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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

ARMENIA

DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

**ON MAKING AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS
TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ELECTORAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Article 1. In Article 8 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "the Law"):

- (1) in paragraphs 1 and 3 of part 2, the words "On legal acts" shall be replaced with the words "On regulatory legal acts";
- (2) in part 4, the words "the city of Yerevan (hereinafter referred to as "Yerevan"), the city of Gyumri (hereinafter referred to as "Gyumri"), the city of Vanadzor (hereinafter referred to as "Vanadzor")" shall be replaced with the words "as well as of the Councils of Elders of communities".

Article 2. In Article 9 of the Law:

- (1) in part 4, the words "and 5 days before" shall be replaced with the words "(and in case of early elections of the National Assembly — 26 days) and 7 days";
- (2) the Article shall be supplemented with part 6 which reads as follows:
"6. On the first working day of each month, the Judicial Department of the Republic of Armenia shall provide the authorised body with the complete list of persons declared as lacking active legal capacity by a judgment of a court having entered into legal force."

Article 3. In Article 10 of the Law:

- (1) in part 1, the words "and persons who have had valid identification documents in the course of one year preceding the voting day" shall be added after the word "this Code";
- (2) part 3 shall be amended to read as follows:
"In case of elections of the National Assembly, electors having registration of another community, as well as those having disability category and limited physical capacity shall, no later than 12 days before the voting day, submit an application to the head of the authorised body or of the relevant subdivision (hereinafter referred to as "the authorised body") on temporary withdrawal from the list of electors by place of registration, indicating the address of their place of residence on the voting day, and electors having limited physical capacity wishing to vote at another address of their community of registration must submit to the authorised body also a document certifying the relevant disability. The authorised body shall, within a 3-day period following the receipt of the application, temporarily remove the data of the elector from the list of electors by place of registration and add them in the list of electors of the electoral precinct by place of residence. In case of submitting an application on behalf of another person, the applicant shall be obliged to submit a notary certified power of attorney. The authorised body shall provide the applicant with a relevant statement of information thereon. The forms of the application and the statement of information shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.";
- (3) in part 7, the number "7" shall be replaced with the number "9";
- (4) in part 9, the words "no later than 50 days, 10 days and 6 days" shall be replaced with the words "no later than 50 days (in case of early elections — on the 3rd day after they are called) and 10 days before".

Article 4. In part 4 of Article 11 of the Law, the words "up to 1 000" shall be replaced with the words "up to 1200".

Article 5. In the 1st and 2nd sentences of paragraph 1 of part 2 of Article 12 of the Law, the words "and 5 days" shall be deleted, and the words "elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, head of community and member of council of elders" shall be replaced with the word "other elections".

Article 6. In Article 13 of the Law:

- (1) part 2 shall be amended to read as follows:
"During elections of the National Assembly and of local self-government bodies in communities having — according to the data of the latest census — a permanent population (hereinafter referred to as "a permanent population") of more than 70 000, the authorised body shall post

the list of electors by electoral precincts 40 days (and in case of early elections of the National Assembly — 25 days, in case of early elections of councils of elders of communities — 20 days) and 4 days before the voting day, on www.police.am website. The lists of electors posted on the website by electoral precincts must be downloadable."

(2) part 6 shall be amended to read as follows:

"In case of forming more than one electoral precinct in a community, the head of community shall, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, inform the residents of the community on the voting day, the number of the electoral precinct, the address of the polling station and the time. This function shall be considered as a delegated power of the head of community."

Article 7. In Article 14 of the Law:

(1) in part 1, the number "10" shall be replaced with the number "11", and the number "7" — with the number "9";

(2) part 2 shall be supplemented with point 3 which reads as follows:

"(3) persons registered at the address included in the description of the relevant electoral precinct, but who have been left out of the list of electors of that electoral precinct under the ground of not having valid identification documents in the course of the last year."

Article 8. In part 3 of Article 16 of the Law, the words ", and in certain cases — up to 2300 electors" shall be added after the word "electors".

Article 9. In Article 17 of the Law:

(1) in part 1, the words ", which meets the requirements of this Law" shall be added after the word "room").

(2) in part 2, the words ", secret voting and transparency of the electoral process", shall be added after the word "process", and the words "and meet the requirements of this Law" shall be added after the word "gratuitously";

(3) part 5 shall be supplemented with a new sentence which reads as follows:

"For this purpose, the head of community shall, no later than on the 20th day preceding the voting, publish the list of electoral precincts with access to the exercise of the right of suffrage by electors with limited physical capacity."

Article 10. In Article 19 of the Law:

(1) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

"1. The following shall be considered as an election campaign:

(1) direct or indirect appeals to vote for or against candidates, political parties (alliance of political parties), candidates included in the electoral lists thereof;

(2) expression of preference for candidates, political parties (alliance of political parties), candidates included in the electoral lists thereof for the formation of expression of will of electors;

(3) description of possible consequences when candidates, political parties (alliance of political parties), candidates included in the electoral lists thereof are elected;

(4) dissemination of information in which information on any candidate, political party (alliance of political parties), candidate included in the electoral lists thereof obviously prevails, accompanied with positive or negative comments (except for the cases prescribed by Article 32 of this Code);

(5) any action that is aimed at shaping a positive or negative attitude of electors towards candidates, political parties (alliance of political parties), candidates included in the electoral lists thereof (except for the cases prescribed by Article 32 of this Code and the dissemination of comprehensive and objective news through the mass media).";

(2) the Article shall be supplemented with part 1.1 which reads as follows:

"Period of the election campaign shall be the period prescribed by this Code during which the rules prescribed by this Code on making use of public resources, conducting election campaign and ensuring financial transparency are in place for the purpose of ensuring equal opportunities for the political parties, candidates running in elections."

The fact that the period of election campaign is fixed shall not restrict the conduct of election campaign during other periods not prohibited by this Code.

The period of election campaign shall start on the 7th day following the last day of the time period prescribed by this Code for registration of the electoral lists of political parties running in elections and of candidates, and shall expire on the day before the voting day. The campaign during that period shall be hereinafter referred to as "the election campaign".

During the second round of election of the National Assembly, election campaign shall start on the 8th day following the adoption of a decision on holding the second round of election.

