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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

HUNGARY

**Act LXXIX of 2024 amending certain laws relating to elections
and related Acts with amendments**

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Act LXXIX of 2024

amending certain election-related Acts

1. Amendment to Act L of 2010 on the election of local government representatives and mayors

Sections 1 to 5

[The amendments introduced by sections 1 to 5 are incorporated in Act L of 2010 on the election of local government representatives and mayors.]

2. Amendment to Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly

Section 6

[The amendments introduced by section 6 are incorporated in Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly.]

3. Amendment to Act XXXVI of 2013 on election procedure

Sections 7 to 76

[The amendments introduced by sections 7 to 76 are incorporated in Act XXXVI of 2013 on election procedure.]

4. Amendment to Act CCXXXVIII of 2013 on initiating referendums, the European Citizens' Initiative and referendum procedure

Sections 77 to 78

[The amendments introduced by sections 77 to 78 are incorporated in Act CCXXXVIII of 2013 on initiating referendums, the European Citizens' Initiative and referendum procedure.]

5. Amendment to Act CXXII of 2019 on persons eligible for, and the funding for, social security benefits

Section 79 In section 6 (2) of Act CXXII of 2019 on persons eligible for, and the funding for, social security benefits, the words “the elected and delegated members of the National Election Commission,” shall be repealed.

[Since Act CXXII of 2019 on persons eligible for, and the funding for, social security benefits, to which this amending provision relates, is not election law, a separate translation of this Act has not been prepared.]

6. Final provisions

Section 80 (1) With the exceptions specified in paragraphs (2) and (3), this Act shall enter into force on 31 December 2024.

(2) Sections 7 to 12, 14 to 23, 25, 27, 33, 35 to 45, 48 to 50, 54 to 56, 58, 59, 61, 65 to 67, 69 to 71, 73, section 74 a) to h), n) to p), r), s) and w), section 75 a) to d), g) and i), and sections 77 and 79 shall enter into force on 1 February 2025.

(3) Subtitle 1, sections 13, 24, 26, 28 to 32, 34, 46, 47, 51 to 53, 57, 60, 62 to 64, 68, 72, section 74 i) to m), q), t) to v), x) and y), section 75 e), f) and h), sections 76, 78, and Annexes 3 and 4 shall enter into force on 1 January 2026.

Section 81 (1) Subtitle 1 qualifies as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIII (4) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(2) Subtitle 2, sections 51 to 59, section 74 u) and v), section 75 g) to i), section 76 b), Annex 1. Annex 2 and Annex 4 qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article 2 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(3) Sections 7 to 44, 46 to 50, section 74 a) to r) and t), section 75 a) to c), e) and f), section 76 a) and Annex 3 qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIX (3), Article 2 (1) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(4) Section 45 qualifies as cardinal on the basis of Article 24 (9) of the Fundamental Law.

(5) Sections 60 to 65 and section 72 qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(6) Sections 66 to 70 and section 74 w) qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIX (3) of the Fundamental Law.

(7) Section 74 s) and section 75 d) qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article IX (3), Article XXIX (3), Article 2 (1) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

Section 82 Section 71 and section 74 x) and y) serve the purpose of compliance with Council Directive 93/109/EC of 6 December 1993 laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals, and Council Directive 2013/1/EU amending the former.

Annex 1 to Act LXXIX of 2024

[The amendments introduced by Annex 1 are incorporated in Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly.]

Annex 2 to Act LXXIX of 2024

[Annex 2 amends Annex 2 of Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly. Since Annex 2 contains merely technical provisions to define the geographical areas and boundaries of constituencies, a translation of this Annex has not been prepared.]

Annex 3 to Act LXXIX of 2024

[The amendments introduced by Annex 3 are incorporated in Act XXXVI of 2013 on election procedure.]

Annex 4 to Act LXXIX of 2024

[The amendments introduced by Annex 4 are incorporated Act XXXVI of 2013 on election procedure.]

Act L of 2010 on the election of local government representatives and mayors
(incorporating the amendments introduced by Act LXXIX of 2024) highlighted in yellow
Courtesy translation prepared for the Venice Commission

Act L of 2010

on the election of local government representatives and mayors

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Suffrage

Section 1 (1) The exercise of suffrage shall be based on a decision freely taken by the voter.

(2) A voter may vote either at his domicile or at his registered place of residence if in addition to his domicile

a) he established a place of residence by the 30th day before election date is set at the latest; or

b) he has a registered place of residence in the constituency in which he had a domicile on the 30th day before election date is set.

(3) A voter may stand as a candidate in any constituency.

(4) A person who is serving, under a final and binding judgment, a sentence of imprisonment or subjected to compulsory psychiatric treatment in an institute ordered in a criminal proceeding shall not be eligible to stand as a candidate at the election of local government representatives and mayors.

2. Interpretative provisions

Section 2 For the purposes of this Act, number of inhabitants means the number of persons whose domicile recorded in the register containing the personal and address data of citizens or, in the absence of domicile, whose place of residence is located on the administrative territory of the given settlement (capital district) or county, or whose domicile comprises the name of the given settlement (capital district) only.

Chapter II

CONSTITUENCIES, POLLING DISTRICTS

Section 3 The number of the members of the representative body of a settlement local government and of a county general assembly shall be determined on the basis of the number of inhabitants as of 1 September of the year preceding the general election of local government representatives and mayors.

Section 4 A settlement with 10 000 or less inhabitants shall constitute a single constituency under a multi-member list electoral system, in which the number of representatives shall be:

a) 2 if the number of inhabitants is not more than 100,

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- b) 4 if the number of inhabitants is not more than 1000,
- c) 6 if the number of inhabitants is not more than 5000,
- d) 8 if the number of inhabitants is not more than 10 000.

Section 5 (1) In settlements with more than 10 000 inhabitants and in capital districts, representatives shall win their mandate under a mixed electoral system, in single-member constituencies and from compensatory lists.

(2) The number of single-member constituencies and mandates from compensatory list shall be:

- a) 8 mandates from single-member constituencies and 3 mandates from compensatory list if the number of inhabitants is not more than 25 000,
- b) 10 mandates from single-member constituencies and 4 mandates from compensatory list if the number of inhabitants is not more than 50 000,
- c) 12 mandates from single-member constituencies and 5 mandates from compensatory list if the number of inhabitants is not more than 75 000,
- d) 14 mandates from single-member constituencies and 6 mandates from compensatory list if the number of inhabitants is not more than 100 000.

(3) The number of representatives elected in a single-member constituency shall increase by one for each further 10 000 inhabitants, and the number of representatives elected on compensatory list shall increase by one for each further 25 000 inhabitants.

Section 6 (1) Voters shall elect the members of the Budapest-Capital General Assembly from capital lists. For this purpose, the Capital Budapest shall constitute a single constituency.

(2) 32 mandates in the Budapest-Capital General Assembly may be allocated to persons on the capital lists.

Section 7 (1) Voters shall elect county local government representatives from county lists. With respect to the election, each county shall constitute a single constituency that does not include towns with county rights and the capital.

(2) The number of county general assembly representatives shall be determined on the basis of the number of inhabitants of the county as follows:

- a) if the number of inhabitants is not more than 400 000, 1 representative for each 20 000 inhabitants, but at least 15 representatives,
- b) if the number of inhabitants is not more than 700 000, 20 representatives, and 1 representative for each further 30 000 inhabitants above 400 000,
- c) if the number of inhabitants is more than 700 000, 30 representatives, and 1 representative for each further 40 000 inhabitants above 700 000,

may be elected.

Chapter III

RECOMMENDATION

Section 8 (1) A voter may recommend multiple candidates or lists per nomination type, but he may accept a nomination only in one settlement and county in which the settlement is located or in one capital district and the capital.

(2) In the multi-member list electoral system, a voter may simultaneously accept no more than one mayor, one multi-member list and one county list candidacy.

(3) In the mixed electoral system, a voter may simultaneously accept

a) no more than one single-member constituency, one compensatory list and one county list candidacy outside the capital,

b) one single-member constituency, one compensatory list and one capital list candidacy in the capital.

c)

(4) In the mixed electoral system, a mayor candidate may simultaneously accept

a) one single-member constituency, one compensatory list and one county list candidacy outside the capital,

b) one single-member constituency, one compensatory list and one capital list candidacy in the capital.

(5) A Capital Mayor candidate may accept only a capital list candidacy.

(6) A voter shall not be a candidate on a county list and in a town with county rights simultaneously. A voter shall not be a candidate on a county list and a mayor candidate in a town with county rights simultaneously.

(7) A nominating organisation may nominate only one candidate in a single-member constituency.

Section 9 (1) A candidate on a multi-member list or in a single-member constituency shall be a person who was recommended by at least 1% of the voters of the constituency concerned.

(2) A nominating organisation may draw up a list in a county constituency if it has gathered recommendations from 0.5% of the voters of the constituency.

(3) A mayor candidate shall be a person who was recommended as a candidate

a) by at least 3% of the voters in a settlement with 10 000 or less inhabitants,

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b) by at least 300 voters in a settlement with more than 10 000, but not more than 100 000 inhabitants,

c) by at least 500 voters in a settlement with more than 100 000 inhabitants.

(4) A Capital Mayor candidate shall be a person who was recommended as a candidate by at least 5000 capital city voters.

Section 9/A In a mayoral election and in an election of the members of a settlement local government representative body, a candidate of a national minority organisation within the meaning of the Act on the rights of national minorities or a joint candidate of multiple national minority organisations representing the same national minority shall be a national minority candidate if he

a) is recorded in the national minority electoral register,

b) did not stand for election as a candidate of another national minority in the last two general elections of local government representatives and mayors and national minority self-government representatives and in the following by-elections, and

c) makes a statement that

ca) he is willing to undertake to represent the national minority,

cb) he speaks the language of the national minority community and is familiar with its culture and traditions.

Section 10 (1) In a settlement with more than 10 000 inhabitants, a nominating organisation that nominated candidates in at least two thirds of the single-member constituencies of the settlement may draw up a compensatory list.

(2) A nominating organisation that nominated a Capital Mayor candidate or mayor candidates in at least three of the capital districts may draw up a capital list in Budapest for the election of the members of the Budapest-Capital General Assembly.

(3)

Section 11 (1) Nominating organisations that nominated joint individual candidates in at least two thirds of the single-member constituencies may draw up a joint compensatory list.

(2) Nominating organisations that nominated a joint Capital Mayor candidate or joint mayor candidates in at least three capital districts may draw up a joint capital list.

(3) Nominating organisations that have gathered the joint recommendation of 1% of voters in settlements located in the county constituency, but not less than 2000 voters, may draw up a joint county list.

Section 11/A All national minority candidates standing for election in single-member constituencies shall be included in separate national minority compensatory lists for each national

minority, except for those nominated by national minority organisations that drew up individual or joint compensatory lists pursuant to section 10 (1) or section 11 (1).

Chapter IV

SYSTEM OF ELECTION AND ESTABLISHING THE RESULT

1. Election of mayors

Section 12 (1) Voters in settlements shall directly elect the mayor and the Capital Mayor.

(1a) On a ballot paper for an election of mayors or the Capital Mayor, voters may cast their vote for one candidate.

(2) The candidate who received the most valid votes shall be the mayor or the Capital Mayor.

(3) The voting shall be repeated if the two or more candidates for mayor or for the Capital Mayor with the highest number of votes have the same number of votes.

2. Multi-member list electoral system

Section 13 (1) Representatives from a multi-member list shall be the candidates with the highest number of valid votes according to the number of representatives to be elected. In the event of a tied vote, the candidate who wins the mandate from among candidates with an equal number of votes shall be determined by drawing lots.

(2) On a multi-member list ballot paper, voters may cast their votes for not more candidates than the number of multi-member list mandates to be allocated.

(3) If a candidate from the multi-member list is elected mayor, he shall be struck off the multi-member list, and his place shall be taken by the candidate with the next highest number of votes.

3. Mixed electoral system

Section 14 (1) Representative in a single-member constituency shall be the candidate with the highest number of valid votes. On a ballot paper for the election, voters may cast their vote for one candidate.

(2) The voting shall be repeated if the two or more candidates with the highest number of votes in a single-member constituency have the same number of votes.

Section 15 (1) Mandates shall be allocated to the compensatory list and the national minority compensatory list proportionate to the aggregated wasted votes in the constituency.

(2) All votes cast in a single-member constituency for the candidate of a nominating organisation by which no mandate has been won shall constitute wasted votes.

(2a) If voting in a single-member constituency is to be repeated under section 14 (2), the votes cast at the repeated voting shall form the basis for determining wasted votes.

(3) Votes cast on joint candidates that constitute wasted votes shall be allocated to the joint compensatory list of the nominating organisations nominating the joint candidate.

(3a) Votes cast in single-member constituencies on candidates in national minority compensatory lists by which no mandate has been won shall be added to the national minority compensatory list as wasted votes.

(4) The method for compensatory mandate calculation:

a) A table shall be drawn up in which a column of numbers shall be inserted below the name of each list. The first number in the column of numbers shall be the number of votes for the list concerned. The next numbers in the column shall be the number of votes for the list concerned divided by three, five, seven and so on, where the next divisor is the previous divisor plus two.

b) The list the column of which contains the highest number in the table shall receive one mandate. Next, the next highest number shall be established. The list the column of which contains the next highest number shall receive one mandate. The same proceedings shall be followed until every mandate is allocated.

c) If multiple equal numbers are found to be the highest in the table, than that list shall receive a mandate that did not yet receive a mandate or that received less mandates or that was given the lower serial number by means of drawing lots.

(5) If a compensatory list or national minority compensatory list receives more mandates than the number of persons on the list, the mandate shall remain unfilled.

Section 16 (1) Mandates from a compensatory list shall be allocated to candidates in the order in which they were notified. If a candidate drops out of the list, his place shall be taken by the next candidate on the list.

(2) A candidate on the compensatory list who is elected mayor or representative in the single-member constituency shall be struck off the compensatory list and his place shall be taken by the next candidate on the list.

(3) The following shall not receive mandate:

a) the compensatory list of the nominating organisation if the candidates of the nominating organisation drawing up the list did not reach five per cent of the compensatory votes aggregated at settlement level, or

b) the joint compensatory list if the joint candidates of the nominating organisations drawing up the joint list did not reach ten per cent or, if the joint compensatory list is drawn up by more than two nominating organisations, fifteen per cent of the compensatory votes aggregated at settlement level.

(4) Mandates from national minority compensatory lists shall be allocated to candidates in the order of the number of votes cast for them in the single-member constituency. Tied votes shall be broken by drawing lots.

(5) Paragraph (3) shall not apply to national minority compensatory lists.

4. Election of the members of the Budapest-Capital General Assembly

Section 17 (1) On a ballot paper for the election of the members of the Budapest-Capital General Assembly, voters may cast their vote for one list.

(2) Mandates shall be allocated to capital lists proportionate to the votes cast for the lists.

(3) The method for mandate calculation:

a) A table shall be drawn up in which a column of numbers shall be inserted below the name of each list. The first number in the column shall be the number of votes cast for the list concerned; the next numbers in the column shall be the number of votes for the list concerned divided by two, three, four, five and so on, where the next divisor is the next whole number.

b) Mandates shall be allocated using the table. The list the column of which contains the highest number in the table shall receive one mandate. Next, the next highest number shall be established. The list the column of which contains the next highest number shall receive one mandate. The same proceedings shall be followed until every mandate is allocated.

c) If multiple equal numbers are found to be the highest in the table, than that list shall receive a mandate that did not yet receive a mandate or that received less mandates or that was given the lower serial number by means of drawing lots.

(4) If a capital list receives more mandates than the number of persons on the list, the mandate shall remain unfilled.

Section 18 (1) Mandates shall be allocated to the candidates on a capital list in the order in which they were notified.

(2) If a candidate on the capital list is elected Capital Mayor, he shall be struck off the capital list and his place shall be taken by the next candidate on the list.

(3) The capital list of a nominating organisation or the joint capital list of nominating organisations shall not receive mandate if it did not reach five per cent of the valid votes cast for capital lists.

(4) If a candidate wins a mandate in Budapest both on capital district compensatory list and capital list, he shall specify in a statement made within 3 days from the results of both the capital district compensatory list election and the capital list election becoming final and binding the mandate which he declines; the candidate shall be struck off the list on which he won the mandate he declined.

(5) If any of the mandates referred to in paragraph (4) is won at a later date, the representative shall make a statement within 3 days from the decision establishing that he won the later mandate becoming final and binding on whether he resigns from the mandate he holds as a representative or does not accept the mandate that he won later; the candidate shall be struck off from the list concerned.

5. Election of county general assembly members

Section 18/A On a ballot paper for an election of county general assembly members, voters may cast their vote for one list.

Section 19 (1) Mandates shall be allocated to county lists proportionate to the votes cast, using the calculation method under section 17 (3).

(2) The following shall not receive mandate:

a) the county list of the nominating organisation if it did not reach five per cent of the valid votes cast for county lists, or

b) the joint county list if it did not reach ten per cent or, if the joint county list is drawn up by more than two nominating organisations, fifteen per cent of the valid votes cast for county lists. In this respect, only those valid votes can be aggregated that are cast for joint county lists drawn up by the same nominating organisations.

