibility for violation of the legislation of the Russian Federation on elections and referenda is established by federal laws.

Chapter XI. CONCLUDING AND PROVISIONS FOR TRANSITION PERIOD**Article 80. Entry into Force of this Federal Law**

1. This Federal Law shall enter into force in ten days after its official publication and shall not be applied to legal relations that arose in relation to conduct of elections and referenda called before it entered into force.

2. It shall be established that the Federal Law of September 19, 1997, No. 124-FZ "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 1997, No. 38, art. 4339; 1999, No. 14, art. 1653; 2001, No. 29, art. 2944) shall be applied only to legal relations that arouse in relation to conduct of elections and referenda called before this Federal Law entered into force. It shall be established that the Federal Law of September 19, 1997, No. 124-FZ "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian

Federation to Participate in a Referendum" shall cease to be in force in the order specified in Clause 3 of this Article.

3. Upon expiration of six months from the day when this Federal Law enters into force, the following shall cease to be in force:

The Federal Law of September 19, 1997, No. 124-FZ "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 1997, No. 38, art. 4339);

The Federal Law of March 30, 1999, No. 55-FZ "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 1999, No. 14, art. 1653);

Article 1 of the Federal Law of July 10, 2001, No. 89-FZ "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Federal Laws "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" and "On the Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2001, No. 29, art. 2944);

4. Article 18 of this Federal Law shall not be applied to elections of deputies of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Union State of the first convocation from the Russian Federation conducted under the federal law.

5. If the legislation of the subject of the Russian Federation does not comply with Clause 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law, the said Clause shall not be applied to elections in this subject of the Russian Federation called before July 14, 2003. Within this period the legislation of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be brought into compliance with Clause 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law. This period shall not be applied if less than three regional branches of political parties are registered in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, and the legislation of such subject of the Russian Federation shall be brought into compliance with Clause 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law before the expiration of one month from the day on which regional branches of at least three political parties are registered. The legislation of the subject of the Russian Federation may also be brought into compliance with Clause 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law before the expiration of the above periods.

6. Ceased to be in force. – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ.

7. Provisions of Clause 9, Article 4 and Clause 6, Article 70 of this Federal Law shall not be applied to elective officials of bodies of local self-government that are deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation elected before May 13, 2002.

(Clause 7 introduced by the Federal Law of June 29, 2005, No.69-FZ)

Article 81. Provisions for Transition Period

1. Election commissions formed before this Federal Law entered into force, with the exception of those referred to in Clause 1, Article 85 of this Federal Law, shall retain their powers until the expiration of the period for which they were formed, but for not more than five years from the day of their formation. Vacant seats in election commissions shall be occupied in the order established by this Federal Law.

2. Ceased to be in force from January 1, 2009. – The Federal Law of July 23, 2008, No.160-FZ.

Article 81¹ On Procedure of Application of Article 10 of this Federal Law

(introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

1. If the period for which body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or body of local self-government or deputies of these bodies were elected at elections called before August 15, 2005 expires during the period from November 1 to December 31 after August 15, 2005, save as provided by Clause 5 of this Article, next elections shall be conducted on the second Sunday of March of the year following the year when such period expires.

2. If the period for which body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or body of local self-government or deputies of these bodies were elected at elections called before August 15, 2005 expires during the period from January 1 to March 31 after August 15, 2005, save as provided by Clause 5 of this Article, next elections shall be conducted on the second Sunday of March of the year following the year when such period expires.

3. If the period for which body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or body of local self-government or deputies of these bodies were elected at elections called before August 15, 2005 expires during the period from April 1 to October 31 after August 15, 2005, save as provided by Clause 5 of this Article, next elections shall be conducted on the second Sunday of March of the year following the year when such period expires, and in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – on the voting day at such election.

4. If implementation of provisions of Clause 1 or 2 of this Article results in coincidence of the voting days at several elections, including elections to body (bodies) of local self-government as the result of which a voter will have an opportunity to vote by more than four ballots at the same time (except ballots issued at early election, repeat elections and by-elections), elections to body (bodies) of local self-government are called on the second Sunday of October of the year when they had to be conducted, and in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – on the voting day at such election. If implementation of provisions of Clause 3 of this Article results in coincidence of the voting days at several elections, including elections to body (bodies) of local self-government as the result of which a voter will have an opportunity to vote by more than four ballots at the same time (except ballots issued at early election, repeat elections and by-elections), elections to body (bodies) of local self-government are called on the second Sunday of March of the year when they had to be conducted.