The campaign — on the voting day and on the day preceding it — through public speeches, public events, as well as through print media, radio companies and television companies (including during satellite broadcasting) carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall be prohibited.";

(3) in part 2, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "communities";

(4) in part 3, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "communities", and the words "(and in case of early elections — 7 days) shall be added after the words "20 days";

(5) parts 4 and 6 shall be amended to read as follows:

"4. After calling elections, election campaign offices may be formed. Election campaign offices may not be located in the buildings occupied by state and local self-government bodies (except for cases when election campaign offices occupy an area not belonging to such bodies), in the buildings of general education institutions, in the premises of condominiums, as well as in the buildings where electoral commissions are functioning.

6. From the day of entry into force of the decision on calling elections or a referendum until summarisation of the results of elections or the referendum (and in case of elections of the National Assembly — the decision on the National Assembly being elected), a candidate, a member or an authorised person, a proxy of a political party (alliance of political parties), a member or an authorised representative of an initiating group for the referendum shall be prohibited to provide (promise) — in person or through someone else on their behalf (including on behalf of the political party or the alliance) or in any other manner, or as charity, gratuitously or on preferential conditions — money, food, securities, goods (except for print and other campaign materials or objects containing the name or emblems of a political party or the name, surname or image of a candidate and at a cost not exceeding three-folds of the minimum salary) to electors, as well as participants of the referendum, or to provide (promise) services or carry out an election campaign or referendum campaign while carrying out charity work."

Article 11. Article 20 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 20. Election campaign through the mass media

1. Political parties and candidates running in elections of the National Assembly and the communities having a permanent population of more than 70 000 shall have the right to use the airtime (including by live broadcasting) of public radio and public television on equal conditions, free of charge and for pay, the procedure and schedule for provision whereof shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission on the next day following the expiry of the time limit prescribed for registration of the electoral lists of political parties and candidates running in elections.

The mass media shall be obliged to ensure non-discriminatory conditions for political parties and candidates running in elections.

2. News programmes on public radio and public television shall provide impartial and non-judgemental information on election campaigns of candidates, political parties and candidates running in elections. Publications on political parties and candidates running in elections, having no relation to the campaign, must, to the fullest extent possible, be neutral and comprehensive. Upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration, contracts concluded with candidates and political parties running in elections by radio companies and television companies for providing airtime for election campaign purposes shall be considered revoked, and the provision of airtime for election campaign purposes shall be terminated.

3. During elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies in Yerevan:
 - (1) public radio and public television shall be obliged to broadcast programmes or releases on election programmes of political parties and candidates running in elections, ensuring impartiality and equal conditions;
 - (2) the Public Television Company shall organise television debates, for the participation wherein equal conditions shall be provided to all political parties and candidates. The number of such television debates must be no less than four, each no less than 90 minutes, and candidates exceptionally of the first place on the electoral lists of political parties must be invited to one of the debates;
 - (3) the public radio and public television shall be obliged to broadcast — in a reasonable number — public service announcements submitted by the Central Electoral Commission and non-governmental organisations, where they are of high quality, exceptionally neutral and aimed at raising the public awareness of elections or preventing election fraud.

4. During elections of local self-government bodies in communities having a permanent population of more than 70 000 (except for Yerevan), the Public Television Company shall organise at least on television debate, for the participation wherein equal conditions shall be provided to all political parties and candidates. The television debate shall be no less than 90 minutes.

5. No later than 2 days after calling elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall publish the price per minute of the paid airtime of public radio and public television, which may not exceed 50 per cent of the market value of the commercial advertisement for the last 6 months preceding the calling of elections and may not be changed until the end of the election campaign.

6. Provisions prescribed by part 2 of this Article shall also equally extend to other radio companies and television companies carrying out online, cable and terrestrial on-air broadcasting, which provide airtime to candidates, political parties running in elections for conducting election campaign, irrespective of the form of ownership.

No later than 3 days after calling elections, other radio companies and television companies carrying out online, cable and terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall publish the price per minute of their paid airtime, which may not exceed the average cost of the commercial advertisement for the last 6 months preceding the calling of elections and may not be changed until the end of the election campaign.

7. It shall be prohibited to interrupt radio programmes and television programmes on election campaign by commercial advertisement.

8. Television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall be obliged to observe the requirements of this Article when carrying out satellite broadcasting.

9. When carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, radio programmes and television programmes on election campaign shall be audio- and video-taped. They shall be kept until the day the body assumes its powers.

10. Supervision over the observance by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial, cable, online on-air broadcasting of the established procedure for election campaigns shall be exercised by the National Commission on Television and Radio.

11. During the election campaign for the elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies in Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall

conduct monitoring for assessment of provision — by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial, as well as cable and online on-air broadcasting and providing airtime for conducting election campaign — of equal conditions for political parties running in elections. To this end, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall develop and, no later than 15 days (and in case of early elections — 2 days) after calling elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies in Yerevan, publish and submit to the Central Electoral Commission a methodology for assessment of provision by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial, cable and online on-air broadcasting of equal conditions for political parties running in elections during the period of the election campaign.

12. During the elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies in Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall — no later than on the 10th day and the 20th day preceding the voting day, as well as 2 days before the time limit established for summarising the election results — publish and submit to the Central Electoral Commission the results of the monitoring prescribed by part 11 of this Article and the conclusion of the Commission on observance by television companies and radio companies of the established procedure for election campaigns.

In case the second round of elections of the National Assembly is held, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall publish the conclusion referred to in this part and submit it to the Central Electoral Commission no later than on the 10th day preceding the voting day of the second round of the election, as well as 2 days before the time limit established for summarising the election results.

13. Newspapers and magazines founded by state or local self-government bodies shall be obliged to ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions for candidates, political parties running in elections during the period of the election campaign."

Article 12. In Article 21 of the Law:

- (1) in part 3, the number "10" shall be replaced with the number "7";
- (2) in sentences 1 and 9 of part 6, the words "the Council of Elders of Yerevan" shall be replaced with "local self-government bodies in communities having a permanent population of more than 70 000".

Article 13. In part 2 of Article 22 of the Law, the words ", online media" shall be added after the word "radio".