(3) If a list receives more mandates than the number of persons on the list, the mandate shall remain unfilled.

Chapter V

RULES ON THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAYORS AND THE CAPITAL MAYOR

1. By-election

Section 20 (1) The election shall not be held and a date for a by-election shall be set if less candidates stand for election on the multi-member list than the number of representatives to be elected, or there is no candidate for the single-member constituency, or there is no candidate for mayor or for the Capital Mayor.

(2)

(3)

(4) A date for by-election for vacant representative seats shall be set if the number of representatives elected in a multi-member list election is less than the number set out in this Act.

(5) A date for by-election shall be set if the mandate of a single-member constituency representative or a mayor or the Capital Mayor terminates.

(5a) Where the mandate of a single-member constituency representative who stood for election as a candidate of a nominating organisation terminates and a date for by-election cannot be set, the candidate to receive the mandate shall be the candidate specified from among the candidates on the compensatory list by the nominating organisation or, for a joint compensatory list, by the nominating organisations concerned or, absent such a candidate, the next candidate on the compensatory list.

(6) A by-election shall be held if a local government representative body is dissolved or dissolves itself.

(7)

2. Allocating the mandate after a representative drops out

Section 21 (1) If the seat of a representative elected from multi-member list becomes vacant, his place shall be taken by the candidate with the next highest number of votes.

(2) If a representative elected from a county, compensatory or capital list drops out, his place shall be taken by the candidate notified by the nominating organisation from the list notified originally. If a representative who won his mandate on the capital list is elected Capital Mayor in a by-election, his place shall be taken by the candidate notified by the nominating organisation from the capital list notified originally. If the nominating organisation does not notify the candidate within the time limit set out in section 207/A of Act XXXVI of 2013 on election procedure, the vacancy shall be filled in by the next candidate on the list.

(3) If there are no more candidates on the multi-member list, compensatory list, county list or capital list, then a by-election need not be called and the vacancy shall remain unfilled until the next general election.

(4) A date for by-election for vacant seats shall be set if the number of representatives elected from a multi-member list, county list or capital list becomes less than required for the operation of the representative body or the general assembly.

Chapter V/A

Preferential national minority mandate

Section 21/A (1) A national minority candidate may win a mandate under preferential conditions from a multi-member list in a general local government election or in a by-election for electing the entire representative body, provided that at the time when the date for the election was set, at least fifty per cent of the voters recorded in the electoral register were also recorded in the national minority electoral register for the national minority concerned.

(2) If none of the candidates of the national minority concerned wins a mandate either in the mayoral election or from the multi-member list, the number representing two thirds of the valid votes cast for the candidate who won a mandate from the multi-member list with the least votes shall be determined. The candidate of the national minority who receives more votes than the number of votes determined using this method shall receive a preferential mandate. If a national minority has multiple candidates meeting this condition, the national minority candidate with the most votes shall win the preferential mandate; in case of a tied vote, the allocation of the mandate shall be determined by drawing lots.

(3) The number of members of the representative body determined under section 4 shall increase by the preferential mandate allocated using the method under paragraph (2).

(4) If the mandate of a representative who won a preferential mandate terminates, his place shall be taken by the candidate of the same national minority with the next highest number of votes,

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provided that this candidate also received at least the number of votes determined using the method under paragraph (2).

(5) If a vacancy is filled under section 21 (1), and the candidate with the next highest number of votes is a representative who won a preferential mandate, then he shall keep the mandate allocated to him under section 21 (1), and the preferential mandate of the national minority concerned terminates.

(6) If a candidate of the same national minority wins a mandate as a mayor or from a multi-member list in a by-election, the preferential mandate shall terminate.

Section 21/B (1) A national minority candidate may win a mandate under preferential conditions from a compensatory list in a general local government election or in a by-election for electing the entire representative body, provided that at the time when the date for the election was set, at least twenty-five per cent of the voters recorded in the electoral register were also recorded in the national minority electoral register for the national minority concerned.

(2) If none of the candidates of the national minority concerned wins a mandate in the mayoral election, in the single-member constituency or from the compensatory list, including the national minority compensatory list,

a) the number representing two thirds of the average number of valid votes cast for representatives who won a mandate in single-member constituencies shall be determined,

b) the national minority compensatory list shall receive one preferential mandate, provided that it receives more wasted votes than the number determined using the method under point a). The mandate shall be allocated to the candidate according to section 16 (4).

(3) The number of members of the representative body determined under section 5 shall increase by the preferential mandate allocated using the method under paragraph (2).

(4) If the seat of a representative elected from a national minority compensatory list becomes vacant, his place shall be taken by the candidate from the national minority compensatory list with the next highest number of votes received in the single-member constituency.

(5) If a candidate of the same national minority wins a mandate as a mayor or in a single-member constituency in a by-election, the preferential national minority mandate shall terminate.

Chapter VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 22

Section 23 This Act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation; its provisions shall for the first time apply to the 2010 general election of local government representatives and mayors.

Section 24 (1) Setting a date for by-election shall not be allowed if the mandate of a representative, a mayor or the Capital Mayor terminates before 1 October 2024.

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(2) Where the mandate of a representative elected from a multi-member list, compensatory list, county list or capital compensatory list terminates before 1 October 2024, the provisions of section 21 (1) to (3) shall apply to the allocation of the mandate.

(3) For the purposes of sections 20 (5) and 21 (4), a representative, a mayor and the Capital Mayor elected in the 2024 general election of local government representatives and mayors shall be regarded as if his mandate was established upon the result of the 2024 general election of local government representatives and mayors becoming final and binding.

(4) Where the office of a mayor in a local government is vacant on the day of the 2024 general election of local government representatives and mayors, the mandate of the mayor elected in the 2024 general election of local government representatives and mayors shall commence on the date when the result of the mayoral election held as part of the 2024 general election of local government representatives and mayors becomes final and binding.

Section 24/A The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act XCV of 2023 amending certain election-related Acts for fairer and more proportionate local government elections (hereinafter “Amending Act1”) shall apply for the first time to the general election of local government representatives and mayors the date of which is to be set following the entry into force of the Amending Act1.

Section 24/B Chapters I to V/A, section 24 and section 24/A of this Act qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIII (4) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

Section 25 This Act serves the purpose of compliance with Council Directive 94/80/EC of 19 December 1994 laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals.

Section 26

Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly
(as in force on 31 December 2024, incorporating the amendments introduced by Act LXXIX of 2024) highlighted in yellow

Courtesy translation prepared for the Venice Commission

Act CCIII of 2011

on the election of the Members of the National Assembly

The National Assembly

- relying on Hungary's legislative traditions based on popular representation;
 - guaranteeing that in our country the source of public power is the people, which primarily exercises its power through its elected representatives in elections which ensure the free expression of the will of voters;
 - ensuring the right of voters to universal and equal suffrage as well as to direct and secret ballot;
 - considering that political parties contribute to the formation and expression of the will of the people;
 - recognising that the national minorities living in Hungary are constituent parts of the State and have the right ensured by the Fundamental Law to take part in the work of the National Assembly;
 - guaranteeing furthermore that Hungarian nationals living beyond the borders of Hungary are a part of the political community;
- for the purpose of implementing the Fundamental Law, and on the basis of Article XXIII (1), (4) and (6), and Article 2 (1) and (2) of the Fundamental Law, to lay down the substantive rules governing the elections of Members of the National Assembly, adopts the following Act:

1. Interpretative provisions

Section 1 For the purposes of this Act:

domicile means a domicile within the meaning of the Act on the registration of personal data and address of citizens; for a citizen not having a domicile, it refers to the place of residence;

political party means any organisation established and registered under the Act on the operation and financial management of political parties.

2. Suffrage

Section 2 (1) The exercise of suffrage shall be based on a decision freely taken by the voter.

(2) Voters recorded in the electoral register may exercise their suffrage in the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

(3) A person who is serving, under a final and binding judgment, a sentence of imprisonment or subjected to compulsory psychiatric treatment in an institute ordered in a criminal proceeding shall not be eligible to stand as a candidate at the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

3. Number of the Members of the National Assembly

Section 3 (1) The number of the Members of the National Assembly shall be one hundred and ninety-nine.

(2) One hundred and six Members of the National Assembly shall be elected from single-member constituencies and ninety-three from national list.

Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly
(as in force on 31 December 2024, incorporating the amendments introduced by Act LXXIX of 2024) highlighted in yellow

Courtesy translation prepared for the Venice Commission

4. Single-member constituencies

Section 4 (1) In each single-member constituency, one Member of the National Assembly may be elected.

(2) Single-member constituencies shall be arranged in a manner to ensure that

a) they do not extend beyond county boundaries or the boundaries of the capital,

b) they form contiguous areas,

c) the number of eligible voters be approximately the same in each of them.

(3) The capital districts and the settlements with a number of eligible voters higher than the average number of eligible voters in single-member constituencies may be divided into two or more single-member constituencies.

(4) The number of eligible voters in a single-member constituency may not deviate from the arithmetic mean of eligible voters in single-member constituencies at national level by a rate exceeding fifteen per cent unless this is required to comply with the provisions of paragraph (2) a) and b), taking into account the geographical, national minority, historical, religious and other local characteristics and the demographic changes.

(5) The number of single-member constituencies in the individual counties and the capital shall be contained in Annex 1, and their serial numbers, seats and territorial division in Annex 2.

(6) If the deviation referred to in paragraph (4) exceeds twenty per cent, the National Assembly shall amend Annex 2. Annex 2 shall not be amended during the period between the first day of the year preceding the general election of the Members of the National Assembly and the day on which the general election of the Members of the National Assembly is held, except for elections held due to the National Assembly dissolving itself or to it being dissolved.

(7) In the event of any change in the name of a settlement or public space, or in a real estate parcel number or house number, the territorial division of the constituencies listed in Annex 2 shall remain unamended.

(8) The rate of deviation referred to in paragraphs (4) and (6) shall be determined in relation to the number of voters who were eligible to vote on the day of the preceding general election of the Members of the National Assembly.

(9) When deciding to change the boundaries of counties or the capital, the National Assembly shall concurrently arrange for changing the boundaries of single-member constituencies.

5. Nominating candidates in single-member constituencies

Section 5 (1) A candidate in a single-member constituency may stand for election as

a) the candidate of a political party or

b) an independent candidate.

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(2) Two or more political parties may nominate a joint candidate.

(3) A person may accept nomination in only one single-member constituency.

Section 6 Nomination in a single-member constituency shall be subject to recommendations by at least five hundred voters.

6. Drawing up national lists

Section 7 A national list may be drawn up as a party list or national minority list.

Section 8 (1) A political party may draw up a party list if it has independently nominated candidates in at least seventy-one single-member constituencies within at least fourteen counties and in the capital.

(2) Two or more political parties may draw up a joint party list of their joint candidates in single-member constituencies, featuring the same political parties.

(3) A political party may draw up only one party list, whether independently or jointly.

(4) A party list may include no more than three times as many candidates as the number of mandates which can be won from national list.

Section 9 (1) National self-governments of national minorities may draw up national minority lists.

(2) Drawing up a national minority list shall be subject to recommendations by at least one per cent of the voters recorded in the electoral register as national minority voters or to one thousand and five hundred recommendations, whichever is less.

(3) Candidates on a national minority list may be only voters recorded in the electoral register as voters of that particular national minority.

(4) A national minority list shall include at least three candidates.

(5) The national self-governments of two or more national minorities may not draw up a joint national minority list.

Section 10 (1) A person may accept nomination on only one national list.

(2) A person nominated by a political party in a single-member constituency may be included only on the party list of the same political party.

(3) If a candidate drops out of the national list, his place shall be taken by the candidate ranked next on the national list.

7. Voting

Section 11 The Members of the National Assembly shall be elected in a single round of voting.

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Section 12 (1) A voter with domicile in Hungary may cast a vote for

a) one single-member constituency candidate and

b) one party list.

(2) A voter with domicile in Hungary and recorded in the electoral register as national minority voter may cast a vote for

a) one single-member constituency candidate and

b) the list of his national minority or, in the absence thereof, one party list.

(3) A voter with no domicile in Hungary may cast a vote for one party list.

8. Establishing the election result

Section 13 In a single-member constituency, Member of the National Assembly shall be the candidate who received the highest number of valid votes.

Section 14 (1) No mandate shall be allocated to a party list that did not receive at least five per cent of the total of valid votes cast for party lists and national minority lists.

(2) No mandate shall be allocated to a joint party list that did not receive at least ten per cent or, if the joint party list was drawn up by more than two political parties, fifteen per cent of the total of valid votes cast for party lists and national minority lists.

(3) No mandate shall be allocated to a national minority list that did not receive the number of votes required for winning a preferential national minority mandate under section 16 d) (hereinafter: preferential quota).

Section 15 (1) Votes cast in a single-member constituency

a) for a candidate who did not win the mandate, or

b) that remain after deducting the number of votes for the runner-up candidate plus one from the number of votes for the candidate who won the mandate

shall constitute wasted votes.

(2) If in a single-member constituency two or more candidates receive equal number of votes representing the highest number of votes, all votes cast for the single-member constituency candidates in that single-member constituency shall constitute wasted votes.

(3) The wasted votes cast for the individual single-member constituency candidates of a political party shall constitute wasted votes for the independent party list.

(4) The wasted votes cast for the joint single-member constituency candidates of political parties that were involved in drawing up the joint party list featuring the same political parties shall constitute wasted votes for the joint party list.

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Section 16 Mandates that can be won from national list shall be allocated as follows:

- a) the number of list votes for a political party entitled to win mandate under section 14 (1) and (2) and the wasted votes for that political party under section 15 shall be added together (hereinafter “number of votes for party list”),
- b) the numbers of votes for party lists shall be added together (hereinafter “total number of party list votes”),
- c) the total number of party list votes and the votes cast for national minority lists shall be added together (hereinafter “total number of national list votes”),
- d) the total number of national list votes shall be divided by ninety-three, and the result shall be divided by four; the integer of the resulting quotient shall constitute the preferential quota,
- e) if the number of votes for a national minority list is higher than or equal to the preferential quota, that national minority list shall be allocated a preferential mandate; a national minority list may not be allocated more than one preferential mandate; the number of preferential mandates allocated shall be deducted from the number of mandates that can be won from national list,
- f) the mandates that remain after the calculation described in point e) shall be allocated among
 - fa) the party lists that can be allocated mandates under section 14 (1) and (2), and
 - fb) the national minority lists that were allocated preferential mandate and for which the number of votes cast reaches the number corresponding to the percentage defined in section 14 (1);
 - g) the mandates referred to in point f) shall be allocated in accordance with the following provisions:
 - ga) a table shall be drawn up in which the first line shall include the number of votes cast for party lists and the number of votes cast for national minority lists less the preferential quota (hereinafter the “votes”); a column of numbers shall be inserted below the votes for every party list and national minority list, where the first number shall be half of the votes for the particular list, the second number shall be one third, the next one shall be one fourth, etc.,
 - gb) using the table, mandates shall be allocated as follows: the list the column of which contains the highest number shall receive one mandate; next, the list the column of which contains the next highest number shall receive one mandate; the same proceedings shall be followed until every mandate is allocated,
 - gc) if the columns of multiple lists in the table contain the same number and this number would allocate a mandate to the lists concerned, but the number of mandates which can be won is lower than the number of the lists with the same number of votes, mandates shall be allocated in the order of the serial numbers of the lists.

Section 17 (1) The candidates shall receive the mandates allocated to national list in the order of their ranks on the national list.

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(2) Candidates winning a mandate in a single-member constituency shall be struck off the national list.

(3) If a candidate drops out of the national list, his place shall be taken by the candidate ranked next on the national list.

(4) If a national list receives more mandates than the number of candidates on the list, the mandates shall not be allocated to any candidate.

9. National minority advocates

Section 18 (1) A national minority which drew up a national minority list from which, however, it has not won a mandate shall be represented by a national minority advocate in the National Assembly.

(2) The national minority advocate shall be the candidate who ranked first on the national minority list.

10. Filling a vacancy

Section 19 (1) By-election shall be held in a single-member constituency if

a) there is no candidate at the election,

b) two or more candidates receive equal number of votes representing the highest number of votes,

c) the mandate of the elected single-member constituency Member terminates.

(2) At a by-election, the division of constituencies shall be the same as that for the preceding general election of the Members of the National Assembly.

(3) If the mandate of a single-member constituency Member who stood for election as the candidate of a political party terminates and a date for by-election cannot be set, a new mandate shall be allocated to the candidate that the political party or, in the case of a joint party list, the political parties concerned, designated from among those included in the national list.

Section 20 (1) If a Member's mandate won from national list terminates, a new mandate shall be allocated to the candidate that the political party or, in the case of a joint party list, the political parties concerned, or the national self-government of the national minority concerned designated from among those originally included in the national list, or, in the absence thereof, to the candidate ranked next on the national list.

(2) If there are no more candidates left on the national list, the mandate shall not be allocated to any candidate.