5. Elections to bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, terms of powers of which or terms of powers of deputies of such bodies expire during the period till January 1, 2006, shall be conducted during the period established by constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipal formations, if the law of the subject of the Russian Federation established that corresponding elections shall be conducted on the second Sunday of March of 2006.

6. Terms of powers of bodies or deputies, elections of which as the result of implementation of Clauses 1-5 of this Article were postponed till later period shall be correspondingly extended.

7. Elections to representative bodies of the first convocation and elections of heads of municipal formations newly established in accordance with the Federal Law of October 6, 2003, No.131-FZ “On Basic Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation”, as well as elections to bodies of local self-government, terms of powers or which was extended or reduced in accordance with Article 82 of this Federal Law, shall be conducted during the period established by the laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation in accordance with Clause 1, Article 85 of the Federal Law of October 6, 2003, No.131-FZ “On

Basic Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation” and Clause 2, Article 82 of this Federal Law.

8. In the subjects of the Russian Federation where elections were conducted in accordance with Clauses 3, 4, 5 or 7 of this Article on other than the second Sunday of March days, next elections shall be conducted during the period established by constitutions (statutes), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, statutes of municipal formations on the second Sunday of March of the second Sunday of October of the year when terms of power of corresponding bodies or deputies of corresponding bodies expire, and if such terms of power expire in the year of election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the next convocation – on the voting day at such election.

9. If in the subject of the Russian Federation elections were conducted in accordance with Clauses 3, 4 5 or 7 of this Article on other than the second Sunday of March days, and constitution (statute), law of the subject of the Russian Federation, statute of municipal formation do not provide for conduct of the next elections in March, the law of this subject of the Russian Federation may provide for extension of terms of power of bodies of state power of this subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government in this subject of the Russian Federation for the purpose of conduct of the next corresponding elections on the second Sunday of March of the year following the year when the terms of powers of corresponding bodies or deputies of corresponding bodies expire.

10. If elections to legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation were conducted in accordance with Clause 5, Article 10 of this Federal Law on other than the second Sunday of March day, the next elections shall be conducted on the nearest day to the day of expiration of terms of power of this body established by Clause 3, Article 10 of this Federal Law when elections may be called, and if such a day is the second Sunday of October of the year when election to deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation shall be conducted – on the voting at such election. Terms of power of legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation shall respectively be extended or reduced.

(Clause 10 introduced by the Federal Law of March 8, 2011, No.34-FZ)

Article 82. On Combination of Elections, Extension or Reduction of Terms of Powers of Legislative (Representative) Bodies of State Power of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, Bodies of Local Self-Government

(as amended by the Federal Law of March 8, 2011, No.34-FZ)

(as amended by the Federal Law of August 12, 2004, No.99-FZ)

1. Extension or reduction of terms of power of bodies of local self-government is allowed for the purpose of combination of the voting day:

at elections to bodies of self-government with the voting day at elections to bodies of local self-government of municipal formations newly formed in accordance with the Federal Law of October 6, 2003, No.131-FZ “On Basic Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation” (hereinafter – the Federal Law “On Basic Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation”);

at elections to bodies of local self-government of municipal formations in the subject of the Russian Federation;

at elections to bodies of local self-government of the same municipal formation;

at elections to bodies of local self-government with the voting day at elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation.

Elections to bodies of local self-government terms of powers of which are extended or reduced shall be conducted till November 1, 2005.

2. Extension or reduction of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government is regulated by:

the law of the subject of the Russian Federation in cases stipulated by Indents two and three, Clause 1 of this Article;

regulatory legal act of body of local self-government in cases stipulated by Indents four and five, Clause 1 of this Article.

The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be informed on such extension or reduction of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government. Financing of elections shall be carried out at the expense of corresponding budgets.

3. Extension of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government of municipal formations is allowed till January 1, 2006, if such municipal formations exist as of the day of entering into force of Article 12 of the Federal Law "On Basic Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation" and their borders are changed or transformed in the order established by Article 84 of the said Federal Law.