Article 14. In point 2 of part 2 of Article 25 of the Law, the number "4" shall be replaced with the number "3".

Article 15. In Article 26 of the Law:

- (1) in part 1:
 - a. the words "Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "communities";
 - b. the number "7" shall be replaced with the words "3 working";
 - c. the words "the Council of Elders of Yerevan" shall be replaced with "local self-government bodies in Yerevan";
- (2) the word "personal" shall be deleted from part 8.

Article 16. In Article 27 of the Law:

- (1) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

"1. Candidates, political parties running in elections may fund the following exceptionally through the funds of the campaign fund:

 - (1) conducting an election campaign through the mass media;

- (2) renting halls, premises for organising election gatherings, meetings with electors and other election events;
- (3) preparing (placing), acquiring, posting a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing and disseminating all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors;
- (4) renting means of transport for election campaign purposes;
- (5) amounts paid to persons for the work performed, as well as the services provided for election campaign purposes.

The maximum amount of expenditures made from a campaign fund for the above-mentioned purpose shall be prescribed by this Code.";

- (2) in part 2, the words "(except for point 5, where the work has been performed or the service has been provided by natural persons gratuitously)" shall be added after the word "services";
- (3) in part 3, the words "(except for point 5, where the work has been performed or the service has been provided by natural persons gratuitously)" shall be added after the words "by part 1 of this Article".

Article 17. Sentence 2 of part 1 of Article 28 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:
"Documents (contracts, transfer and acceptance acts, invoices, as well as documents certifying the payments made or statements of bank accounts substituting them) serving as a ground for expenditures prescribed by part 1 of Article 27 of this Code shall be attached to the declaration."

Article 18. In Article 29 of the Law:

- (1) in part 2, the word "two" shall be replaced with the word "four";
- (2) in part 4, the number "5" shall be replaced with the number "8".

Article 19. In Article 30 of the Law:

- (1) part 2 shall be supplemented with a paragraph which reads as follows:
"International organisations and foreign non-governmental organisations may — no later than on the 22nd day preceding the voting — apply to the specified bodies in order to receive invitation for carrying out observation mission. That application must be discussed within a 5-day period.";
- (2) part 3 shall be amended to read as follows:
"Election related reports submitted by observation missions of the organisations referred to in points 1 and 2 of part 1 of this Article shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

The organisations referred to in point 2 of part 1 of this Article shall be obliged to submit their election related reports to the Central Electoral Commission within a 3-month period following the voting."

Article 20. In Article 31 of the Law:

- (1) part 2 shall be amended to read as follows:
"Applications for accreditation shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission after the date of calling elections, but no later than 15 days before the voting day. Applications for making amendments (supplements) to the list of accredited observers shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no later than 10 days before the voting day.
Before submitting an application for accreditation, non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Armenia shall be obliged to adopt code of conduct for their observers, which must be in line with the international principles for election observation and the regulations of this Code.
Non-governmental organisations referred to in this part shall organise and hold for their observers trainings on electoral legislation and on code of conduct for observers of the organisation.

The application for accreditation must contain the contents (text) and the training plan (or its brief outline) of code of conduct for observers of the organisation.";

- (2) in point 3, the number "12" shall be replaced with "7";
- (3) in part 4, the words "the application does not contain an indication on the adoption of or training on the code of conduct for observers of the organisation" shall be replaced with "the head of the given organisation is a candidate for the elections, or the code of conduct for observers – indicated in the application – obviously contradicts the requirements of this Code (or the application does not contain it)";
- (4) in part 6, the words "however amendments (supplements) to the list of accredited observers shall be allowed under the procedure and within the time limits prescribed by part 2 of this Article" shall be added after the words "shall not be required";
- (5) the Article shall be supplemented with part 10 which reads as follows:
"10. Judges, prosecutors, officers of investigative bodies, officers of the Police, National Security Service, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, Penitentiary Service, Probation Service and Rescue Service, military servicemen, candidates, members of the electoral commissions may not be observers or mass media representatives."

Article 21. In Article 32 of the Law:

- (1) in part 1:
 - a. in part 1, the words "polling station and" shall be added before the words "voting room";
 - b. in part 5, the words ", technical equipment" shall be added after the words "lists of electors";
- (2) the words "Observers shall base all their findings on their personal observations" shall be deleted from part 2.;
- (3) in part 3, the words "(except for the cases prescribed by law)" shall be added after the words "electoral commission";
- (4) in the first sentence of part 4, the words "or polling station" shall be added after the words "in the voting room".

Article 22. The first and the third sentences of part 3 of Article 34 shall be amended to read as follows:

"One proxy of each candidate for head of community and member of council of elders and one proxy of each political party running in elections may be present at the sitting of the electoral commission and in a voting room during the voting.

Candidates included in the electoral list of political parties running in elections of the National Assembly and councils of elders of communities may not have proxies."

Article 23. In Article 35 of the Law:

- (1) in part 1, the words "(and in case of the elections of the National Assembly — 5)" shall be added after the number "3";
- (2) part 4 shall be supplemented with point 3 which reads as follows:
"(3) represent the political party or alliance without a power of attorney, sign contracts and other acts related to the election campaign on behalf thereof, as well as issue payment orders from the bank account of the campaign fund."

Article 24. In part 4 of Article 40, the number "30" shall be replaced with the number "40".

Article 25. Part 3 of Article 42 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Everyone with higher education and meeting the requirements for Deputies, shall be eligible for being elected as member of the Central Electoral Commission."

Article 26. In Article 43 of the Law:

- (1) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

"District electoral commission shall comprise of 7 members. District electoral commission shall be formed for a 4-year period. One member from each district electoral commission shall be appointed by the factions of the National Assembly, and the remaining members — by the Central Electoral Commission until the termination of the powers of the district electoral commission."

(2) part 3 shall be supplemented with point 5 which reads as follows:

"(5) higher education and at least 3 years of work record on holding a managerial position in a non-governmental organisation having participated, with at least a total number of 200 accredited observers, in the national elections and referenda held for the preceding 5 years and having published – after those elections and referenda – a report with regard to each election."