(3) If the mandate of a national minority advocate terminates, the new national minority advocate shall be the candidate that the national self-government of the national minority concerned designated from among those originally included in the national list, or, in the absence thereof, the candidate ranked next on the national list. If there are no more candidates left on the national

list, the national minority concerned shall not be represented by a national minority advocate until termination of the mandate of the National Assembly.

11. Final provisions

Section 21 This Act shall enter into force on 1 January 2012.

Section 22 The abbreviation of this Act to be applied in any other law shall be “National Assembly Elections Act”.

Section 23 (1) With the exception of section 2 (3) and section 4 (6), the provisions of this Act shall for the first time apply to the first general election of the Members of the National Assembly held after the entry into force of this Act.

(2) Before the first general election of the Members of the National Assembly after the entry into force of this Act, the provisions of section 4 (6) shall apply with the proviso that Annex 2 shall not be amended during the period between 15 July 2013 and the day of general election of the Members of the National Assembly held after the entry into force of this Act.

Section 24 (1) The provisions of Act XXXIV of 1989 on the election of the Members of the National Assembly shall apply until a date is set for the first general election of the Members of the National Assembly after the entry into force of this Act.

(2) If a date for by-election is set before the first general election of the Members of the National Assembly after the entry into force of this Act, the National Assembly shall determine the constituencies for that by-election by means of an Act, taking into account section 19 (2).

(3) Until the date is set for the first general election of the Members of the National Assembly after the entry into force of this Act, only those shall be granted suffrage who have domicile in Hungary.

Section 25 This Act, including its Annexes, qualifies as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIII (4) and Article 2 (1) and (2) of the Fundamental Law.

Section 26

Annex 1 to Act CCIII of 2011

Number of single-member constituencies in the counties and the capital

		Number of the single-member constituencies
1.	Budapest	16
2.	Baranya	4
3.	Bács-Kiskun	6
4.	Békés	4
5.	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	7
6.	Csongrád-Csanád	4
7.	Fejér	5
8.	Győr-Moson-Sopron	5

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9.	Hajdú-Bihar	6
10.	Heves	3
11.	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	4
12.	Komárom-Esztergom	3
13.	Nógrád	2
14.	Pest	14
15.	Somogy	4
16.	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	6
17.	Tolna	3
18.	Vas	3
19.	Veszprém	4
20.	Zala	3
	Total	106

Annex 2 to Act CCIII of 2011

Reference number, seat and territorial division of single-member constituencies

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Act XXXVI of 2013

on election procedure

GENERAL PART

Chapter I

BASIC RULES

1. Scope of the Act

Section 1 This Act shall apply in Hungary and outside the territory of Hungary to the following:

- a) election of the Members of the National Assembly,
- b) election of the local government representatives and mayors,
- c) election of the national minority self-government representatives,
- d) election of the Members of the European Parliament,
- e) any process to which this Act applies under an Act (the terms referred to in points a) to e) hereinafter jointly the “election”).

Section 1/A If multiple general elections are to be held on the same day, they shall be conducted as a single proceeding (hereinafter “joint proceeding”).

2. Principles of election procedure

Section 2 (1) In the application of the rules of election procedure, the following principles shall be observed:

- a) protection of the fairness of election,
- b) voluntary participation in the election process,
- c) equal opportunities for candidates and nominating organisations,
- d) support for voters with a disability in exercising their right,
- e) exercising of rights in good faith and in accordance with their purpose,
- f) publicity of the election procedure.

(2) The data available to election bodies shall be public, unless otherwise provided in an Act.

(2a) The following shall be considered data accessible on public interest grounds:

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a) the name of voters for whom recommendation sheet was requested or who were notified as candidates;

b) the name of candidates and of elected representatives;

c) the name of members and substitute members of an election commission and of members of an election office; and

d) the signature of members of election commissions or election offices who are indicated on the minutes.

(3) In the period between setting a date for an election and the result of the election becoming final and binding, the election bodies shall apply the provisions of the Act on the right to informational self-determination and on the freedom of information with the derogation that requests for data of public interest and data accessible on public interest grounds regarding the relevant election shall be met without delay, but within not more than 5 working days.

(4) If the person concerned so requests, the election office shall only give information on those personal data contained in the recommendation sheets that have been verified according to section 125 (3).

3. Interpretative provisions

Section 3 (1) For the purposes of this Act,

1. *voter with a disability* means a voter who has significantly limited or no sensory abilities, especially vision and hearing, or significantly limited or no locomotor abilities or mental capacity, or who has considerably limited communication abilities, and this puts him at a permanent disadvantage in terms of actively participating in social life,

2. *relative* means a spouse, a registered partner, a cohabitant, a lineal relative or the spouse or registered partner of a lineal relative, an adopted, step or foster child, an adoptive, step or foster parent, a sibling, a lineal relative or sibling of a spouse or registered partner, and the spouse or registered partner of a sibling,

3. *nominating organisation* means

a) for the election of the Members of the National Assembly, a political party which is recorded with final and binding effect in the court register of non-governmental organisations when the election date is set, as well as a national self-government of a national minority;

b) for the election of the Members of the European Parliament, a political party which is recorded with final and binding effect in the court register of non-governmental organisations at the time when the date for the election is set;

c) for the election of local government representatives and mayors, a political party or association, not including a trade union, which is recorded with final and binding effect in the court register of non-governmental organisations when the election date is set;

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d) for the election of the national minority self-government representatives, a national minority organisation which is recorded with final and binding effect in the court register of non-governmental organisations when the election date is set,

provided that the election commission entered it into the register of nominating organisations,

4. *representative* means a representative who has been elected at an election, a national minority advocate and a mayor,

5. *address in Hungary* means the address of a registered domicile in Hungary; for a person with no registered domicile in Hungary or abroad, the address of a registered place of residence in Hungary,

5a. *delivery agent* means a person authorised to deliver an application and to receive a decision by the election body,

6. *foreign mission* means a diplomatic and consular mission of Hungary operating abroad, established by a decision of the Government,

7. *proxy* means a person duly authorised to this end by way of administrative setting or in a public deed or a private deed of full probative value,

8. *Minister* means the Minister responsible for regulating elections and referendums,

9. *name* means married family and given name or, in the absence thereof or for the name of mother, family name and given name at birth,

10. *national-level media service* means a media service that is available for at least fifty per cent of Hungary's inhabitants,

11. *mayor* means a mayor or the Capital Mayor,

12. *official identity verification card* means a valid identity card, passport or driving licence issued by a Hungarian authority,

13. *settlement* means a village, a town, a district seat town, a town with county rights or a district of the capital,

14. *settlement-based domicile* means a domicile regarding which the register of personal and address data of citizens only contains the name of the registered settlement (district of the capital),

15. *election body* means an election commission or an election office.

16. *foreign support* means financial contribution from another state, a foreign natural or legal person or organisation without legal personality.

(2)

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4. International observers

Section 4 (1) Observers from other states, intergovernmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations or associations who are registered with the National Election Office to observe the elections

a) may observe the entire election process and be present while the election bodies carry out their work,

b) may inspect the documents of the election commissions and request copies thereof, with the proviso that these copies shall not contain personal data,

c) may put questions to members of election bodies and call their attention to irregularities that they detected,

d) shall not hinder or interfere in the election process and the activities of the election bodies,

e) shall wear the registration badge supplied by the National Election Office where it can be easily seen during their activities,

f) shall carry out their activities impartially.

(2) The National Election Office shall keep a register of international observers. The register shall contain the name, place of birth and date of birth of the international observers as well as the name of the delegator. The National Election Office shall publish the names of international observers as well as the names of the delegators on the official website of the elections.

(3) Decisions on the registration and deregistration of international observers shall be made by the president of the National Election Office; no legal remedy shall lie against these decisions. The decision of the president of the National Election Office shall be published on the official election website.

(4) International observers shall be notified to the National Election Office nine days before voting day at the latest.

5. Observers at foreign missions

Section 5 (1) Each nominating organisation nominating a candidate and each independent candidate may delegate not more than two observers to each foreign mission. Nominating organisations that nominate joint candidates may jointly delegate not more than two observers.

(2) Only voters recorded in the central electoral register may act as observers at foreign missions.

(3) Observers at foreign missions shall be notified to the National Election Commission **nine** days before voting in Hungary at the latest, providing their name and personal identifier, or, in the absence of the latter, the type and number of the official identity verification card. The National Election Commission shall enter the observers at foreign missions into a register. The National Election Office shall send the name and personal identifier, or, in the absence of the latter, the type and number of the official identity verification card, of the observers at foreign missions to the head of the election office at the relevant foreign mission.

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(4) Observers at foreign missions who are registered with the National Election Commission may be present while the foreign mission election office carries out its work. Observers at foreign missions

- a) may observe the work of the foreign mission election office,
- b) shall not interfere in or hinder the voting and the work of the foreign mission election office either actively or by way of implied conduct,
- c) may record their comments in the minutes drawn up on the closing of voting,
- d) may lodge objections,
- e) may sign the sealed ballot box after the closing of the voting,
- f) shall wear a registration badge in the polling station.

(5) The costs related to the delegation and activity of observers at foreign missions shall be borne by the delegator referred to in paragraph (1).

6. Setting the election date

Section 6 (1) Election date shall be set so that the voting day in Hungary falls between the seventieth and ninetieth day after the day when the election date is set.

(2) Voting shall be held on a Sunday.

(3) Voting day shall not fall on a public holiday according to the Labour Code, or on Easter Sunday or Whit Sunday.

Section 7 If the election commission or the court orders the voting to be repeated, it shall set the repeated voting for a date within thirty days of the day of the voting to be repeated in its conclusive decision.

Section 8 (1) By-elections shall be set for a date within one hundred and twenty days from

- a) the day the seat becomes vacant,
- b) the date set for the voting if the election is inconclusive or cannot be held due to the insufficient number of candidates.

(2) A day shall not be set as the date of

a) a by-election of the Members of the National Assembly if it falls between 1 April in the year preceding the year of the general election of the Members of the National Assembly and the day of the general election of the Members of the National Assembly,

b) a by-election of the local government representatives and mayors if it falls between 1 April in the year preceding the year of the general election of the local government representatives and mayors and the day of the general election of the local government representatives and mayors,

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c) a by-election of the national minority self-government representatives if it falls between 1 April in the year preceding the year of the general election of the national minority self-government representatives and the day of the general election of the national minority self-government representatives.

Section 9 If the general election cannot be held due to the insufficient number of candidates, the date of the by-election shall not be set earlier than the day following the date set for the voting.

7. Calculation of time limits

Section 10 (1) The time limits specified in this Act shall be terms of preclusion.

(2) Time limits shall be calculated in calendar days.

(3) Time limits shall expire on the last day at 16.00. Time limits for a decision by the election commission shall expire at 24.00.

(4) Procedural acts performed after 16.00 shall be considered to have been performed on the next day, except for procedural acts carried out by election bodies.

Section 11 (1) For general elections, the calendar dates for the time limits referred to in this Act shall be determined by the Minister by means of a decree, and for by-elections, they shall be determined by the election commission that set the election date by means of a conclusive decision.

(2) If a time limit referred to in this Act is to expire on a public holiday, the Minister by means of a decree or the election commission that set the election date by means of a conclusive decision may set the calendar date for the expiry of the time limit on the working day before or after that day.

8. Costs of the election process

Section 12 The costs for implementing state tasks regarding the preparation and conduct of the elections as well as other costs relating to the activities of election bodies shall be financed from the central budget to the extent determined by the National Assembly. The State Audit Office shall inform the National Assembly of the use of these funds.

9. Account

Section 13 (1) After general elections, the president of the National Election Office shall give an account to the National Assembly of the organisation and implementation of state tasks regarding the elections.

(2) After general elections, the chair of the National Election Commission shall give an account to the National Assembly of the activities by the National Election Commission during the elections.

9/A. Deprivation of suffrage

Section 13/A (1) In its judgment relating to placement under custodianship partially or fully limiting capacity to act or delivered on the basis of a review procedure, the court shall be required to decide on the issue of deprivation of suffrage as well.

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(2) The court shall deprive an adult of suffrage if, due to his mental disorder, his ability required for exercising suffrage

a) is significantly reduced permanently or in a temporarily recurring manner, or

b) is lost permanently and completely.

(3) If the court does not deprive an adult of suffrage, then the person placed under custodianship shall exercise suffrage personally and shall have the power to independently make valid juridical acts in the context of exercising these rights.

(4) Persons entitled to bring an action for the termination of placement under custodianship may request that the deprivation of suffrage of the adult placed under custodianship be terminated, even if paragraph (1) does not apply.

9/B. Repeated voting

Section 13/B (1) Where voting is repeated, the GENERAL PART shall apply with the derogations specified in this section.

(2) Those entitled to delegate members to a polling station commission may, by the fifth day before voting day, notify delegated members to the polling station commission where during the voting that is to be repeated the number of their delegated members did not reach the maximum number.

(2a) Those entitled to delegate a national minority observer may, by the fifth day before voting day, notify a national minority observer to the polling station commission where during the voting that is to be repeated they did not have a national minority observer.

(3) The National Election Office shall without delay disclose to voters any information relating to the repeated voting by means of a reminder.

(4) Those entitled thereto may request information from the electoral register in accordance with sections 153 to 155; the general rules shall apply to campaign activities.

(5) Candidate resignation made before 16.00 on the **third** day preceding the day of repeated voting shall be suitable for producing legal effect.

(6) If a candidate drops out or a list is eliminated after the voting that is to be repeated, the votes cast for the drop-out candidate or for the eliminated list in polling districts not affected by the repeated voting shall be declared invalid when establishing the result of the election.

9/C. Destruction of election documents

Section 13/C The following shall be destroyed on the working day following the ninetieth day after voting day:

a) any request relating to a polling district electoral register and any decision made during the assessment of such a request,

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b) any electronic and printed copy of a polling district electoral register, list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box, foreign mission electoral register, postal voter electoral register and a list specified in section 267/A,

c) the data provided pursuant to sections 335 to 337,

d) the registered personal data of international observers, observers at foreign missions, national minority observers, the observers referred to in section 245 (2) and the observers referred to in section 281 (3),

e) recommendation sheets,

f) ballot papers, refusal lists, control sheets, postal voter identification statements and return envelopes.

9/D. General rules on communication

Section 13/D (1) With the exceptions provided for in this Act, a request under section 2 (4), Chapter V, Chapter VI, section 250, section 259, section 261, section 307/A, section 334 and section 337/A, and a request under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (hereinafter the “General Data Protection Regulation”) may be submitted

a) using an electronic form, after electronic identification under Act CIII of 2023 on digital State and laying down certain rules relating to the provision of digital services (hereinafter the “Digital Citizenship Act”),

b) to any local election office in person or through a delivery agent.

(2) If the request is submitted in person, the requesting person, otherwise the delivery agent shall prove his identity, and the latter shall prove also his right to act as representative, unless he is authorised by way of administrative setting.

(3) The election office shall record in the election information system the request submitted other than on electronic form and launch the procedure.

Section 13/E (1) The election office shall communicate its conclusive decision or procedural decision (hereinafter jointly “decision”) by sending it to the storage space under section 46 (5) of the Digital Citizenship Act of the requesting person or, in a proceeding other than one initiated upon request, the person concerned.

(2) The election office shall communicate its decision

a) in addition to, or, where a communication under paragraph (1) of the decision is not possible, in place of, the communication under paragraph (1), and in accordance with the choices of the requesting person specified in his request

aa) to the requesting person or delivery agent who appeared in person by handing over the decision, or

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ab) by sending it to an electronic contact address, or

ac) by sending it to a postal contact address; if the address is in Hungary, then as an official document, or

ad) by sending it as an official document to the address in Hungary of the requesting person,

b) where a communication under paragraph (1) of the decision is not possible, and the requesting person does not specify a communication method, or in a proceeding other than one initiated upon request,

ba) in accordance with point ad) for a person with address in Hungary,

bb) in accordance with point ab) or ac) for a person with no address in Hungary.

(2a) Where communication in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) is not possible, the decision of the election office dismissing or rejecting the request or which is an *ex officio* decision, not including decisions regarding the electoral register concerning a citizen with no address in Hungary, shall be communicated by public notice to be published on the day when the decision is made.

(2b) Public notice shall contain the following:

a) day of publication,

b) number and subject of the case,

c) name and last known address of the requesting person, and

d) information that the relevant decision made by the election office could not have been served, but the requesting person or his delivery agent can collect it in the election office.

(2c) The public notice shall be posted on the official election website for ten days; however, for a decision regarding the electoral register until not later than 0.00 on the day following voting day.

(3) In the case of a request under Article 15 of the General Data Protection Regulation which has been submitted in accordance with section 13/D (1) b), personal data may be transferred in accordance with paragraph (2) aa), ab) and ac) only if the requesting person submitted the request in person.

9/E. Automated decision making

Section 13/F (1) The National Election Office shall immediately, but not later than within twenty-four hours from submission of the request or the commencement of the proceeding decide

a) on requests regarding the central electoral register and the polling district electoral register,

b) on *ex officio* deregistration from the central electoral register and the polling district electoral register,

c) on requests under section 100 (2),

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d) on requests under Article 15 of the General Data Protection Regulation relating to data recorded in the election information system

by adopting a conclusive decision or procedural decision by automated decision making, and in the cases referred to in points c) and d) by issuing an official certificate.