Extension of terms of powers of these bodies is regulated by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be informed on such extension of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government.

4. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation allows one-time but for not more than a year period extension or reductions of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government for the purpose of combination of the voting days at election to not less than two thirds of bodies of local self-government of municipal formations in this subject of the Russian Federation.

Extension or reduction of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government shall not be allowed if as the result a voter will have an opportunity to vote with more than four ballots, except ballots issued in connection with conduct of early elections, repeat elections or by-elections.

(Clause 4 introduced by the Federal Law of July 22, 2008, No.149-FZ)

5. Elections to bodies of local self-government, terms of powers of which are extended or reduced in accordance with Clause 4 of this Articles, shall be called on the voting days stipulated by Clauses 3 and 6, Article 10 of this Federal Law, including on the first or second Sunday of October. Such elections shall be conducted till March 14, 2011. At calling and conducting of such elections provisions of Article 81¹ of this Federal Law are not applied.

(Clause 5 introduced by the Federal Law of July 22, 2008, No.149-FZ)

5. Extension or reduction of terms of power of legislative (representative) body of the subject of the Russian Federation is allowed but not more than for six months with the purpose of combination of the voting day at election of deputies of this body with the voting day at election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Extension or reduction of terms of powers of legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation is not allowed if as the result a voter will have an opportunity to vote with four ballots at the same time, except ballots issued in connection with early elections, repeat elections or by-elections.

During elections to legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation which terms of power was extended or reduced in accordance with the Indent one of this Paragraph, provisions of Article 81¹ of this Federal Law shall not be applied.

(Clause 6 introduced by the Federal Law of March 8, 2011, No.34-FZ)

Article 83. Guarantees of Performing of Electoral Activity by Head of Local Administration

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

If a municipal formation has no head of local administration and the statute of municipal formations does not establish a person authorized to perform electoral activity in accordance with this Federal Law or the said person fail to perform such activity in the period of time established by this Federal Law, this electoral activity shall be performed by a higher official of the subject of the Russian Federation (head of higher executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) or by other official on his instruction.

(as amended by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ)

Article 84. On Participation of Political Public Associations in Elections

1. Political public associations that were established and registered in accordance with the federal laws, laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation at a level corresponding to the level of the election, or at a higher level, shall be entitled to participate, as election associations and along with the election associations referred to in Clause 25, Article 2 of this Federal Law, in elections of corresponding level, the decision on calling which was officially published before the expiration of two years from the day of entry into force of the Federal Law "On Political Parties." The said political public associations, or amendments and supplements introduced to the statutes of public association to give them the status of political public associations, shall be registered not later than in one year before the voting day, and when elections is called to the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or to the executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, to the body of local self-government in the event of early termination of powers of corresponding body, not later than in six months before the voting day. The said periods shall not be applied to other amendments and supplements introduced to the statutes of political public associations.

2. A political public association that was recognized as an election association and was entitled to nominate candidates for membership in commissions before this Federal Law entered into force, in the event of its reorganization that has no effect on its status of a political public association, or in the event of its reorganization into a political party, shall retain the rights specified in Clause 7, Article 23, Clause 8, Article 24, Clause 7, Article 25, Clause 7, Article 26, Clause 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law. A voluntary association of two or more election associations that was recognized as an electoral bloc and was entitled to nominate candidates for membership in commissions before this Federal Law has entered into force, in the event of its reorganization that has no effect on its status of a political public association, or in the event of its reorganization into a political party, shall retain the rights specified in Clause 7, Article 23, Clause 8, Article 24, Clause 7, Article 25, Clause 7, Article 26, Clause 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law. Such electoral bloc may, by a decision of a duly authorized body, delegate these rights to one of its member election associations, or to an election association the founders of which are election associations that are members of this electoral bloc. The said election association, in the event of its reorganization that has no effect on its status of a political public association, or in the event of its reorganization into a political party shall retain the right to make such nominations.

Article 85. Ceased to be in force – The Federal Law of July 21, 2005, No.93-FZ

President of the Russian Federation
V. Putin
Moscow, the Kremlin
June 12, 2002
N. 67-FZ