Article 27. In Article 44 of the Law:

(1) in part 1, the words "and in case of the elections of local self-government bodies at communities having resident population of less than 800 — at least 5 members" shall be added after the word "members" .

(2) in part 2:

a. the words "2 members" shall be replaced with the words "as many members as necessary in order to complete the minimum number of members of the commission, referred to in part 1 of this Article";

b. the second sentence of paragraph 2 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Where the number of nominated candidates is more than the number prescribed by point 2 of this part, the district electoral commission shall select the members of the precinct electoral commission by drawing of lots in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.";

(3) the first sentence of part 3 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Where the minimum number of members of the electoral commission is not formed in the manner or within the time limits prescribed by this Code for formation of precinct electoral commission, the vacant positions of the commission shall be filled by the chairperson of the relevant district electoral commission, within a 3-day period after the expiry of time limits prescribed for formation of the commission.";

(4) part 10 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Where on the voting day, at 8:00, the number of members of precinct electoral commission having appeared is less by more than one than the minimum number prescribed by part 1 of this Article, or where at 9:30, the number of members of the precinct electoral commission having appeared is less than the minimum number prescribed by part 1 of this Article, the powers of the members not having appeared shall terminate early, and the required minimum number of the members shall be supplemented as quickly as possible by the chairperson of the district electoral commission from among the persons having the right to be included in precinct electoral commissions."

Article 28. In point 3 of part 3 of Article 48 of the Law, the words "(the organisation having accredited the observer may submit the application instead of him or her)" shall be added after the word "violated".

Article 29. Article 50 of the Law:

(1) shall be supplemented with point 1.1 which reads as follows:

"1.1. On the second day following the voting, at 11:00, the district electoral commission shall — by drawing of lots carried out under the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission — randomly select three electoral precincts located at its electoral district, the voting results registered wherein must be recounted by the district electoral commissions. An entry with regard to the electoral precinct selected by drawing of lots shall be made in the registration book. Where several votings have been held simultaneously, separate drawing of lots shall be made for each voting.";

(2) in part 6, the numbers "18:00" shall be replaced with the numbers "20:00";

- (3) in the first sentence of part 7, the words "the voting results of the electoral precincts chosen by drawing of lots and then" shall be added after the words "in the first place recount";
- (4) in part 11, the words "Depending on the workload" shall be replaced with "In case of workload";
- (5) part 12 shall be amended to read as follows:
"Duration of the recount of voting results of one electoral precinct may not exceed 3 and a half hours, and in case of a precinct with less than 1 000 electors — two and a half hours."

Article 30. The words "of Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be deleted from point 8 of part 2 of Article 51 of the Law.

Article 31. In part 1 of Article 52 of the Law:

- (1) in point 2, the words "and other communities (except for Yerevan)" shall be added after the word "Vanadzor";
- (2) point 10 shall be amended to read as follows:
"(10) register electoral lists of political parties running in elections of the council of elders of communities (except for Yerevan), as well as candidates for head of community and member of council of elders; issue a certificate, in the form established by the Central Electoral Commission, to candidates included in the electoral list of political parties running in elections of the councils of elders of communities (except for Yerevan);";
- (3) in point 11, the words "Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with "communities (except for Yerevan)".

Article 32. Part 3 of Article 57 of the Law shall be supplemented with a new sentence which reads as follows:

"Where furnishing does not comply with the requirements of this Code, the voting room may be refurbished upon the request of the district electoral commission (including on the voting day)."

Article 33. In part 2 of Article 58 of the Law, the words "(except for elections of the National Assembly and community council of elders)" shall be added after the word "pen".

Article 34. In Article 59 of the Law:

- (1) in part 1, the words "filling in the ballot paper" shall be replaced with the word "voting";
- (2) in part 5, the first number "10" shall be replaced with the number "15";
- (3) part 7 shall be amended to read as follows:

"7. During the elections of the National Assembly and the community council of elders, in case the registration of the electoral list of the political party running in elections is declared invalid or revoked after the ballot papers have been printed, the ballot papers of that political party shall be removed from the voting and cancelled as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.";

- (4) part 8 shall be amended to read as follows:

"During the elections of the head of community and a member of the council of elders, in case the registration of a candidate is declared invalid or revoked, the name of the candidate shall be removed from the ballot papers as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission."

Article 35. In part 3 of Article 60 of the Law the number "30" shall be replaced with the number "25".

Article 36. In Article 61 of the Law:

- (1) in part 2, the words "Ballot papers, ballot envelopes, self-adhesive" shall be replaced with the word "Self-adhesive";
- (2) the words "and district electoral lists concerning the given district" shall be deleted from the 2nd sentence of part 5.

Article 37. In Article 64 of the Law:

- (1) in the 2nd paragraph of part 2, the words "ballot papers, ballot envelopes," shall be deleted;
- (2) part 3 shall be added which reads as follows:
"3. In case of elections of the National Assembly and community council of elders, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall place 3 to 5 ballot papers for each political party in separate boxes installed in the voting booth, and in case of elections of the head of community and a member of the council of elders — 10 ballot papers for each."

Article 38. In Article 65 of the Law:

- (1) part 4, after the first sentence, shall be supplemented with a sentence which reads as follows:
"During the voting of military servants immediate and non-immediate commanders of military servants, as well as officers with higher military ranks shall be prohibited to be present in the precinct or simultaneously vote with them in the same electoral precinct.";
- (2) in part 5 the words "voting room" shall be replaced with the words "polling station";
- (3) part 7 shall be repealed.

Article 39. Part 8 of Article 66 of the Law, after the first paragraph, shall be supplemented with a paragraph which reads as follows:

"Where the elector has received a voting pass as prescribed by part 7 of this Article, but there already exists a signature next to his or her name in the list of electors, the elector shall sign and the chairperson of the commission shall put his or her individual seal in the column of additional notes, and an entry shall be made in the registration book."