(2) The National Election Office shall automatically transfer to the registers it manages the data changes taken over from the registers referred to in section 83 (2), section 98 (2) and section 136 as well as the data transmissions between the registers it manages.

Chapter II

ELECTION COMMISSIONS

10. Election commission

Section 14 (1) Election commissions shall be independent bodies serving voters that are subordinated only to the law; their primary task shall be to establish the result of the election, to ensure the fairness and lawfulness of elections, to ensure impartiality and, if necessary, to restore the lawful order of election.

(2) Election commissions shall be the following:

- a) National Election Commission,
- b) regional election commission,
- c) parliamentary single-member constituency election commission,
- d) local election commission,
- e) polling station commission.

(3) In settlements with a single polling district, the functions and powers of the polling station commission shall be exercised by the local election commission.

(4) The National Election Commission shall consist of at least seven members; polling station commissions and the local election commissions in settlements with a single polling district shall consist of at least five members; regional election commissions, parliamentary single-member constituency election commissions and the local election commissions in settlements with multiple polling districts shall consist of at least three members.

Section 15 (1) The following shall be exempted from their obligation to work under the law and shall be entitled to absence pay to be paid by their employer:

- a) members of a polling station commission and of a local election commission in a settlement with a single polling district, on voting day and the next day;
- b) members of a polling station commission under section 292 (1), on voting day and the next day as well as on the day of vote counting; and

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c) members of an election commission that counts the vote, on the day of vote counting.

(2) Employers may apply to the local election office for the reimbursement of the absence pay payable to the members of election bodies referred to in paragraph (1) and the related contributions within five days following the day of vote counting.

11. Election commission members

Section 16 Election commissions shall consist of elected and delegated members.

Section 17 (1) With the exceptions laid down in section 26, section 28, section 35 (3) and section 171 (1), only voters who are recorded in the central electoral register and have an address in Hungary

a) located in the settlement in question may be members of the polling station commission and the local election commission; where the settlement of the election commission belongs to a joint local government office, the address in Hungary may be located in any of the settlements belonging to the joint local government office,

b) located in the parliamentary single-member constituency in question may be members of the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission,

c) located in the county in question or, if applicable, in the capital may be members of the regional election commission,

d) may be members of the National Election Commission.

(2) Persons who are eligible to stand as a candidate at the election of the Members of the National Assembly may be elected members of an election commission and delegated members of the National Election Commission.

(3) Persons who have a university degree in law may be elected members and members delegated pursuant to section 27 (1) of the National Election Commission.

(4) Only persons who are eligible to stand as a candidate at the election in question may be delegated members of an election commission.

Section 18 (1) The following may not be members of an election commission:

a) the President of the Republic,

b) the Principal of the National Assembly,

c) a representative,

d) a deputy mayor,

e) a local government clerk,

f) a member of another election commission and a member of an election office;

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g) a regular and contractual soldier serving under a service relationship in the Hungarian Defence Forces, and volunteer reserve soldier on active service, and

h) a candidate.

(2) In addition to those listed in paragraph (1), the following may not be elected members of an election commission **other than a polling station commission**:

a) members of political parties,

b) members of nominating organisations that nominate a candidate in the constituency in question,

c) relatives of a candidate who stands for election in the constituency in question,

d) persons serving in government service or political service relationship, a commissioner's relationship, service or other employment-related relationship at a central state administration organ within the meaning of the Act on central state administration organs and the legal status of members of the Government and State Secretaries or another administrative organ with powers within the territory of competence of the election commission, with the exception of public employees, employed persons as well as persons serving in healthcare service or public upbringing employment relationship.

(2a) Paragraph (2) a) and d) shall apply also to the elected members of polling station commissions. Where at a given election incompatibility or conflict of interest under paragraph (2) b) or c) exists with respect to an elected member of a polling station commission, the elected member concerned shall not take part in the work of the polling station commission at the election in question.

(3) The cause of incompatibility and conflict of interest specified in paragraph (1) f) shall not apply to the following:

a) a member of a parliamentary single-member constituency election commission if he is elected as a member of a local election commission operating in a settlement located in the territory of the parliamentary single-member constituency, except for a local election commission operating in a settlement with a single polling district, and

b) a member of a local election commission operating in a settlement located in the territory of a parliamentary single-member constituency, except for a local election commission operating in a settlement with a single polling district, if he is elected as a member of the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission.

(4) A voter proposed for elected member or substitute member of an election commission shall before his being elected declare in writing that there is no incompatibility and conflict of interest with respect to him; a delegated member shall do the same before his oath-taking at the latest. If incompatibility or conflict of interest occurs with respect to a member or substitute member of an election commission, he shall inform of it the head of the election office at the election commission without delay and the election commission at its next sitting.

Section 19 (1) The rights and obligations of elected and delegated members shall be the same, with the exceptions laid down in sections 41 (3) and 45 (5).

(1a) The delegated members of election commissions shall exercise their rights and obligations in all cases falling within the subject-matter competence of their election commission, regardless of the legal basis of delegation.

(2) The elected members of election commissions shall be entitled to honorarium.

(3) The monthly amount of the honorarium of the elected members of the National Election Commission shall be equal to eighteen times the remuneration basis of public service officials. The monthly amount of the honorarium of the chair of the National Election Commission shall be equal to thirty-one and a half times the remuneration basis of public service officials.

(4) During their service and starting from their taking the oath or affirmation, the members delegated pursuant to section 27 (1) of the National Election Commission shall be entitled to an honorarium equal to the amount of the monthly honorarium, or a *pro rata temporis* part thereof, payable to elected members of the National Election Commission.

(5) The elected members of the National Election Commission shall be entitled to the reimbursement of their justified and verified costs related to the operation of the National Election Commission as determined by the Minister in a decree.

(6) A member of the National Election Commission who was unexcusedly absent from at least 20% of the sittings in the preceding calendar year shall receive a proportionally reduced part of the honorarium determined according to paragraphs (3) and (4) for the given calendar year. The detailed rules relating to absence excuse shall be laid down in the rules of procedure referred to in section 42 (1). A reduction of the honorarium for the given calendar year shall be ordered by the chair of the National Election Commission.

12. Electing election commission members

Section 20 (1) The National Assembly, on a proposal from the President of the Republic, shall elect seven members and three substitute members to the National Election Commission for nine years within ninety days prior to the expiry of the term of office of the elected members of the previous National Election Commission.

(2) The members and substitute members of the National Election Commission shall be elected with the votes of two thirds of the Members of the National Assembly present.

(3) If the first voting is inconclusive, a second voting shall be held. Should the second voting also be inconclusive, members and substitute members of the National Election Commission shall be elected with the votes of more than half of the Members of the National Assembly present. The President of the Republic may propose new candidates for the second and further rounds of voting.

Section 21 The Budapest-Capital General Assembly and the county general assembly shall elect three members and at least two substitute members to the regional election commission between 1 October and 30 November in the year preceding the year of the general election of the local government representatives and mayors; the persons to be elected shall be proposed by the head of the regional election office.

Section 22 The representative body in a settlement constituting the seat of a parliamentary single-member constituency shall elect three members and at least two substitute members to

the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission after the date for the general election of the Members of the National Assembly is set, but not later than the forty-second day before voting day; the persons to be elected shall be proposed by the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office.

Section 23 The representative body of the settlement local government shall elect three members, in a settlement with a single polling district five members, and at least two substitute members to the local election commission between 1 October and 30 November in the year preceding the year of the general election of the local government representatives and mayors; the persons to be elected shall be proposed by the head of the local election office.

Section 24 (1) The representative body of the settlement local government shall elect the necessary number of members to the polling station commission after the date for the general election of the Members of the National Assembly is set, but not later than the twentieth day before voting day; the persons to be elected shall be proposed by the head of the local election office. The members of the polling station commission shall be elected at settlement level.

(2) The head of the local election office shall assign the elected members to the polling station commissions for the given election after the election date is set, but not later than the third day before voting day. The head of the local election office may modify assignment at any time, except on voting day.

(3) Three elected members shall be assigned to each polling station commission. If the number of delegated members in a polling station commission is less than two, the head of the local election office shall complement the polling station commission to ensure that it has five members.

(4) In a settlement with a single polling district, no polling station commission members shall be elected.

(5) The head of the local election office may complement a polling station commission by adding the necessary number of members if the number of voters requesting a mobile ballot box surpasses forty.

(6) The head of the local election office shall complement the polling station commission of a polling district designated under section 78 by adding the necessary number of members not later than the third day before voting day if the number of voters recorded in the electoral register exceeds one thousand five hundred.

Section 25 (1) No proposal for amendment shall be submitted for a proposal on the members and substitute members of an election commission.

(2) After a proposal is submitted, if the person proposed by the President of the Republic or the head of the election office

a) does not comply with the requirements specified in section 17 or in section 18,

b) passes away or

c) does not accept appointment,

the President of the Republic or the head of the election office may amend his proposal.

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(3) The National Assembly, the general assembly and the representative body shall adopt its decision on the election of members and substitute members of an election commission by holding a single voting.

(4) The names of the members and substitute members of the election commission as well as the contact details of the election commission shall be made public in accordance with established local practice.

Section 26 If the members of an election commission are not elected within the applicable time limit,

a) the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall appoint, on a proposal from the head of the local election office, the members for a polling station commission,

b) the regional election commission shall appoint, on a proposal from the head of the local election office, the members for a local election commission,

c) the National Election Commission shall appoint, on a proposal from the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office, the members for a parliamentary single-member constituency election commission, and on a proposal from the head of the regional election office, the members for a regional election commission

without delay, in a minuted decision.

13. Delegating election commission members

Section 27 (1) The political parties from which Members form a parliamentary group in the National Assembly shall each delegate an additional member of the National Election Commission.

(2) After the date for the general election of the Members of the National Assembly is set, the nominating organisations that drew up a national list, but are not entitled to delegate a member under paragraph (1) shall each delegate an additional member of the National Election Commission.

(3) After the date for the election of the Members of the European Parliament is set, the nominating organisations that drew up a list, but are not entitled to delegate a member under paragraph (1) shall each delegate an additional member of the National Election Commission.

Section 28 (1) After the date of the election of

a) the Members of the National Assembly is set, the nominating organisations that drew up a national list,

b) the Members of the European Parliament is set, the nominating organisations that drew up a list,

c) the local government representatives and mayors is set, the nominating organisations that drew up a county list or a capital list or nominated a Capital Mayor candidate, and the independent Capital Mayor candidates

shall each delegate an additional member of the regional election commission.

(2) After the date of the general election of the Members of the National Assembly or the by-election of the Members of the National Assembly is set, the nominating organisations that nominated a candidate in a parliamentary single-member constituency and the independent candidates who stood for election in a parliamentary single-member constituency shall each delegate an additional member of the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission.

(3) The nominating organisation that nominated a candidate or drew up a list in the settlement, and the independent candidates who stood for election in the settlement shall each delegate a member of the local election commission.

(4) The nominating organisations that nominated a candidate or drew up a list in the constituency, and the independent candidates may each delegate two members of the polling station commission or, in a settlement with a single polling district, of the local election commission.

(5)

(6)

(7)

Section 29 (1) The nominating organisations that nominated a joint candidate or drew up a joint list shall be jointly entitled to delegate the election commission members referred to in sections 27 and 28.

(2) The number of members that one nominating organisation or political party or one independent candidate may delegate to an election commission shall not exceed the number specified in sections 27 and 28. For the purposes of this paragraph, also a delegated member who has been delegated jointly by a nominating organisation that nominated a joint candidate or drew up a joint list and another nominating organisation shall be considered a member delegated by the nominating organisation concerned.

(3) One nominating organisation or political party or one independent candidate may delegate members to an election commission only on one ground, even if multiple legal grounds would be available for exercising this right.

(4) A nominating organisation that draws up a joint list with a political party entitled to delegate under paragraph (1) may also delegate a member of the National Election Commission in accordance with section 27 (2) and (3).

Section 30 (1) The delegated members of the election commission shall be notified to the chair of the election commission, and the delegated members of the polling station commission shall be notified to the head of the local election office.

(2) Notification of the delegated members of the election commission may be made on the ninth day before voting day at the latest, with the exception of section 27 (1).

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(3) The notification shall contain the name of the delegator, the name, personal identifier and phone or electronic contact details of the delegated member, and a reference to the election commission.

(4) The delegated members of the polling station commission and, in a settlement with a single polling district, of the local election commission may be notified in person or through a representative also to the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office of where the local election office is located within the time limit set in paragraph (2). The head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office shall forward the notification to the head of the local election office of where the polling station commission or local election commission concerned operates not later than the day following its submission.

Section 31 The election office shall verify whether the delegated member has the right of suffrage.

Section 32 (1) If delegation does not comply with the requirements laid down by law, the chair of the election commission shall refer the case to the election commission.

(2) The election commission shall adopt a conclusive decision on whether to accept or reject delegation within three days of notification.

(3) The head of the local election office shall reject in a conclusive decision the delegation of a delegated member of the polling station commission if that delegation does not comply with the requirements laid down by law.

14. Termination of the mandate of election commission members

Section 33 (1) In the National Election Commission, the mandate

a) of the elected members shall last for nine years from the constitutive sitting of the National Election Commission,

b) of the members delegated pursuant to section 27 (1) shall last until the day of the constitutive sitting of the National Assembly, or until the parliamentary group ceases to exist, whichever is earlier,

c) of the members delegated pursuant to section 27 (2) shall last until the day of the constitutive sitting of the National Assembly,

d) of the members delegated pursuant to section 27 (3) shall last until the result of the election becomes final and binding.

(2) If the National Assembly fails to elect the members of the National Election Commission by the expiry of the period specified in paragraph (1) a), the mandate of the elected members of the previous National Election Commission shall be extended until the constitutive sitting of the new National Election Commission.

(3) In the regional election commissions, parliamentary single-member constituency election commissions and local election commissions, the mandate

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a) of the elected members shall last until the constitutive sitting of the election commission elected for the next general election,

b) of the delegated members shall last until the results of all elections that can be taken into account, pursuant to section 28 (1) to (3) and section 333 (2), as legal basis for delegation to the election commission concerned become final and binding.

(4) The mandate of the elected members of the polling station commissions shall last until the election of polling station commission members elected for the next general election.

(5) The mandate of the delegated members of a polling station commission shall last until the results of all elections that can be taken into account, pursuant to section 28 (4), as legal basis for delegation to the polling station commission concerned become final and binding.

Section 34 (1) In addition to the provisions of section 33, the mandate of a member of an election commission shall terminate

a) if the conditions of the mandate set out in section 17 are no longer met,

b) if there is an incompatibility or conflict of interest under section 18,

c) upon resignation,

d) if the delegator revokes delegation,

e) if the independent candidate that delegated the member drops out or, for a member delegated by a nominating organisation, if the relevant candidate nominated by the nominating organisation drops out or the relevant list drawn up by the nominating organisation is eliminated,

f) upon the member's death.

(2) The termination of the mandate of an election commission member pursuant to paragraph (1) b) shall be established by the election commission or, for a member of the polling station commission, by the local election commission in a conclusive decision. Anyone may initiate that the termination of a mandate be established. The election commission shall decide on the initiative within three days. The member in question shall not take part in the decision making, and shall not be taken into account for the purpose of establishing the quorum.

(3) The election commission's

a) members may resign from their mandate by tendering their resignation in writing to the chair of the commission,

b) chair may resign from his mandate by tendering his resignation in writing to the president of the representative body or general assembly, or the Speaker of the National Assembly, whichever elected him as member of the commission.

Resignation may not be revoked. The mandate shall terminate on the day of receipt of the resignation.

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(4) If a mandate terminates according to paragraph (1) a) and c) to f), the chair of the election commission shall announce it at the subsequent sitting of the commission.

(5) The provisions of this section shall apply also to the substitute members.

15. Filling a vacancy on the election commission

Section 35 (1) If the mandate of an elected member of an election commission terminated for a cause specified in section 34 (1) a) to c) or f), his place shall be taken by the substitute member who is listed next in the proposal for electing substitute members.

(2) If there is no substitute member, the representative body of the settlement local government or the Budapest-Capital General Assembly or the county general assembly, or, for the National Election Commission, the National Assembly shall elect a new member and substitute members.

(3) If no new member and substitute members were elected to the election commission, section 26 shall apply. If in a case referred to in section 26 a) the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission is not operating, the local election commission shall act in its place, and if in a case referred to in section 26 b) the regional election commission is not operating, the National Election Commission shall act in its place.

Section 36 (1) If the mandate of a delegated member of an election commission terminated for a cause specified in section 34 (1) a) to d) or f), the delegator may delegate a new member to replace him.

(2) If the mandate of a substitute member terminates, the representative body of the settlement local government or the Budapest-Capital General Assembly or the county general assembly, or, for the National Election Commission, the National Assembly may elect a new substitute member.

16. Taking the oath or affirmation

Section 37 (1) The members of the election commission shall take an oath or affirmation within five days of their election or the notification of their delegation, and the members of the polling station commission shall do so not later than the second day before voting day.