Article 40. In Article 67 of the Law:

- (1) in the first paragraph of part 2, the words "and the community council of elders" shall be added after the words "of the National Assembly", and in the second paragraph of part 2 the words "of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as head of community" shall be replaced with the words "Head of community";
- (2) part 3 shall be amended to read as follows:
"3. During elections of the National Assembly and community council of elders, the elector shall elect one of the political parties running in elections through placing the ballot paper of that political party in the ballot envelope. Unused ballot papers shall be dropped in a separate box installed in the voting booth.";
- (3) part 4 shall be repealed;
- (4) in the second sentence of part 7 the word ", an observer" shall be added after the words "of another member of the commission";
- (5) in part 9:
 - a. the fourth sentence shall be amended to read as follows:
"The person assisting the elector unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own must be an elector registered in the list of the given electoral precinct. That person shall be notified by the Central Electoral Commission in the prescribed manner of the criminal liability envisaged for the violation of the secrecy of voting, and his or her data shall be entered in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.";
 - b. a paragraph shall be added which reads as follows:
"The person assisting the elector unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own must learn from the elector in the voting booth how he or she wants to vote and then cast the vote. Where the elector fails to understand and is unable to express his or her will in any way, the person assisting him or her shall inform thereof to the chairperson of the commission, the voting of the elector shall be suspended and an entry thereon shall be made in the registration book by gluing the voting pass (where it has already been provided) to the same page.";
- (6) in part 12, the words "voting room" shall be replaced with the words "polling station";
- (7) part 14 shall be supplemented with a sentence which reads as follows:

"Rejection of that demand by the chairperson of the electoral commission shall constitute an obstruction of the exercise of the powers of the persons specified."

Article 41. In Article 68 of the Law:

(1) in part 2:

a. the first paragraph shall be amended to read as follows:

"2. The precinct electoral commission shall start the sitting for summarisation of voting results by refurbishing the room beforehand. In case a camera prescribed by part 11.1 of Article 8 of this Code is available in the electoral precinct, the room must be furnished in a way that the field of view of the camera covers the entire process of summarisation of the results. Besides the persons having the right to be present at the sitting of the electoral commission, the candidate shall also have the right to be present at that sitting.";

b. a paragraph shall be added after the 4th paragraph of point 3 which reads as follows:

"The unused self-adhesive stamps shall be counted.";

c. in the last paragraph of point 3, the words "together with unused self-adhesive stamps" shall be added after the words "(except for the signed lists of electors, being drawn up in a military unit, penitentiary institution and facility for holding arrestees) shall be packed";

d. point 5 shall be repealed;

(2) part 3 shall be amended to read as follows:

"3. The chairperson of the commission shall open the ballot box, take one ballot envelope out of the ballot box, demonstrate it in such a way that it is visible for those present and shall take the ballot paper out of the ballot envelope.

The chairperson of the commission shall take one ballot envelope out of the ballot box, demonstrate it in such a way that it is visible for those present, take the ballot paper out of the ballot envelope and shall announce if the ballot paper is valid, invalid or of non-established sample.

If the ballot paper is valid, [he or she] shall also announce the candidate or the political party running in elections in favour of whom or which a vote has been cast.

Upon request, the ballot paper shall be transferred to other members of the commission. In case the member of the commission disagrees with the statement of the chairperson of the commission, he or she shall raise an objection. Where objection is raised, the proposal of the member of the commission shall be put to voting and, in accordance with the decision on accepting the objection, and where the objection is not accepted or where there is no objection — in accordance with the statement of the chairperson of the commission, the ballot paper shall be put in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the political party running in elections or of the candidate or in the pile of invalid ballot papers, in case one candidate is voted on — in the pile of the ballot papers cast for or against the candidate or in the pile of invalid ballot papers, after which the next envelope shall be taken out of the ballot box. This action shall be repeated with all the envelopes in the ballot box.

The ballot papers cast in favour of political parties running in elections, candidates, and the invalid ballot papers shall be sorted separately.

After the ballot papers voted on have been sorted and counted, the results shall be announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.";

(3) part 4 shall be repealed;

(4) part 6 shall be supplemented with a sentence which reads as follows:

"The same action shall be carried out also when an object other than the ballot paper(s) is found in the ballot envelope."

Article 42. In Article 69 of the Law:

(1) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

- "1. An established sample ballot paper in case of elections of the National Assembly and the community council of elders shall be invalid where it contains any mark or writing.";
- (2) in part 2, the words "of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, head of community" shall be replaced with the word "community head".

Article 43. In Article 71 of the Law:

- (1) the second sentence in point 11 of part 1 shall be deleted;
- (2) part 8 shall be amended to read as follows:
"8. Persons having the right to be present at the sitting for summarisation of the voting results in the precinct may photograph or videotape the protocol on the voting results drawn up in the electoral precinct.
Persons having the right to be present at the sitting for summarisation of voting results in the electoral precinct shall, upon their request, be provided with an extract from the protocol on the voting results in electoral precinct, which shall be certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the seal of the commission.";
- (3) in part 9, the words "and unused self-adhesive stamps" shall be added after the words "of the lists of electors".

Article 44. In Article 73 of the Law:

- (1) the first paragraph of part 3.1 shall be amended to read as follows:
"3.1. The district electoral commission shall — on the day following the voting, starting from 12:00 — carry out scanning of the lists of electors, which may be observed by the members of electoral commissions, candidates, proxies, observers and mass media representatives. At the same time, the district electoral commission shall count the number of self-adhesive stamps not used in electoral precincts and draw up a protocol as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission."; and in the third paragraph the number "24" shall be replaced with the number "30";
- (2) part 4 shall be amended to read as follows:
"During elections both the obtaining of information, regarding participation in elections and containing fingerprints of electors, from technical equipment and entering it into the computer shall be organised by means of special software as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The list of electors having participated in the elections and registered by means of technical equipments shall, no later than 40 hours after the end of the voting, be transferred to the Central Electoral Commission on an electronic medium. The list shall, no later than 46 hours after the end of the voting, be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission without an option of downloading.".

Article 45. In Article 74 of the Law:

- (1) in the title, in parts 1 and 2, in point 11 of part 3, in part 6 the words "Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "community";
- (2) in the Article, part 10 shall be added which reads as follows:
"The regulations of this Article shall not extend to the elections of local self-government bodies in Yerevan.".

Article 46. Point 12 of part 4 of Article 75 of the Code shall be repealed.

Article 47. Article 78 of the Law shall be repealed.

Article 48. Article 83 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 83. Electoral lists of a political party (alliances of political parties)

1. Each political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall nominate one electoral list of candidates, which may consist of two parts.