(2) The members of the election commission delegated under section 245 (4) shall take an oath or affirmation not later than the day before voting day.

(3) Reciting the wording laid down in the Act on the oath and affirmation of certain public law officers, the elected members and substitute members of the National Election Commission shall take the oath or affirmation before the National Assembly, the delegated members of the National Election Commission before the Speaker of the National Assembly, the members and substitute members of regional election commissions before the Capital Mayor or the president of the county general assembly, and the members and substitute members of polling station commissions, parliamentary single-member constituency election commissions and local election commissions before the mayor.

(4) If the oath or affirmation is not taken within the time limit set in paragraph (1), it shall be taken before the Speaker of the National Assembly instead of the National Assembly, before the Capital Mayor or the president of the county general assembly instead of the mayor, and before the chair of the National Election Commission instead of the Capital Mayor or the president of the county

general assembly. A person entitled thereto under paragraph (3) may administer the oath or affirmation even after expiry of the time limit specified in paragraph (1).

(5) If the mayor, the Capital Mayor, the president of the county general assembly or the Speaker of the National Assembly is prevented from administering the oath or affirmation, a deputy mayor or Deputy Capital Mayor elected from among the members of the representative body, a vice-president elected from among the members of the county general assembly or a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly may also administer the oath or affirmation.

(6) The members of election commissions may exercise their rights after taking the oath or affirmation.

17. The constitutive sitting of the election commission

Section 38 (1) Election commissions, once their members are elected and have taken the oath or affirmation, shall hold a constitutive sitting. Polling station commissions shall hold a constitutive sitting within eight days before voting day, after their members are assigned. The constitutive sitting shall be convened by the head of the election office at the election commission or, for a polling station commission, the head of the local election office.

(2) The National Election Commission shall hold its constitutive sitting on the working day following the expiry of the mandate of the previous National Election Commission. In a case referred to in section 33 (2), the constitutive sitting of the National Election Commission shall be held on the day of its election.

18. The chair of the election commission

Section 39 (1) At its constitutive sitting, the election commission shall elect its chair and deputy chair from among the elected members. Candidates for chair and deputy chair shall be proposed by the members of the commission.

(2) The election commission shall be represented by its chair. If the election commission has no chair or the chair is prevented from acting, the chair's powers shall be exercised by his deputy.

(3) If neither the chair nor the deputy chair of the polling station commission or, in a settlement with a single polling district, of the local election commission is present in the polling station on voting day, the chair's powers shall be exercised by the most senior elected member from among the election commission members as chair of age.

19. Election commission sitting

Section 40 (1) The sittings of the election commissions shall be public.

(2) The actions taken by the chair of the election commission in order to maintain order shall be binding on everyone.

(3) Minutes shall be drawn up of each election commission sitting. The minutes shall include a reference to the time and place of the sitting, the names of the members present, the decisions by the election commission and minority opinions.

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(4) Separate minutes need not be drawn up of the sittings of polling station commissions, except for the election of the chair and deputy chair, and unless otherwise provided in this Act.

(5) At the request of any member of the polling station commission, the keeper of the minutes shall record in the minutes any violation of law, breach of the principles of election procedure and extraordinary event detected in the course of the preparation or conduct of voting or vote counting.

(6) If minutes are not taken in accordance with paragraph (5), the polling station commission member concerned may make a written statement to be annexed to the polling district minutes.

Section 40/A If its chair so decides, especially if a quorum cannot be obtained otherwise, the sitting of an election commission may be held also using electronic communication means, while securing the appropriate publicity of the sitting.

Section 41 (1) The election commission shall have a quorum if more than half of the members who have taken the oath or affirmation are present.

(2) The polling station commission and, in a settlement with a single polling district, the local election commission exercising the powers of the polling station commission shall have a quorum if at least three members are present.

(3) For the purpose of establishing the quorum, a member of the National Election Commission who was delegated under section 27 (2) and (3) shall not be taken into account.

20. The Rules of Procedure of the National Election Commission

Section 42 (1) Within thirty days of its constitutive sitting, the National Election Commission shall adopt the detailed rules governing its procedures in its Rules of Procedure, which shall be made publicly available on the official election website.

(2)

21. Establishing the facts of the case

Section 43 (1) On the basis of the available evidence, the election commission shall establish the facts of the case as necessary for making a decision.

(2) Any evidence that can make establishing the facts of the case easier may be used during the proceeding of the election commission. Evidence means in particular statements, documents, written witness testimonies and physical evidence.

(3) At his request, the election commission may allow the requesting person to present an oral statement. In this case, the party with opposing interests, if present, shall also be allowed to make an oral statement.

(4) Facts that are officially known to the election commission or election office and facts of common knowledge need not be proved.

(5) The election commission shall assess the pieces of evidence individually and in their totality, and shall determine the facts of the case according to its resulting conviction.

22. Election commission decisions

Section 44 (1) The election commission other than a polling station commission shall adopt a conclusive decision on the merits of the case, while it makes minuted decisions on any other issues occurring in the course of the proceeding. The polling station commission shall make minuted decisions on any disputed issues occurring in the course of the preparation and conduct of voting.

(2) If it discovers a breach of the law, the election commission shall, by a minuted decision, initiate proceedings by the body with the relevant powers.

Section 45 (1) The content of a proposal for decision shall be determined and the proposal shall be put forward by the chair of the election commission or a member appointed by the chair. The professional activities connected to the preparation of proposals for decision shall be directed by the chair of the election commission.

(2) Decisions by the election commission shall require the concordant votes of more than half of the members present.

(3) Votes may be yes or no. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the chair shall be decisive.

(4) Where a proposal for decision is dismissed, the chair of the commission may, with a view to preparing a new proposal for decision, suspend the sitting or initiate that the decision be adjourned to a new date within the time limit for making the decision. On a proposal from the chair to that effect, the election commission shall adopt a minuted decision on the adjournment of the decision concerned.

(5) The members of the National Election Commission delegated under section 27 (2) and (3) shall not have the right to vote; they may participate in the sittings of the National Election Commission in a consultative capacity.

Section 45/A (1) The elected member of the election commission may not take part in making a second-instance decision if the requesting person or the one against whom the request was made in the case in question is the member's relative who stands as a candidate at the election or the nominating organisation of that relative.

(2) A member of the election commission may neither request the election commission where he is member to launch a procedure in a matter other than those related to exercising his own suffrage nor lodge an appeal challenging a decision of that election commission; moreover, he may not represent other persons or organisations before that commission or in legal remedy proceedings against a decision of that commission.

23. Conclusive decision

Section 46 (1) If the conclusive decision of the election commission is drawn up as a paper-based document, it shall include the following:

a) name of the election commission, number of the conclusive decision,

b) name and address or seat of the requesting person,

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c) in the operative part:

ca) decision by the election commission,

cb) information on the possibility of legal remedy, place, time limit and conditions for submission of legal remedy application,

d) in the statement of reasons:

da) the established facts of the case and the accepted underlying evidence,

db) the evidence offered but not admitted and the reasons for not admitting it,

dc) if the conclusive decision was adopted under discretionary powers, the considerations and facts taken into account in exercising discretion,

dd) the specific provisions of law that provide legal grounds for the commission to adopt its conclusive decision,

e) date of decision,

f) signature of the chair of the election commission and stamp of the election commission.

(2) If the conclusive decision of the election commission is drawn up as an electronic document, it shall include, in addition to the elements listed in paragraph (1) a) to e), the qualified electronic signature or seal or the advanced electronic signature or seal based on a qualified certificate of the chair of the election commission, as well as a time stamp.

Section 47 (1) A first-instance conclusive decision adopted by the election commission shall become final and binding if no appeal is filed against it and the time limit for appealing expired.

(2) A second-instance conclusive decision adopted by the election commission and a first-instance conclusive decision adopted by the National Election Commission shall become final and binding if no application for judicial review is filed against it and the time limit for filing an application for judicial review expired.

24. Communication of conclusive decisions

Section 48 (1) Conclusive decision shall be communicated in a simplified way to the requesting person and those on whom the conclusive decision confers rights or imposes obligations on the day of adoption without delay if they are present or their email address is available, or, if this is not possible, on the day following adoption without delay. Communication of a conclusive decision in a simplified way may take place

a) by handing over the conclusive decision to those present,

b) by email or

c) in either of the manners provided for in points a) to b) if the recipient is a delivery agent.

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The manner (or manners) of communication of a conclusive decision in a simplified way shall be chosen by the requesting person.

(2) The fact and manner of the conclusive decision's communication under paragraph (1) shall be recorded on the document, and the verification document shall be attached to the file.

(3) If a conclusive decision was not communicated in accordance with paragraph (1), it shall be sent through a postal service provider to, or served by other means on, those concerned on the working day following adoption. In Hungary, conclusive decisions shall be delivered as official documents. Unless otherwise requested by the citizen, the conclusive decision shall be sent to the address of the person concerned. For a voter with no address in Hungary, the conclusive decision shall be sent to the postal address specified in subpoint oc) of point o) in Annex 2 or, in the absence thereof, to the address of the voter.

Section 49 (1) At the request of a delegated member of the election commission, the conclusive decision shall be handed over to him free of charge.

(2) Except for personal data that do not qualify as data accessible on public interest grounds, the election commission shall make public its conclusive decision. For the purposes of this Act, the name of a candidate, nominating organisation, media service provider and press product shall qualify as data accessible on public interest grounds.

25. Rectification of conclusive decisions

Section 50 (1) Where a conclusive decision contains a clerical error in a name, a figure or elsewhere, the election commission or, on the basis of an authorisation by the election commission, its chair shall rectify the error, provided that this does not affect the substance of the case.

(2) No legal remedy shall lie against rectification.

(3) Rectification shall be communicated to those to whom the conclusive decision subject to rectification was communicated, and shall be made public.

26. Guidelines

Section 51 (1) The National Commission may issue guidelines to election bodies with a view to ensuring a uniform interpretation of legislation related to elections. An election body may initiate that guidelines be issued.

(2) Guidelines shall not produce binding legal effects, they shall serve exclusively as guidance, and no legal remedy shall lie against them.

(3) Guidelines shall be published on the official election website.

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Chapter III

ELECTION OFFICES

27. The election office

Section 52 (1) Election offices shall be the following:

- a) National Election Office,
- b) regional election office,
- c) parliamentary single-member constituency election office,
- d) local election office,
- e) foreign mission election office.

(2) At least one member of the local election office shall act as the keeper of the minutes on the polling station commission. The number of the keepers of the minutes working on a polling station commission shall be determined by the head of the local election office.

28. The National Election Office

Section 53 (1) The National Election Office shall be an autonomous state administration organ.

(2) The National Election Office shall be independent and only subordinated to the law; it shall not be instructed in relation to its functions; and shall perform its responsibilities independently of other organs and of undue influence. The tasks of the National Election Office may only be determined in an Act or in a law adopted on the basis of an authorisation by an Act.

Section 54 (1) The National Election Office shall be a central budgetary organ with heading-related powers, and its budget shall form a separate title within the budget heading of the National Assembly.

(2) The total expenditure and total revenue in the budget of the National Election Office for the relevant year may be reduced by the National Assembly only.

(2a) The president of the National Election Office may from the expenditure appropriations of the National Election Office for the relevant year reallocate, for the budgetary year in question, funds necessary for the performance of election-related tasks to other organs participating in the conduct of elections.

(3) A remainder of the revenues from the previous year may be used by the National Election Office in the following years to carry out its tasks.

29. The president of the National Election Office

Section 55 (1) The National Election Office shall be led by a president. The president of the National Election Office shall be appointed by the President of the Republic, on a proposal from

the Prime Minister, from among Hungarian citizens with higher education degree who have the right to stand as candidates at the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

(2) A person may not be appointed as the president of the National Election Office if in the four-year period before the proposal for appointment is put forward he served as the President of the Republic, a member of the Government, the political director of the Prime Minister, a State Secretary, a representative, a deputy mayor, Deputy Capital Mayor or an officer or employee of a political party.

(3) The President of the Republic shall appoint the president of the National Election Office for a term of nine years.

(4) Upon being appointed, the president of the National Election Office shall take the oath or affirmation before the President of the Republic, reciting the wording laid down in the Act on the oath and affirmation of certain public law officers.

Section 56 (1) The president of the National Election Office may not be a member of a political party, may not engage in political activities, and his mandate shall be incompatible with any other state or local government office or mandate.

(2) The president of the National Election Office may not pursue any other gainful occupation, and may not receive remuneration for any other activity, except for scientific, lecturing and artistic activities, activities falling under copyright protection, reviewer and editorial activities, and the activities performed in an employment relationship as foster parent.

(3) The president of the National Election Office may not be an executive officer of a company or a member of the supervisory board of a company, nor may he be a member of a company who is required to provide personal assistance.

(4) The president of the National Election Office may not be

a) a member of an election commission,

b) a candidate,

c) a relative of a candidate standing for election at the election of the Members of the National Assembly or the Members of the European Parliament,

d) a member of a nominating organisation.

Section 57 (1) The president of the National Election Office shall make a declaration of assets within thirty days of his appointment. The rules relating to the declaration of assets of the Members of the National Assembly shall apply accordingly to the declaration of assets, with the derogations provided for in this Act.

(2) Should the president of the National Election Office fail to make the declaration of assets, he shall not be allowed to exercise his office, and shall not receive remuneration until his declaration of assets is submitted.

(3) A publicly available page-for-page copy of the declaration of assets of the president of the National Election Office shall be published on the official election website without delay. The

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declaration of assets shall not be removed from the website for a period of one year following the termination of the mandate of the president of the National Election Office.

(3a)

(4) Anyone may apply to the Prime Minister for the initiation of proceedings regarding the declaration of assets of the president of the National Election Office by making a statement of facts concerning the specific content of the declaration that clearly identifies the contested part and content of the declaration. If the application does not meet the requirements specified in this paragraph or is manifestly unfounded, or if a repeatedly submitted application does not indicate new facts or data, the Prime Minister shall reject the application without conducting a proceeding. The Prime Minister shall assess the veracity of the information supplied in the declaration of assets.

(5) Upon a call by the Prime Minister in the proceeding regarding the declaration of assets, the president of the National Election Office shall make available to the Prime Minister in writing the data supporting the circumstances as regards income and economic interests indicated in the declaration of assets without delay. The Prime Minister shall send the data to the President of the Republic to inform him of the outcome of the verification. Only the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic may inspect the data.

(6)

Section 58 (1) The president of the National Election Office shall be entitled to remuneration equal to 2.5 of a Member's honorarium according to Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly.

(1a) In addition to the remuneration set out in paragraph (1), the president of the National Election Office shall be entitled to the same benefits as a Minister.

(2) The president of the National Election Office shall be entitled to forty working days of annual leave per calendar year.

(3) The deputy presidents shall be responsible for handling the personal files of the president of the National Election Office, registering the data specified in section 68 of Act CVII of 2019 on special status organs and the legal status of persons employed by them (hereinafter "Special Status Organ Act") regarding the president, and performing the administrative tasks related to the occupational relationship of the president

(4) The president of the National Election Office shall issue the Organisational and Operational Regulations of the National Election Office.

Section 59 (1) In terms of eligibility for social security benefits, the president of the National Election Office shall be considered an insured person employed in a public service relationship.

(2) The period of the mandate of the president shall be considered time spent at an administrative organ under a public service relationship.

Section 60 (1) The mandate of the president of the National Election Office shall terminate

a) upon the expiry of his term of office,

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b) upon his resignation,

c) upon his death,

d) if it is established that the appointment conditions are not met or the provisions regarding the declaration of assets are violated,

e) upon incompatibility or conflict of interest being established with regard to him.

(2) The president of the National Election Office may at any time resign from his mandate by tendering his resignation in writing to the President of the Republic via the Prime Minister. The mandate of the president of the National Election Office shall terminate after the date of communication of the resignation, on the day indicated in the resignation, or, failing this, on the day following the communication of the resignation. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be required to make resignation effective.

(3) If the president of the National Election Office fails to eliminate incompatibility or conflict of interest under section 56 within thirty days from the date of appointment, or if a cause of incompatibility or conflict of interest arises concerning him while in office, the President of the Republic shall, upon a motion by the Prime Minister, decide on the issue of incompatibility or conflict of interest.

(4) The President of the Republic shall be responsible for establishing, upon a motion by the Prime Minister, the absence of any appointment condition of the president of the National Election Office. Where the president of the Authority has knowingly misrepresented substantial data or facts in his declaration of assets, the President of the Republic shall, upon a motion by the Prime Minister, establish the violation of the provisions on the declaration of assets.

(5) The Prime Minister shall send his motion under paragraphs (3) and (4) to the President of the Republic and to the president of the National Election Office simultaneously.

(6) The president of the National Election Office may, within thirty days of receiving the motion, request the court to establish that the motion is unfounded; no application for excuse shall be accepted for missing this time limit. The provisions of the Act on the Code of Civil Procedure concerning actions arising from employment relationship and employment-related relationship, with the derogation that the case shall fall within the exclusive territorial jurisdiction of, and shall be adjudicated as a matter of priority by, the Budapest-Capital Regional Court, and the court shall communicate the statement of claim and its final and binding decision adopted on the merits of the case to the President of the Republic as well.

(7) If the mandate of the president of the National Election Office terminates under paragraph (1) a), the president shall be entitled to an extra payment of three times his monthly remuneration at the time of termination.

(8) No counter-signature shall be required for decisions made within the powers conferred on the President of the Republic by paragraphs (3) and (4) and by section 55.

30. Personnel of the National Election Office

Section 61 (1) The provisions of the Special Status Organ Act and the Act on the Labour Code shall apply to the legal relationship of those employed by the National Election Office with the derogations specified in this Act.

(2) The president of the National Election Office shall exercise the employer's rights over the public officials and employees of the National Election Office.

(3) The provisions of section 56 shall apply accordingly to the incompatibility and conflict of interest of the public officials and employees of the National Election Office.

(4) If a public official or employee of the National Election Office fails to eliminate incompatibility or conflict of interest under section 56 within thirty days from the date of appointment, or if a cause of incompatibility or conflict of interest arises concerning him, the president of the National Election Office shall decide on the issue of incompatibility or conflict of interest.

(5) In the case of incompatibility or conflict of interest under section 56 (4), the president of the National Election Office shall terminate the public service relationship of the public official with immediate effect.

(6) If permitted by the head of the organ concerned, the president of the National Election Office may involve government officials, public officials and employees of other central state administration organs in performing the tasks of the National Election Office and may instruct them.

31. The deputies of the president of the National Election Office

Section 62 (1) The president of the National Election Office shall be entitled to appoint not more than three deputy presidents for an indefinite term. The president of the National Election Office shall exercise the employer's rights in respect of the deputy presidents.

(2) A deputy president shall substitute for the president if the conditions specified in the Organisational and Operational Regulations are met. The other tasks of the deputy presidents shall be determined in the Organisational and Operational Regulations.

(3) The deputy presidents shall be required to meet the conditions under section 55 (1) and (2) required for the appointment of the President of the National Election Office.

(4) The provisions of section 56 and section 61 (5) shall apply accordingly to the incompatibility and conflict of interest of the deputy presidents.

(5) If the president is prevented from acting or the office of the president is vacant, a deputy president shall exercise the president's powers and perform his duties.

Section 63 The provisions of section 57 shall apply accordingly to the obligation of the deputy president to make a declaration of assets and the procedure regarding his declaration of assets, with the proviso that in the course of the procedure regarding his declaration of assets, the president of the National Election Office shall act instead of the Prime Minister, and the President of the Republic need not be informed of the outcome of the proceedings.

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Section 64 (1) A deputy president shall be entitled to remuneration equal to 60 per cent of that payable to the president.

(1a) In addition to the remuneration set out in paragraph (1), a deputy president shall be entitled to the same benefits as a Deputy State Secretary.

(2) A deputy president shall be entitled to forty working days of annual leave per calendar year.

(3) In terms of eligibility for social security benefits, a deputy president shall be considered an insured person employed in a public service relationship.

(4) The period of the mandate of a deputy president shall be considered time spent at an administrative organ under a public service relationship.

Section 65 (1) The mandate of the deputy president of the National Election Office shall terminate

a) upon his resignation,

b) upon his death,

c) if it is established that the appointment conditions are not met,

d) upon incompatibility or conflict of interest being established with regard to him,

e) upon his dismissal,

f) upon his removal from office.

(2) The deputy president of the National Election Office may resign from office at any time by tendering his resignation in writing to the president of the National Election Office. The mandate of the deputy president of the National Election Office shall terminate after the date of communication of the resignation, on the day indicated in the resignation, or, failing this, on the day of communication of the resignation. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be required to make resignation effective.

(3) If the deputy president of the National Election Office fails to eliminate incompatibility or conflict of interest under section 56 within thirty days from the date of appointment, or if a cause of incompatibility or conflict of interest arises concerning him while in office, the president of the National Election Office shall decide on the issue of incompatibility or conflict of interest.

(4) The president of the National Election Office shall dismiss a deputy president of the National Election Office if the deputy president is unable to perform his official duties for a period of over ninety days for reasons beyond his control.

(5) The president of the National Election Office may dismiss the deputy president of the National Election Office.

(6) The president of the National Election Office shall remove a deputy president of the National Election Office from office if the deputy president fails to perform his official duties for a period of over ninety days for reasons within his control, or if the vice-president has knowingly misrepresented substantial data or facts in his declaration of assets.

(7) The president of the National Election Office shall be responsible for establishing the absence of any appointment condition of a deputy president of the National Election Office.

32. Provisions regarding other election offices

Section 66 (1) Regional election offices shall be headed by the clerks of the county self-government or the chief clerk of the local government of the capital.

(2) Parliamentary single-member constituency election offices shall be headed by the clerk of the settlement that is the seat of the parliamentary single-member constituency.

(3) Local election offices shall be headed by the local government clerk.

(4) If a position referred to in paragraphs (1) to (3) is vacant, or the local government clerk or chief clerk is not able to perform his duties due to his absence exceeding thirty days, the head of the regional election office shall be appointed by the president of the National Election Office, and the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office or local election office shall be appointed by the head of the regional election office. The decision of the president of the National Election Office shall be published on the official election website.

(4a)

(5) The head of the election office shall appoint a deputy from among the members of the election office.

Section 67 (1) The head of the election office shall appoint the other members of the election office in a number necessary for performing the tasks of the election office and for an indefinite term. Election offices shall keep records of their members.

(2) The head of the election office may revoke the appointment of a member of the election office without stating reasons.

Section 68 (1) Public service officials, government officials, public employees and persons serving in public upbringing employment relationship as well as the employees of the mayor's office, joint local government office or county self-government office at the seat of the election office may be appointed to be members of the election office.

(2) The head and the other members of a foreign mission election office shall be appointed by the president of the National Election Office. Also the members of the foreign mission personnel or consular personnel who are Hungarian citizens may be appointed to be members of the foreign mission election office.

Section 69 (1) The following may not be members of an election office:

- a) a representative,
- b) a deputy mayor,
- c) a member of an election commission,
- d) a candidate,

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e) a member of a nominating organisation that nominates a candidate in the constituency in question, and

f) a relative of a candidate standing for election in the constituency in question.

(2) The prohibition referred to in paragraph (1) f) shall not apply to the member of a local election office who acts exclusively as keeper of the minutes at the polling station commission of a polling district that is not included in the polling district where his relative stands as a candidate at the election.

(3) If a cause of incompatibility or conflict of interest arises concerning the head of a regional election office, he shall be required to notify it to the president of the National Election Office without delay, who shall dismiss him and appoint a new head to the office. If a cause of incompatibility or conflict of interest arises concerning the head of a local election office or the head of a parliamentary single-member constituency election office, the head of the regional election office shall, in agreement with the president of the National Election Office, establish the incompatibility or conflict of interest with respect to the head of the local election office or the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office, respectively, and shall assign the election office of another settlement or parliamentary single-member constituency to perform, in whole or in part, the tasks of the election office.

(4) If a cause of incompatibility or conflict of interest arises concerning a member of an election office, he shall be required to inform the head of the election office of it without delay, and the head of the election office shall dismiss him.

(5) If the head of a local election office or the head of a parliamentary single-member constituency election office does not perform his official duties specified by law, thus jeopardising the lawful conduct of elections, paragraph (3) shall apply.

(6) If in a polling district designated under section 78 within the territory of competence of a local election office, the voting is not closed within thirty minutes after the conclusion of voting at the latest, the president of the National Election Office shall inform the government office of this fact, initiating that disciplinary proceedings under the Act on the local governments of Hungary be launched.

(7) The decisions under paragraphs (3) and (5) shall be published on the official election website.

Section 70 Reciting the wording laid down in the Act on the oath and affirmation of certain public law officers, the heads of the election offices shall take the oath or affirmation before the heads of the superior election offices and the other members of the election offices before those who appointed them.

Section 71 (1) The election offices shall perform their professional activities under the direction of the president of the National Election Office.

(2) The president of the National Election Office may directly instruct the heads of all election offices; the head of a regional election office may directly instruct the heads of the parliamentary single-member constituency election offices and the heads of the local election offices; and the head of a parliamentary single-member constituency election office may directly instruct the heads of the local election offices regarding the performance of their tasks set out in this Act.

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(3) A person or body other than the head of the superior election office shall not be allowed to instruct the heads of the election offices regarding the performance of the tasks related to the preparation and conduct of elections. Only the head of the election office may instruct the members of the election office regarding the performance of the tasks related to the preparation and conduct of elections.

(4) The chair of an election commission may instruct the head of the election office at the commission regarding the performance of secretarial tasks of the commission.

Section 72 The president of the National Election Office may instruct the heads of other organs participating in the conduct of elections regarding the performance of election-related tasks other than the performance of secretarial tasks of election commissions.

Section 73 (1) The members of election offices shall be entitled to remuneration in the amount determined by the Minister.

(2) If the head of an election office does not perform his duties or performs them in an unsatisfactory manner, the president of the National Election Office may reduce the amount of the remuneration payable to him or, as a last resort, may refrain from paying it.

Section 74 The provisions of sections 46 and 47, section 48 (3) and section 50 shall apply to the conclusive decision of the heads of election offices.

33. Tasks of election offices

Section 75 (1) Election offices

- a) shall carry out organisational tasks related to preparing and conducting elections,
- b) shall provide information to voters, candidates and nominating organisations and operate an election information service,
- c) shall perform the secretarial tasks of election commissions, and prepare cases falling within the powers of election commissions for decision making,
- d) shall provide the material and technical conditions for the operation of election commissions and the conduct of voting,
- e) shall organise trainings for the members of the election bodies,
- f) shall provide for the handling, safeguarding and destruction of election documents,
- g) shall carry out tasks related to administrative and IT tests,
- h) shall within their functions process data in the election information system,
- i) shall provide technical assistance to aggregate the votes and establish the result of the election,
- j) shall perform any other tasks specified by law.

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(2) The capital and county government offices shall contribute to performing election-related IT tasks as specified by the Minister in a decree.

34. Other tasks of the National Election Office

Section 76 (1) In addition to performing the tasks set out in section 75, the National Election Office

a) shall provide for the maintenance of the central electoral register, the polling district electoral register, the postal voter electoral register, the foreign mission electoral register, the register of citizens without suffrage, the register of polling districts and constituencies, the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists and the register of representatives,

b) shall provide for conducting public procurement procedures necessary for carrying out the election, and for procuring products and services,

c) shall provide for the setting up and secure operation of the IT system,

d) shall provide for the performance of the central logistical tasks related to the election,

e) shall provide for the performance of the central tasks related to the financial management of the election,

f) shall ensure that data related to the election are stored securely,

g) shall operate the official election website,

h) shall organise administrative and IT tests,

i) shall ensure that the central forms necessary for conducting the election are produced and shipped,

j) shall carry out research regarding the history of elections, the international comparison of electoral systems and the possible improvements of the methods and tools of the election procedure,

k) shall cooperate with the election bodies of other states,

l) may make proposals as regards the adoption or amendment of laws affecting elections, and shall give its opinion with respect to draft laws affecting its functions.

(2) The National Election Office shall regularly publish, and at least daily update, data of public interest and data accessible on public interest grounds related to electoral registers, voting and election results on its website, especially:

a) the number of voters with no address in Hungary who requested their registration, who are registered in the electoral register, who sent back the voting documents and who handed over the valid voting documents, broken down by country based on their contact address, with the proviso that data from states that prohibit dual nationality are to be published under a combined heading,

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b) the number of voters recorded in the central electoral register, voters recorded in the individual polling district electoral registers, absentee voters, voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register and voters recorded in the postal voter electoral register,

c) the number of voters who turn up and cast their votes at the individual polling stations and who turn up and cast their votes at the individual foreign missions,

d) the name and nominating organisation of voters for whom recommendation sheet was requested and of those who were notified as candidates, and the name and nominating organisation of candidates and of elected representatives, and

e) the content of the minutes establishing the polling district election results and the election results.

(2a) The National Election Office shall each year publish on the official election website the number of the voters based on data available on 1 January, broken down by election type, settlement as well as status according to Article XXIII (1) to (3) of the Fundamental Law on which the right to vote is founded.

(3) The National Election Office may entrust with data processing tasks relating to

a) the register of polling districts and constituencies,

b) the central electoral register, the polling district electoral register, the foreign mission electoral register, the postal voter electoral register,

c) the register of citizens without suffrage,

d) the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists,

e) the register of representatives,

f) the verification register of the signatories of referendum initiatives, European citizens initiatives, initiatives for the recognition of a national minority as an ethnic group resident in Hungary,

g) the register of data relating to voter turnout and preliminary and final data relating to minutes, and

h) the user register providing electronic access to the registers referred to in points a) to g)

only data processing entities that are state administration organs or companies exclusively owned by the State, unless the Act on the enhanced protection of public registers constituting national data assets grants specific exemption from this limitation.

(4) The National Election Office shall provide data to the central registration body of the Hungarian Defence Forces and the territorial military administrative bodies for keeping records of persons obliged to perform military service in accordance with section 19 I) and section 20 (1) e) of Act XXI of 2022 on national defence data processing.

Chapter IV

POLLING DISTRICTS

35. Polling district arrangements

Section 77 (1) The number, serial number and territorial distribution of polling districts and the address of polling stations shall be determined by the head of the local election office in a conclusive decision, ensuring that for each polling district there are approximately six hundred, but not more than one thousand five hundred voters included in the central electoral register, and there is at least one polling district in each settlement.

(2) Polling district areas may not extend beyond the boundaries of settlements and the boundaries of constituencies at parliamentary and local government elections.

Section 78 (1) In settlements with two or more polling districts, the head of the local election office shall designate the polling district where voters with a settlement-based domicile can vote.

(2) The polling district designated under paragraph (1) shall be used also for absentee voting.

(3) In towns with county rights and in the districts of the capital, the head of the local election office may designate a polling district other than the one designated under paragraph (1) for absentee voting.

(4) The lower limit specified in section 77 (1) shall not apply to the number of voters having address in a polling district designated under paragraph (3).

36. Review of polling districts

Section 79 (1) The head of the local election office shall monitor changes affecting polling district arrangements on an on-going basis, and modify the polling district arrangements as necessary.

(2) Between the day of setting a date for the election and voting day, the serial number of polling districts shall not be modified, addresses assigned to a polling district shall not be assigned to another one, and no modification of the name of settlements, the name and type of public spaces, house numbers and building and staircase designators shall be entered into the address records.

37. Publication of conclusive decisions

Section 80 The head of the local election office shall publish the conclusive decisions on polling district arrangements and the review of polling districts for fifteen days in accordance with established local practice, indicating for each polling district the number of voters recorded in the central electoral register and also the polling district designated under section 78.

38. Polling district and constituency register

Section 81 (1) The polling district and constituency register shall contain the data set out in Annex 1.

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(2) The National Election Office shall regularly publish the polling district and constituency register on the official election website. The head of the local election office shall transfer to the register the changes.

Chapter V

THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL REGISTER

39. The central electoral register

Section 82 (1) The central electoral register shall be an electronic register managed by the National Election Office. Only voters included in the central electoral register shall be eligible to exercise suffrage.

(2) The central electoral register shall contain the following:

a) data of voters with address in Hungary who are eligible voters at an election covered by this Act,

b) data of citizens with address in Hungary who do not have the right of suffrage due to not being an adult, but have already attained the age of seventeen years,

c) data of voters with no address in Hungary who are eligible voters at an election covered by this Act and have been included, upon their request, in the central electoral register,

d) data of citizens with no address in Hungary who do not have the right of suffrage due to not being an adult, but have already attained the age of seventeen years and have been included, upon request, in the central electoral register (for the purposes of this Chapter, the points a) to d) hereinafter jointly “voters”).

Section 83 (1) The central electoral register shall contain the data of voters set out in Annex 2.

(2) The data of the central electoral register set out in Annex 2 shall be generated, with the exceptions referred to in paragraph (3), by taking over data from the register of personal data and address of citizens, for a voter not recorded in the register of personal data and address of citizens from the register of travel documents and the register of driving licences, furthermore from the register of adult citizens without suffrage, from the polling district and constituency register and from the polling district electoral register.

(3) The data of the central electoral register referred to in Annex 2 under point i) ib), point j) ja) and jb), points k), l) and o), and, for a voter with no address in Hungary who lives abroad and whose foreign domicile stated by him is different from the foreign domicile recorded in the register of personal data and addresses or in respect of whom the register of personal data and addresses contains no foreign domicile data, point c) shall be recorded in the central electoral register by the National Election Office at the request of the voter.

40. Requests regarding the central electoral register

Section 84 (1) A voter with no address in Hungary who is eligible voter at an election covered by this Act may request his registration, renewal of registration and modification of the data relating to him in the central electoral register.

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(2) A citizen who is not yet adult may request his registration in the electoral register after having attained the age of seventeen years. When submitting the request to that effect, the citizen may make a juridical act independently.

(3) A voter with no address in Hungary who lives abroad may request his deregistration from the central electoral register.

Section 84/A A foreign domicile stated by a voter with no address in Hungary who lives abroad shall be considered the foreign domicile of that voter; where a foreign domicile has not been stated by him, the foreign domicile entered in the register of personal data and addresses shall be considered the foreign domicile of that voter.