2. The national electoral list of an alliance of political parties shall be made up from an electoral list presented by each political party included in the alliance. The national electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall include no less than 60 and no more than 300 candidates.

3. In the electoral list of a political party, alliance of political parties and each of the political parties included in the alliance, the number of representatives of each sex, starting from the first place on the list, must not exceed 70 per cent in each integer group of three (1-3, 1-6, 1-9 and subsequently up to the end of the list).

4. The electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include also persons that are not members of that political party (any of the member political parties to the alliance), the number of which may not exceed 30 per cent of the total number of the candidates included in the electoral list.

5. The electoral list may have a second part, wherein representatives of the first four national minorities with the largest number of resident population — according to the data of the latest census preceding the elections — may be included. A candidate for Deputy, who is a representative of national minority, included in the second part of the electoral list may also be included in the first part of the national electoral list.

The second part of the national electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall have 4 sections. Each section may include up to 4 representatives from the respective national minority. In case no representative of a national minority is included in any section, the respective section shall not be filled in.

In the second part of the electoral list the data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 1 under consecutive numbers starting from "1"; the data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the second largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 2 under consecutive numbers starting from "1"; the data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the third largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 3 under consecutive numbers starting from "1"; the data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the fourth largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 4 under consecutive numbers starting from "1".

6. The first and second parts of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall include — under consecutive numbers — the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, sex, political affiliation, personal identification document number, place of registration, place of employment and position (occupation) of candidates for Deputy.

7. The electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be approved and nominated by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (by the decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance). All the pages of the national electoral list shall be sealed and signed by the competent person of a political party (member political parties to the alliance).

8. In case any political party leaves the alliance of political parties, the candidates for Deputy nominated in the electoral list of that political party shall be removed — as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission — from the national electoral list of the alliance of political parties."

Article 49. In Article 84 of the Law:

- (1) in part 2:
 - a. in points 2 and 3, the words "national and district" shall be deleted,
 - b. in point 6, the word "10 000-fold" shall be replaced with the word "75 000-fold",
- (3) in part 4, the word "1-week" shall be replaced with the word "three-day".

Article 50. In part 3 of Article 85 of the Law, the words "national and district" shall be deleted.

Article 51. In Article 86 of the Law:

- (1) in part 1, the words "or any district electoral list" shall be deleted,
- (2) in part 2:
 - a. point 2 shall be repealed,
 - b. point 3 shall be amended to read as follows:
 - "(3) the electoral list does not comply with the requirements prescribed by Article 83 of this Code. The registration of the electoral list shall not be rejected on the ground of non-compliance with the requirements prescribed by Article 83 of this Code when non-compliance is conditioned by a circumstance having emerged after the nomination, with the exception of cases when the number of candidates in each of at least five district electoral lists presented by a political party (alliance of political parties) falls below two;"

Article 52. In part 4 of Article 88 of the Law, the words "national and district" shall be deleted.

Article 53. The first sentence of part 4 of Article 92 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"During the election campaign, for the purposes listed in part 1 of Article 27 of this Code, a political party (an alliance of political parties) running in elections shall have the right to spend from a campaign fund an amount not exceeding the 500 000-fold of the minimum salary."

Article 54. In Article 93 of the Law:

- (1) in part 2, the number "60" shall be replaced with the number "90", and the number "120" shall be replaced with the number "180".
- (2) in part 4:
 - a. the words "early elections or" shall be deleted,
 - b. paragraph 2 shall be amended to read as follows:

"During the second round of election of the National Assembly a political party running in elections shall have the right to use free of charge no more than 40 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 60 minutes of airtime on public radio, and — at the account of the campaign fund — no more than 40 minutes of paid airtime on public television and no more than 60 minutes of paid airtime on public radio."

Article 55. The Law shall be supplemented with Article 93.1 which reads as follows:

"Article 93.1. Election campaign in military units and military institutions

1. For the purpose of conducting an election campaign, a political party (an alliance of political parties) running in elections may, within a three-day period following the commencement of the election campaign, provide on electronic media the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia with campaign posters of sizes defined by the Central Electoral Commission prepared for conducting election campaign in military units.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia shall, within a one-week period after the expiry of the specified time-limit, ensure their printing and distribution among military units. The quantity and volumes of printing shall be determined by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia as per number of military units, and it shall not be subject to publication.

2. Upon receiving from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia the posters printed for an election campaign, commanders of military units shall be obliged to post them on the display boards placed beforehand in the premises of military units in places visible and accessible for military servants. Such campaign posters shall be removed on the day the National Assembly is elected.

3. Commanders of military units shall, through television and radio broadcasting, provide military servants with the opportunity of watching electoral campaign and social advertisements, television debates between political parties (alliances of political parties) running in elections and candidates. The right of military servants to follow the electoral campaign on TV and radio shall not be subject to restriction except for cases when it is conditioned by circumstances that military servants are on duty, on combat duty in the military unit or other necessary circumstances related to the service.

4. It shall be prohibited to use the status of superiority in military relations for the purpose of hindering subordinate military servants from exercising the rights prescribed by this Code, as well as to give orders contradicting this Code.

5. Deliberate failure to post the posters of an electoral campaign and other printed materials in military units, as well as unreasonable restrictions of the right of military servants to follow an electoral campaign on TV and radio shall be prohibited."

Article 56. Paragraph 2 of part 1 of Article 94 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:
"The name of the political party running in elections, the number issued to the political party, as well as the surnames, names and patronymics of the first three candidates in the electoral list shall be specified on the first page of the ballot paper for the elections of the National Assembly. No marks shall be put on the second page of the ballot paper, or, by the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, it shall bear the same mark as on the first page."