Section 85 (1) With the exception referred to in paragraph (2), voters with address in Hungary may request that

- a) their belonging to a national minority,
- b) their request for assistance in voting,
- c) a prohibition of releasing their personal data

be entered into the central electoral register, or such an entry be deleted.

(2) Voters other than Hungarian citizens with address in Hungary may request that the data under paragraph (1) b) and c) be entered into the central electoral register, or such an entry be deleted.

(3) Voters with no address in Hungary may request that their request for assistance under section 88 b) be entered into the central electoral register, or such an entry be deleted.

41. Requests regarding registration as national minority voter

Section 86 A request for registration as national minority voter shall contain the following:

- a) reference to the national minority,
- b) statement by the voter in which the voter professes to belong to the national minority in question,
- c) indication as to whether or not the voter requests that his registration as national minority voter apply to the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

Section 87 A request for registration as national minority voter shall be rejected if the voter is already included in the central electoral register as national minority voter.

42. Assistance to voters with a disability

Section 88 Voters with a disability may request the following types of assistance for exercising suffrage:

- a) sending poll cards in braille,

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- b) sending easy read information material,
- c) using braille voting templates at the polling station or for voting by mobile ballot box,
- d) using accessible polling station.

43. Prohibition of releasing data

Section 89 (1) A voter shall be entitled to prohibit election bodies from releasing recorded data relating to the voter in accordance with section 153.

(2)

44. Informing voters

Section 90 The National Election Office shall provide voters with relevant information about the electoral register in the time and manner specified by the Minister in a decree.

45. Submitting requests regarding the central electoral register

Section 91 (1) In addition to what is provided for in section 13/D (1), voters with no address in Hungary may submit their requests regarding the central electoral register

- a) to the National Election Office or a foreign mission election office also by mail,
- b) to a foreign mission election office also in person or through a delivery agent, or
- c) to the National Election Office also by electronic means without electronic identification.

(2) The election office shall record in the election information system the requests submitted in accordance with paragraph (1) a) and b) and launch the proceeding.

Section 92 (1) A request regarding the central electoral register shall contain the following data of the voter:

a) name

b) name at birth,

c) place and date of birth,

d) personal identifier or document number of an official verification card suitable for verifying identity, and

e) signature where the request is submitted in accordance with section 13/D (1) b).

(2) If a request is submitted in accordance with section 13/D (1) a), it need not contain the data referred to in paragraph (1).

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(3) In addition to the data set out in paragraph (1), the request for registration in the electoral register of a voter with no address in Hungary shall contain the following:

- a) the postal address where the voter wishes the postal voting package to be sent, or
- b) the specification of the settlement or foreign mission chosen pursuant to section 277 (2) where the voter wishes to receive the postal voting package.

(4) If the requesting person does not have a storage space referred to in section 13/E (1), in his request for registration in the central electoral register the voter with no address in Hungary shall be required to provide the email address or postal address where he wishes the decision of the election office to be sent in accordance with section 13/E (2) a) ab) or ac).

(5) A requesting person shall not submit more than ten requests on the same day using electronic identification.

46. Assessing requests regarding the central electoral register

Section 93 (1) The National Election Office may grant a request submitted through a delivery agent or in accordance with section 91 (1) a) or c) only if the voter's data in the request correspond to the data in the central electoral register or, for a request for registration in the electoral register, to the data in the register of personal data and address of citizens or the register of travel documents.

(2) It shall not constitute a ground for dismissal if the difference between the data of the request and the data of the central electoral register, the register of personal data and address of citizens or the register of travel documents is caused

- a) by an accent error,
- b) by a spelling difference,
- c) by a specification of a geographic name in a foreign language,
- d) by

da) the omission of one of multiple given names, the omission or inclusion of the "dr." title, the inclusion of a junior, senior, widowed or other prefix or an abbreviation thereof in the data set out in section 92 (1) a) or b), or

db) the provision of the data set out in section 92 (1) a) or b) in another language,

provided that the identity of the voter can be established beyond reasonable doubt.

(3) It shall not constitute a ground for dismissal if the request does not contain the birth name of the requesting person, provided that it corresponds to his full current name.

(4) Whether the data of the requesting person correspond to the data of the register of travel documents shall be verified by the National Election Office on the basis of data taken from the register of travel documents by direct access.

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(5) Where a difference referred to in paragraph (2) cannot be fully assessed by automated decision making, the difference shall be examined with the assistance of the local election office of the address of the requesting person or, for a requesting person with no address in Hungary, the National Election Office, following which the assessment of the request shall continue by automated decision making.

Section 94 (1)

(2) In the case referred to in section 93 (5), the request shall be assessed within three working days from submission or the commencement of the proceeding.

(3) Requests under section 88 d) submitted on the third day before voting day shall be assessed immediately, but not later than within one hour.

Section 95 (1) The National Election Office shall decide on the request in the form of a conclusive decision.

(2) A request shall be rejected in a procedural decision if the requesting person requests

a) the entering in the central electoral register of any fact that is already included in it or

b) in the same request the entering of inconsistent facts.

(3) If a request contains the data referred to in section 92 (1) of the requesting person than, having regard also to section 93, by way of derogation from paragraph (2),

a) the request for registration in the central electoral register of a voter who according to his request is already included in the central electoral register shall be considered a request for the renewal or modification of registration in the central electoral register,

b) the request for the renewal or modification of registration in the central electoral register of a voter who is not included in the central electoral register shall be considered a request for registration in the central electoral register,

c) the request for the modification of registration in the central electoral register of a voter who in respect of data referred to in section 84/A or section 92 (3) or (4) requests the registration of the same data as already recorded in the central electoral register shall be considered a request for the renewal of registration in the central electoral register,

d) the request for the renewal of registration in the central electoral register of a voter who in respect of data referred to in section 84/A or section 92 (3) or (4) requests the registration of data other than those recorded in the central electoral register shall be considered a request for the modification of registration in the central electoral register.

(4) The decision shall include the elements referred to in section 46 a) to e) and the date of birth of the requesting person. The conclusive decision shall specifically refer to the reasons for dismissal or deregistration. A signature or stamp shall not be required for the decision to be valid.

(5) If the voter provided a postal contact address in a country that prohibits dual nationality, the National Election Office may communicate the decision also with the involvement of the foreign mission.

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(6) Where a decision adopted by automated decision making infringes the law, the president of the National Election Office shall, on not more than a single occasion, modify or withdraw it within fifteen days following communication.

47. Keeping the central electoral register

Section 96 (1) The National Election Office shall continuously update the data in the central electoral register with the changes in the data in the following registers:

- a) register of personal data and addresses,
- b) register of citizens without suffrage,
- c) polling district and constituency register, and
- d) register of travel documents.

(2) The members of the National Election Commission may inspect the data recorded in the central electoral register on voters with no address in Hungary, but may not make notes and copies of those data. When inspecting the data, a member of the National Election Commission may verify the lawfulness of registration by consulting the request under section 84 and the data in the register of personal data and addresses, the register of travel documents and the register of adult citizens without suffrage.

48. Deregistration from the central electoral register

Section 97 (1) The National Election Office shall deregister from the central electoral register a citizen with no address in Hungary who lives abroad and has been registered upon request

a) if he requests his deregistration, or

b) if ten years have passed since his registration; the time limit shall be interrupted when the voter modifies his data in the electoral register, requests the renewal of registration or submits voting documents that are not invalid for a reason under section 289 (3) e), f) or h).

(2) The National Election Office shall deregister from the central electoral register those who

- a) deceased,
- b) lost suffrage.

(3) The National Election Office shall deregister from the central electoral register a voter registered as a person having an address in Hungary if his address in Hungary has been invalidated or he left the territory of Hungary with the intention of settling abroad. This deregistration shall be without prejudice to his mandate as a representative.

(4) A separate conclusive decision shall not be required for deregistration under paragraph (2) a).

(5) The provisions of section 95 (1), (4) and (5) shall apply to the conclusive decision on deregistration.

49. Register of citizens without suffrage

Section 98 (1) The National Election Office shall keep a register of citizens without suffrage. An adult citizen as well as a minor citizen who has attained the age of seventeen years shall be recorded in this register if

- a) he is deprived of suffrage because his ability required to take care of his own affairs is reduced,
- b) he is in an institution under compulsory psychiatric treatment ordered in a criminal proceeding,
- c) he is excluded from participating in public affairs,
- d) he is serving a term of imprisonment.

(1a) The register of citizens without suffrage shall contain the data set out in Annex 2/A of persons referred to in paragraph (1).

(2) For registration in the register of citizens without suffrage and for deregistration from that register,

a) as for paragraph (1) a), the organ keeping the register of persons under custodianship shall automatically transfer the data recorded in the register of persons under custodianship as provided for by the law,

b) as for paragraph (1) b) to d), the organ maintaining criminal records shall automatically transfer the data recorded in the criminal records system as provided for by the law

to the National Election Office.

(3) With a view to entering the changes in data in the register and to deregistering the deceased citizens, the National Election Office shall provide for the maintenance of the register of citizens without suffrage by regularly taking over, in the context of automated information transfer, data from the register of personal data and addresses with regard to the identification data and address data of citizens falling within the scope of the register of personal data and addresses.

(4) If a citizen regains his eligibility to vote, his data shall be deleted from the register of citizens without suffrage. The data of citizens deregistered from the register of citizens without suffrage shall be preserved for six months after deregistration.

Section 99 (1) The register of citizens without suffrage may be used only for verifying whether a citizen has the right of suffrage; data shall not be provided from the register for any other purpose.

(2) The election office, the election commission and the court shall be entitled to request data from the register of citizens without suffrage for the purpose specified in paragraph (1).

Section 100 (1) The register of citizens without suffrage shall not be public; it may be accessed only by the person concerned regarding his own data, and by the court and the members of the election commission and election office. Records shall be kept of access.

(2) Any adult person may request the National Election Office to certify that the register of citizens without suffrage contains no reference to his being deprived of suffrage for any reason.

Chapter VI

POLLING DISTRICT ELECTORAL REGISTER

50. Polling district electoral register

Section 101 (1) From the sixty-ninth day before voting day until the fifteenth day after the result of the election becomes final and binding, the National Election Office shall make available to the local election offices the data recorded in the central electoral register of voters who have the right to vote at the election, connected up with the polling district and constituency register, with the content set out in Annex 3, broken down for each polling district (hereinafter “polling district electoral register”).

(2) With the exception referred to in section 102 (3), the National Election Office shall keep the polling district electoral register as well as the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box and the foreign mission electoral register.

(3) The changes referred to in section 102 (3) shall be transferred to the polling district electoral register and the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box by the local election office.

Section 102 (1) One voter may only be recorded in one polling district electoral register.

(2) Citizens who attain the age of eighteen years on voting day at the latest shall be recorded in the polling district electoral register from the day after the day of setting a date for the election.

(3) If, not later than the third day before voting day, a voter requested under section 88 d) to vote in an accessible polling station, and the polling station to which the voter is assigned according to his address is not accessible, the local election office shall transfer the voter to the electoral register of a polling district with accessible polling station in the same settlement and constituency.

(4) If a member or keeper of the minutes of a polling station commission so requests, the National Election Office shall transfer him to the electoral register of the polling district in the polling station commission of which he serves on voting day, provided that the latter polling district belongs to the same constituency as the polling district according to the address of the voter.

(5) The National Election Office shall deregister from a polling district electoral register anyone it deregister from the central electoral register.

51. List of voters who requested a mobile ballot box

Section 103 (1) A request for mobile ballot box may be submitted by voters recorded in the polling district electoral register whose mobility is limited due to their health condition or disability, or due to detention.

(2) A request for mobile ballot box shall be submitted

a) to the National Election Office

aa) by electronic means after electronic identification in accordance with section 13/D (1) a) not later than the third day before voting,

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ab) by electronic means without electronic identification not later than the third day before voting,

b) to the local election office

ba) by electronic means after electronic identification in accordance with section 13/D (1) a) after 16.00 on the third day before voting day and not later than by 12.00 on voting day,

bb) by mail not later than the third day before voting,

bc) in person or through a delivery agent not later than the third day before voting,

bd) in person or through a delivery agent on the second day before voting,

c) to the polling station commission concerned on voting day, by 12.00 at the latest

ca) through a delivery agent or

cb) by delivery by a person having no authorisation.

(3) The request for mobile ballot box shall contain the following:

a) the address within the area of the polling district where the voter wishes the mobile ballot box to be taken (hereinafter “mobile ballot box address”) if other than his address in Hungary, and

b) the reason for requesting a mobile ballot box.

(4) A voter who has been transferred from the electoral register of the polling district according to his address to the electoral register of another polling district in accordance with section 102 (3) may request a mobile ballot box also to his address.

Section 104 (1) The local election office shall enter the requests submitted in accordance with section 103 (2) b) bb) and bc) into the election information system.

(2) The local election office shall forward the requests submitted in accordance with section 103 (2) b) **ba) and bd)** to the polling station commission.

Section 105 (1) The list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box shall contain the same information on voters as the polling district electoral register, and the data set out in section 103 (3) a) as well as other information provided by the voter as to the taking of the mobile ballot box.

(2) Persons who are deregistered from the polling district electoral register shall also be deregistered from the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box.

52. Printing polling district electoral registers and lists of voters who requested a mobile ballot box

Section 106 (1) Once it transferred the changes that took place **by 16.00 on the third day** before voting, the National Election Office shall close the polling district electoral register and the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box.

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(2) The local election office shall print the closed polling district electoral register and the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box not later than the second day before voting day. The head of the local election office shall certify the printed polling district electoral register and list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box.

Section 107 (1) The printed polling district electoral register and the printed list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box shall not contain the data set out in point f) fe) in Annex 3.

(2) The printed polling district electoral register shall not contain the data of the voters who are recorded in the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box.

(3) The printed list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box shall contain the data set out in section 103 (3) a) as well as other information provided by the voter as to the taking of the mobile ballot box.

(4) No change shall be transferred to the he printed polling district electoral register and the printed list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box, except those referred to in section 112 (5).

53. Electoral register for a voting to be repeated

Section 108 (1) If the election commission or the court orders the voting to be repeated in a polling district, those voters may be recorded in the polling district electoral register at the repeated voting who

a) were recorded in the polling district electoral register at the voting to be repeated,

b) were not recorded in the polling district electoral register at the voting to be repeated due to not having the right of suffrage, but

ba) become adults on the day of repeated voting at the latest, or

bb) gain suffrage by the closure of the electoral register in any other way.

(2) Those who were not recorded due to

a) not having address in the polling district, or

b) being recorded in the electoral register of another polling district

in the polling district electoral register at the voting to be repeated shall not be recorded in the polling district electoral register at the repeated voting either.

54. Destruction of polling district electoral registers and lists of voters who requested a mobile ballot box

Section 109

55. Submitting requests regarding the polling district electoral register

Section 110 (1) The provisions of section 92 (1), (2) and (5) shall apply to requests under section 103, section 112 (6), section 250, section 259 and section 307/A.

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(2) Requests regarding the polling district electoral register may be submitted from the sixty-sixth day before voting day. A request submitted in accordance with section 103 (2) b) bb) before the sixty-sixth day before voting day shall be assessed on the sixty-sixth day before voting day.

(3) In a joint proceeding, a request regarding the polling district electoral register, a request for assistance under section 88 and a request for a prohibition of releasing data under section 89 shall apply to all elections of the joint proceeding.

Section 111 A request under section 259 may be submitted in person or through a delivery agent also to a foreign mission election office.

56. Assessing requests regarding the polling district electoral register

Section 112 (1) Upon a request submitted in accordance with section 103 (2) a) and b) bb) and bc), the National Election Office shall enter the voter requesting a mobile ballot box into the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box.

(2) Where the mobile ballot box address specified in the request is not available in the register of constituencies and polling districts and, consequently, automated decision making is not fully possible, the mobile ballot box address shall be examined with the assistance of the local election office of the mobile ballot box address, following which the assessment of the request shall continue by automated decision making.

(3) Where a difference referred to in section 93 (2) cannot be fully assessed by automated decision making, the difference shall be examined with the assistance of the local election office of the address of the requesting person or, for a request under section 103, the local election office of the mobile ballot box address, following which the assessment of the request shall continue by automated decision making.

(4) The legal basis for a request under section 102 (4) shall be assessed by the local election office in whose territory of competence the polling district is located to the electoral register of which the member of a polling station commission or the keeper of the minutes requests to be transferred.

(5) The requests under section 103 (2) b) ba) and c) shall be assessed by the polling station commission. Upon the request and applying the provisions of section 93 (1) to (3), the polling station commission shall enter the voter requesting a mobile ballot box into the printed list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box and delete him from the printed polling district electoral register.

(6) Where a voter withdraws his request for a mobile ballot box by the third day before voting day, the National Election Office shall delete him from the list of voters who requested a mobile ballot box.

Section 113 (1) Requests for a mobile ballot box and requests for the withdrawal of such a request submitted on the third day before voting day shall be assessed immediately, but not later than within one hour.