Article 57. In Article 95 of the Law:

(1) part 4 shall be amended to read as follows:

"4. Mandates of the National Assembly shall be distributed among the electoral lists of those political parties (alliances of political parties) which have received 4 per cent, in case of a political party, and 6 per cent, in case of an alliance of political parties, of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies. Where less than 4 political parties (alliances of political parties) have received at least 4 (6) per cent of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies, 4 political parties and alliances of political parties having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote shall participate in the distribution of mandates.";

(2) in part 5, the words "having passed the threshold" shall be replaced with the words "having participated in distribution of mandates";

(3) parts 7 and 8 shall be repealed;

(4) part 9 shall be amended to read as follows:

"9. Each party (alliance of parties) having participated in distribution of mandates shall receive one additional mandate of representatives of national minorities for each of 19 mandates received as prescribed by parts 5 and 6 of this Article.

When distributing mandates of national minority representatives a political party (alliance of political parties) shall provide the mandate to the national minority under the smallest record number in the second part of its electoral list not yet having a mandate from the given party (alliance of parties). Where there is not any in the second part of the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties), the respective mandate shall remain vacant."

Article 58. Part 3 of Article 96 of the Law shall be repealed.

Article 59. In Article 97 of the Law:

(1) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

"1. Within 10 days after adoption of the decision provided for in point 2 of part 1 of Article 95 of this Code, any political party (alliance of political parties) having participated in distribution of mandates (having received mandates) may form a political coalition with other political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the electoral thresholds, where the sum of the votes cast in favour of them is sufficient for receiving the majority of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code, and they have come to an agreement as to the candidate for Prime Minister.";

(2) the words "Distribution of additional mandates — available for coalition member political parties (alliance of political parties) — among national and district electoral lists, as well as among electoral districts shall be carried out in such a manner so as to observe the rules of part 7 of Article 95 of this Code for the distribution of mandates available for a political party (alliance of political parties)." shall be deleted from part 3.

Article 60. In part 1 of Article 98, the number "28" shall be replaced with "35".

Article 61. Article 100 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 100. Provision of mandates to deputies

1. Provision of mandates to candidates included in the electoral list of a political party shall be carried out upon the protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, by registering the Deputies of the National Assembly.

The candidate having received a mandate from the first part of the electoral list shall be removed from the second part of the electoral list.

2. Firstly, mandates shall be provided to the candidates in the first part of the electoral list in sequential order. Where as a result of it, all the mandates of the political party are distributed among representatives of the same sex, the last candidate shall give up his or her mandate to the candidate under the smallest number from the unrepresented sex within the electoral list, if any. Where the number of candidates included in the national electoral list of a political party is smaller than the number of mandates available, the relevant mandates shall remain vacant.

Secondly, mandates shall be provided to the representatives of national minorities as prescribed by part 9 of Article 95 of this Code.

3. The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the first part of the electoral list or who has been elected therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence having received maximum votes from the given electoral list of that political party upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any of the sexes of the given faction reduces and results in less than 30 percent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex within the first part of the national electoral list of that political party, if any.

Where there is no other candidate in the first part of the national electoral list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the second part of the electoral list or who has been elected as Deputy therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the candidate under the smallest number in the list of the same national minority of the second part of the national electoral list of that political party upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, and in case there are no any, the mandate shall remain vacant.

4. Applications for recusal or waiver of the mandate submitted by persons included in the electoral list of a political party shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall confirm such application at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission.

In case of submitting an application for recusal, the name, surname of the citizen shall be removed from the first and second parts of the electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission."

Article 62. Part 3 of Article 104 of the Law shall be amended as follows:

"3. Documents required for registration of the political parties running in elections of the National Assembly shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission, within the period of 12 days of dissolving the National Assembly, but no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00."

Article 63. The words "and in a community having more than 70 000 electors — in the amount of 1 000-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 100-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders" shall be deleted from point 1 of part 3 of Article 108 of the Law.

Article 64. In Article 115 of the Law:

(1) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

"1. Candidate for member of council of elders and for head of community having up to 10 000 electors shall set up a campaign fund provided that during the campaign he or she will use or has already used an amount exceeding the 500-fold of the minimum salary for funding the actions listed in part 1 of Article 27 of this Code.";

(2) part 4 shall be amended as follows:

"4. During the election campaign, for the purposes listed by part 1 of Article 27 of this Code, the candidate for head of community shall have the right to spend from the election campaign fund:

- (1) a sum in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 4 000 electors;
- (2) a sum in the amount of 7 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
- (3) a sum in the amount of 15 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;

while a candidate for member of council of elders:

- (4) a sum in the amount of 500-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 4 000 electors;
- (5) a sum in the amount of 1 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
- (6) a sum in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors."

Article 65. In part 7 of Article 119 of the Law, the word "the half" shall be replaced with the words "two thirds".

Article 66. In the title of Section 6 of the Law, the words "OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the words "IN COMMUNITIES WITH PERMANENT POPULATION OF OVER 70 000 (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS "THE COMMUNITY")".

Article 67. In the title of Chapter 25 of the Law, the words "YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the word "THE COMMUNITY".

Article 68. The title of Article 123 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 123. Composition of the Councils of Elders with permanent population of over 70 000"

Article 69. Article 124 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 124. Electoral system

1. Elections of the Councils of Elders of communities with permanent population of over 70 000 shall be held under the proportional electoral system (election of the Council of Elders of a community).
2. During elections of the Councils of Elders of communities with permanent population of over 70 000, the territory of the respective Community shall be one multi-mandate constituency."

Article 70. In Articles 125 and 126 of the Law, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "the Community".

Article 71. In the title of Chapter 26 of the Law, the words "YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the word "THE COMMUNITY".

Article 72. In Article 127 of the Law:

- (1) the words "YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" in the title shall be replaced with the word "THE COMMUNITY";
- (2) in paragraph 2 of part 2, the words "YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the word "THE COMMUNITY";
- (3) in part 4, the words "Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "other communities apart from Yerevan".

Article 73. Article 128 of the Law shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 128. Calling and holding early elections of the Councils of Elders of the Community

1. Early elections of the Council of Elders of the Community shall be called by the Government within a 2-week period after the dissolution of the Councils of Elders (after reducing the term of powers) of the respective Community.
2. Early elections shall be held on the farthest Sunday after no earlier than 30 and no later than 40 days following the entry into force of the decision on calling early election of the Councils of Elders. Where the voting day for early election of the Councils of Elders of the Community coincides with the voting day for elections of the National Assembly, the day for election of the council of elders shall be postponed for 1 week.
3. The day of holding early elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be announced by the Central Electoral Commission, and the day of holding early elections of the Councils of Elders of other communities shall be announced by the district electoral commission within a 1-week period after the entry into force of the decision on calling early elections of the Councils of Elders of the respective community.
4. In case of early elections, documents necessary for the registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be submitted to the relevant electoral commission no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. In case of early elections, registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 25 days and no later than 20 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

6. In case of early elections, electoral precincts shall be formed, and polling stations shall be designated, no later than 25 days before the voting day. The authorised body shall — no later than 20 days before the voting day — hand over the lists of electors to the person possessing the premises of the polling station who shall post them at the polling station, in a place visible to all."

Article 74. In the title of Chapter 27 of the Law, the words "YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the word "THE COMMUNITY".

Article 75. In the title of Article 129 of the Law, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "the Community".

Article 76. In Article 130 of the Law:

- (1) in the title, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "the Community";
- (2) in the first sentence of the second paragraph of part 1, the words "Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "other communities", and in the third sentence the words "Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "these communities";
- (3) in part 2, the words "Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "other communities", and the words "the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, respectively" shall be replaced with the words "the respective Councils of Elders";
- (4) in part 3:
 - a. in the first sentence, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "the Community";
 - b. in point 2, the words "the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, respectively" shall be replaced with the word "the respective Councils of Elders";
 - c. in point 4, the words "in the population register of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, respectively" shall be replaced with the word "in the respective population register";
 - d. in point 7, the word "2 000-fold" shall be replaced with the word "1 500-fold".

Article 77. In part 1 of Article 131 of the Law, the words "Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "other communities".

Article 78. In the title of Chapter 28 of the Law, the words "YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the word "COMMUNITIES".

Article 79. In Article 136 of the Law:

- (1) in the title and in part 2, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "Communities" and "communities";
- (2) part 1 shall be amended to read as follows:

"1. Candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of communities shall acquire his or her status upon registration of the electoral list of the political party running in elections. The rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of communities until the expiry of the time limit prescribed for challenging the decision of the electoral commission on members of the Councils of Elders of relevant communities being elected, and in case this decision is challenged — until the adoption of a judicial act."

Article 80. In the title of Article 137 of the Law, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "Communities".

Article 81. In the title of Chapter 29 of the Law, the words ", GYUMRI AND VANADZOR" shall be replaced with the words "AND OTHER COMMUNITIES".

Article 82. In part 1 of Article 138 of the Law, the number "30" shall be replaced with the number "50".

Article 83. In Article 139 of the Law:

- (1) in the title, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "Communities";
- (2) part 4 shall be amended to read as follows:
"4. During the election campaign for the Council of Elders of Yerevan, for the purposes listed in part 1 of Article 27 of this Code, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall have the right to spend an amount not exceeding the 100 000-fold of the minimum salary, and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — an amount not exceeding the 30 000-fold of the minimum salary."

Article 84. In Article 141 of the Law:

- (1) in the title, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "Communities";
- (2) in paragraph 1 of part 2, the words "Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "other communities", and in points 1, 3, 4, the words "Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "relevant communities";
- (3) in paragraph 1 of part 3, the number "6" shall be replaced with the number "4", the number "8" — with the number "6", and in paragraph 2, the numbers "6 (8)" shall be replaced with the numbers "4 (6)";
- (4) part 5 shall be repealed;
- (5) in paragraphs 3 and 4 of part 6, the words "Gyumri and Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the words "other communities";
- (6) in paragraph 1 of part 8 of the Law, the number "25" shall be replaced with the number "30".

Article 85. In the title of Article 142 of the Law, the words "Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor" shall be replaced with the word "Communities".

Article 86. Article 144 of the Law shall be repealed.

Article 87. This Law shall enter into force on the day following the day of its official promulgation. Members of district electoral commissions shall, within a 7-day period following the entry into force of this Law, be reappointed as prescribed by Article 43 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia.

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**ON MAKING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA "ON REFERENDUM"**

Article 1. Point 1 of part 15 of Article 17 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia "On referendum" shall be amended to read as follows:

"From the day of entry into force of the decision on calling a referendum until summarisation of the results of the referendum, a member or a proxy of a political party (alliance of political parties), a member or an authorised representative of an initiating group for a referendum shall be prohibited to provide (promise) — in person or through someone else on their behalf (including on behalf of the political party or the alliance) or in any other manner, or as charity, gratuitously or on preferential conditions — money, food, securities, goods (except for print and other campaign materials or objects containing the name or emblems of a political party and at a cost not exceeding three-folds of the minimum salary) to participants of the referendum, or to provide (promise) services or carry out a referendum campaign while carrying out charity work;"

Article 2. This Law shall enter into force on the day following its official promulgation.

**LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**ON MAKING SUPPLEMENTS TO THE CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ON
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCES**

Article 1. In part 2 of Article 40.7 of the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offences of 6 December 1985 (hereinafter referred to as "the Code"), the words "and through other mass media providing paid airtime to political parties (alliances of political parties), candidates or parties to a campaign during a referendum" shall be added after the words "a radio company)".

Article 2. In part 2 of Article 40.9 of the Code, the words ", online media" shall be added after the word "radio".

Article 3. This Law shall enter into force on the day following its official promulgation.

**LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**ON MAKING AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA "ON LOCAL
SELF-GOVERNANCE"**

Article 1. In Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-337 of 7 May 2002 "On local self-governance" (hereinafter referred to as "the Law"), the words "Gyumri and Vanadzor communities" shall be replaced with the words "communities having a permanent population of more than 70 000".

Article 2. *In the title of Chapter 5 of the Law*, the words "**IN GYUMRI AND VANADZOR COMMUNITIES**" shall be replaced with the words "COMMUNITIES HAVING A PERMANENT POPULATION OF MORE THAN 70 000".

Article 3. This Law shall enter into force on the day following its official promulgation.

**LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

ON MAKING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAW "ON DEFENCE"

Article 1. In part 8 of Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-196-N of 15 November 2017 "On defence", the words ", except for the cases provided for by the Constitutional Law Electoral Code shall be added after the words "shall be prohibited".

Article 2. This Law shall enter into force on the day following its official promulgation.