(2) Where administrative assistance is required for a request to be assessed, the request shall be assessed within three working days from submission or the commencement of the proceeding, but not later than by 9.00 on the second day before voting day.

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(3) The polling station commission shall assess the requests for a mobile ballot box as a priority.

(4) The assessment of a request submitted after the election date has been set but before the sixty-sixth day before voting day shall be started on the sixty-sixth day before voting day.

Section 114 (1) The provisions of section 95 (1), (2), (4), (5) and (6) shall apply to the decisions of the election office.

(2) If a natural person submitted the request specifying a contact address in accordance with section 103 (2) a) ab) or b) bb), the decision shall be sent also to the natural person in accordance with section 13/E (2) a) ad), in addition to communicating it in accordance with section 13/E (2) a) ab) or ac).

57. Informing voters

Section 115 (1) The National Election Office shall notify voters who are on the sixty seventh day before voting day recorded in the polling district electoral register of their registration in the polling district electoral register by sending them a poll card.

(2) The poll cards shall be sent to the address of the voters by the fifty-first day before voting day. Where the technical conditions are met, the poll cards shall be sent also to the storage space under section 46 (5) of the Digital Citizenship Act of the voter.

(3) The poll card shall contain the following:

a) name of the election,

b) day of voting,

c) constituency,

d) polling district,

e) address of the polling station,

f) information on the accessibility of the polling station,

g) name of the voter,

h) address in Hungary of the voter,

i) date of birth of the voter,

j) birth name of the voter if other than the full current name,

k) information on the election, and

l) date on which the poll card was issued.

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(4) If a voter does not receive the poll card or the poll card is destroyed or lost, the voter may request a new poll card.

(5) In a joint proceeding, the election office shall notify voters of their registration in the polling district electoral register by sending them a joint poll card.

Section 116 (1) The election office shall notify voters who get registered in the polling district electoral register after the sixty-seventh day before voting day of their registration in the polling district electoral register by handing over or sending them a poll card.

(2) If the election office grants a request under section 250, section 259 or section 307/A, it shall notify the voter thereof by handing over or sending him a poll card, in addition to communicating the conclusive decision.

Section 117 (1) At the request of a voter under section 88 a) submitted not later than the sixty eighth day before voting day, the National Election Office shall send a poll card in braille to the voter.

(2) At the request of a voter under section 88 b) submitted not later than the sixty eighth day before voting day, the National Election Office shall send easy read information material to the voter.

Section 118 (1) From the day when the election date is set until the electoral register is closed, the data in the polling district electoral register of the settlement may be accessed by anyone in the competent local election office, except for the data set out in points fb) to fe) and fg) in Annex 3.

(2) Except for the printed sample distributed to the polling districts, no copies shall be made of the data content of polling district electoral registers.

Chapter VII

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

58. Notifying nominating organisations

Section 119 (1) Organisations that wish to nominate candidates or draw up list shall be notified to the National Election Commission as nominating organisations after the sixty-ninth day before voting day.

(2) Nominating organisations shall be notified by a person who is, according to the court register, authorised to represent the organisation concerned.

59. Recommendation sheet

Section 120 (1) Candidates shall be recommended on recommendation sheets.

(2) Recommendation sheets may be requested by voters who wish to stand as individual candidates at the election and by nominating organisations that have been registered with final and binding effect from the election office at the election commission competent to register the candidate in question after the sixty-ninth day before voting day.

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(3) A request for recommendation sheets shall contain the name of the voter who wishes to stand as a candidate at the election, his personal identifier, or, in the absence thereof, the number of his official identity verification card, his address, and his statement that

a) he accepts the nomination,

b) he has no position giving rise to incompatibility and conflict of interest with a representative's mandate, or that he will eliminate incompatibility or conflict of interest if elected,

c)

(4) Recommendation sheets may be requested only for voters who have the right of suffrage when the request is submitted.

(5) When requesting recommendation sheets

a) a voter who has multiple given names may ask to indicate only one of his given names on the recommendation sheets and ballot papers,

b) a voter may ask not to indicate the "dr." title that is part of his name on the recommendation sheets and ballot papers.

Section 121 (1) The election office shall indicate on the recommendation sheets the type of the election, the name of the voter who wishes to stand as a candidate at the election taking into account section 120 (5), the name of the nominating organisation or the fact that the candidate is an independent candidate, and a reference to the constituency. For joint candidates, the names of all nominating organisations nominating the joint candidate shall be indicated on the recommendation sheets.

(2) The election office shall hand over the recommendation sheets in the requested quantity to the requester or the voter who wishes to stand as a candidate at the election without delay after the request was made but not earlier than on the fiftieth day before voting day. The election office shall mark each of the recommendation sheets with a unique identifier.

Section 121/A Where handing over the recommendation sheets violates statutory requirements, the election office shall refuse in a conclusive decision to hand over the recommendation sheets concerned on the day when the request is made.

60. Recommendation

Section 122 (1) Voters who have the right to vote at the election in the constituency in question may recommend candidates.

(2) The name, personal identifier and address in Hungary of the recommending voter shall be entered on the recommendation sheet. The voter shall sign the recommendation sheet in his own hand.

(3) A voter may recommend more than one candidate.

(4) A voter may recommend one candidate only once; any further recommendations shall be invalid.

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(5) A recommendation shall not be withdrawn.

(6) The persons gathering recommendations shall indicate on the recommendation sheets their name, personal identifier or the number of their official identity verification card and their signature.

Section 123 (1) Recommendations may be gathered without disturbing citizens by representatives of the nominating organisation or by the voter who wishes to stand as a candidate at the election or by his representative anywhere except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) Recommendations shall not be gathered

a) at the workplace of the person gathering recommendations and the recommending person during working hours, or while one or the other is fulfilling his obligations to perform work arising from employment or other employment-related relationship,

b) from persons employed under a service relationship at the Hungarian Defence Forces or a central state administration organ at their service post or while they are performing their duty,

c) on means of public transport,

d) in the official premises of state and local government organs and the organs of national minority self-governments,

e) in higher education and public upbringing institutions,

f) in the premises of healthcare providers, and

g) on private properties open to the public without the written consent of the owner given in advance.

(3) It shall be forbidden to grant or promise advantages to voters in return for providing a recommendation. Voters shall be forbidden to ask for or accept advantage or a promise thereof in return for providing a recommendation.

(4) Recommendations gathered in breach of the rules on recommendation shall be invalid.

61. Notifying candidates

Section 124 (1) Candidates shall be notified to the election commission competent to register the candidate concerned by handing over the recommendation sheets.

(1a) Upon the notification of a candidate, he shall make a statement that he complies with the requirements for candidates set out in paragraph (1b) and that he does not use, regarding the election concerned, foreign support or any asset element originating therefrom for the purpose of performing any activity aimed at influencing or attempting to influence the will of voters. The election commission shall register a candidate if he has made such a statement.

(1b) A person who requests his registration as candidate and a registered candidate shall not use, regarding the election concerned, foreign support or any asset element originating therefrom for the purpose of performing any activity aimed at influencing or attempting to influence the will of

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voters. If a violation is suspected, the State Audit Office shall check compliance with the provisions of this paragraph.

(1c) Where, following the registration of a candidate, the State Audit Office establishes that the candidate violated the provisions of paragraph (1b), the candidate shall pay twice the amount of support to the central budget within fifteen days after being called upon to do so by the State Audit Office.

(1d) If a candidate fails to comply with his obligation under paragraph (1c) within the time limit, the state tax authority shall collect the debt as taxes at a request by the State Audit Office.

(2) The voters who wish to stand as independent candidates at the election and the nominating organisations that wish to nominate candidate shall hand over all recommendation sheets they received to the election office within the time limit set for the notification of candidates. In the event of non-compliance with this obligation, the election commission competent to register the candidate in question shall impose a fine, acting *ex officio*. The amount of the fine shall be one thousand forints for each missing recommendation sheet.

(3) A fine shall not be imposed for recommendation sheets not containing recommendation that are handed over not later than the day after the expiry of the time limit referred to in paragraph (2).

(4) The election commission shall decide on imposing a fine within eight days after the expiry of the time limit referred to in paragraph (2).

62. Verifying recommendations

Section 125 (1) The election office shall verify the recommendations.

(2) In verifying recommendations, it shall be checked whether the requirements referred to in section 122 are complied with, the recommending voters shall be identified, and it shall be established whether they have the right of suffrage and whether the number of valid recommendations reaches the limit required for being a candidate.

(3) The identification of the recommending voters and the verification of their eligibility shall be carried out by comparing the data indicated on the recommendation sheets with information in the central electoral register and the polling district and constituency register.

Section 126 (1) A recommendation shall be valid if

a) the recommending voter had the right to recommend a candidate in the constituency at any time between the day when the recommendation sheet was handed out and the day it was submitted,

b) except for the signature, the recommending voter's data indicated on the recommendation sheet correspond to his data in the polling district electoral register,

c) the recommendation complies with the requirements referred to in section 122.

(2) It shall not constitute a ground for invalidity

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a) if the difference between the data of the recommending voter and the data in the central electoral register or the register of personal data and address of citizens, the register of travel documents or the register of driving licences is caused by any of the following, but the identity of the voter can be established beyond reasonable doubt:

aa) accent error,

ab) spelling difference,

ac) specification of a geographic name in a foreign language,

ad) provision of the data in another language,

ae) omission of one of multiple given names, omission or inclusion of the “dr.” title, inclusion of a junior, senior, widowed or other prefix or an abbreviation thereof,

b) if the recommending voter provided the name of the settlement, the name or type of the public space in a form different from the information recorded in the polling district electoral register, but the address can be established clearly during the verification,

c) if the recommending voter did not include the staircase, floor or door designator in his address, or it differs from the data recorded in the polling district electoral register.

Section 127 (1) Recommendations shall be verified within **four** days from the notification of the candidate.

(2) The election office shall refrain from verifying recommendations if the number of recommendations on the submitted recommendation sheets does not reach the limit required for being a candidate.

(3) Once it is established that the number of valid recommendations has reached the limit required for being a candidate, the detailed verification of recommendations may be discontinued.

(4) The election office shall inform the election commission competent to register the candidate concerned and, if so requested, the candidate and the nominating organisation of the result of the verification of recommendations.

Section 128

63. Notifying lists

Section 129 (1) The list notification shall contain, regarding all candidates on the list, the name of the candidate, his personal identifier, or, in the absence thereof, the number of his official identity verification card, his address, and his statement that

a) he accepts the nomination,

b) he has no position giving rise to incompatibility and conflict of interest with a representative's mandate, or that he will eliminate incompatibility or conflict of interest if elected,

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c) he does not use, regarding the election concerned, foreign support or any asset element originating therefrom for the purpose of performing any activity aimed at influencing or attempting to influence the will of voters.

(2) The number of candidates on the list may not be more than three times the number of mandates that can be won from the list. The order of candidates on the list shall be determined by the nominating organisation.

(3) The list may include only candidates who have the right of suffrage at the time of the notification of the list.

(4) A candidate included in the list may make a statement concerning a request under section 120 (5) at the time of the notification of the list at the latest.

Section 130 (1) The order of candidates on the list shall not be modified after the notification of the list.

(2) If any of the candidates drops out of the list, his place shall be taken by the next candidate on the list. For a notified list, no new candidates may be notified.

(3) Nominating organisations may withdraw the list or the nomination of any candidate on the list not later than the last day of the time limit set for list notification. Nominating organisations may not draw up a new list to replace a withdrawn list.

Section 131 Juridical acts regarding joint lists shall be made by the nominating organisations drawing up the joint list together.

64. Registration of nominating organisations, candidates and lists

Section 132 Not later than the fourth day after notification, the competent election commission shall register every nominating organisation, candidate and list that complies with the statutory requirements.

Section 133 (1) The election office shall verify the existence of notified organisations and the authenticity of their data in the court register of non-governmental organisations, and it shall verify the data of notified candidates in the central electoral register.

(2) The election commission shall refuse to register the nominating organisation, the candidate or the list if the notification does not comply with the statutory requirements.

(3) If a candidate on a list cannot be registered, but otherwise the list complies with the legal requirements, the election commission shall register the list without the candidate concerned.

Section 134 The abbreviated name of a nominating organisation shall be the abbreviated name in the register of non-governmental organisations, or, in the absence thereof, an abbreviated name indicated at the notification of the nominating organisation, which shall not be the same as the full or abbreviated name of another organisation already recorded in the court register of non-governmental organisations or the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists.

65. Register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists

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Section 135 (1) The National Election Office and the election office at the election commission performing registration shall keep a publicly certified electronic register of notified and registered nominating organisations, candidates and lists with the data content set out in Annex 4. The National Election Office shall take the data of the candidates and nominating organisations from the central electoral register, the register of personal data and addresses as well as the court records of non-governmental organisations.

(2) The data of candidates shall be continuously updated, using the data in the central electoral register.

(3) If a nominating organisation, candidate or list is deregistered, the election office shall inform the election commission thereof at its next sitting.

Section 136 The data of nominating organisations shall be continuously updated on the basis of the data in the court records of non-governmental organisations. If a nominating organisation is deleted from the court records of non-governmental organisations, the National Election Office shall deregister the nominating organisation from the register of nominating organisations. If a nominating organisation involved in nominating a joint candidate or drawing up a joint list is deregistered from the register of nominating organisations, it shall be deleted from ballot papers.

Section 136/A Changes in the data of a candidate or nominating organisation shall not affect the rights and obligations of that candidate or nominating organisation.

66. Candidate drop out

Section 137 (1) A candidate shall drop out if before the start of the voting in Hungary he is deregistered from the central electoral register or loses the right to stand as a candidate at the election, or if before the start of the voting the nominating organisation of the candidate is or all nominating organisations involved in nominating the joint candidate are deregistered from the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists. Moreover, a candidate shall drop out if he resigns from candidacy in writing by 16.00 on the **third** day before voting day by electronic means after electronic identification, by submitting in person or through a delivery agent a declaration to the election office at the election commission that decided on registration. The drop-out candidate shall be deregistered from the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists and from candidate ballot papers.

(2) Resignation by a candidate after the expiry of the time limit referred to in paragraph (1) shall not produce legal effects, and the votes cast for the candidate shall be considered valid votes.

(3) A candidate shall drop out of the list if he does not win a mandate at the election and resigns from candidacy in writing after voting day.

67. Elimination of list

Section 138 A list shall be eliminated if the nominating organisation withdraws the list, all candidates on the list drop out before the start of the voting, or if the National Election Office deregisters the nominating organisation that drew up the list or all nominating organisations involved in drawing up the joint list from the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists before the start of the voting. The eliminated list shall be deregistered from the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists and from ballot papers.

Chapter VIII

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

68. Campaign period and campaign tools

Section 139 (1) The election campaign period shall last from the 50th day before voting day until the end of voting on voting day.

(2) The rights granted to candidates and nominating organisations under this Chapter do not restrict the enforcement of the right to the protection of property of subjects of law other than the state and local governments as provided for in other laws.

Section 140 Campaign tools means any tools that are capable of influencing or of attempting to influence the will of voters, including especially the following:

- a) posters,
- b) direct contact by the nominating organisation or the candidate,
- c) political commercials and political advertisements,
- d) election rallies.

Section 141 Campaign activities means the use of campaign tools during campaign period, and any other activity during campaign period aimed at influencing or at attempting to influence the will of voters.

Section 142 The activities of election bodies, the personal communication between citizens as private persons, regardless of its content and form, and the activities carried out by the Constitutional Court, courts, local governments and other state organs in performing their functions provided for by the law shall not be considered election campaign.

Section 143 (1) On voting day no campaign activities may be pursued

- a) in polling stations and in buildings in which polling stations are located,
- b) in public spaces within 150 metres of the entrance of a building used to access the polling station located within that building,
- c) outside the areas specified in point b) in a manner capable of influencing the will of voters staying within that area.

(2) Posters lawfully placed before voting day shall not constitute a violation of the prohibition under paragraph (1) b) and c).

(3) Where multiple parallel election processes referred to in section 1 are running, the prohibition under paragraph (1) shall apply to all ongoing election processes.

Section 143/A (1) Voters shall be entitled to avail themselves of the assistance of another person for requesting a mobile ballot box or for getting to the polling station.

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(2) A public call for requesting mobile ballot box and for transport to the polling station shall not be published, and transporting people to polling stations by buses shall not be allowed.

(3) Any communication, irrespective of its presentation, that calls for organising transport to the polling station or using tools facilitating transport to the polling station shall qualify as publication of a public call for transport to the polling station. Organising transport to the polling station and creating or publishing IT applications for organising transport to the polling station shall qualify as call for transport to the polling station.

Section 143/B (1) The laws governing the use of public spaces shall not apply to public spaces open for pedestrian traffic in respect of campaign activities designed to engage in personal communication with voters, provided that the size of public space used for the placement of equipment and fixtures during such activities does not surpass four square metres.

(2) The following in particular shall be deemed to constitute campaign activities for the purposes of paragraph (1):

- a) establishing contact with voters,
- b) personal discussions about public affairs,
- c) distributing flyers,
- d) gathering signatures.

69. Posters

Section 144 (1) For the purposes of this section, poster means an election placard, inscription, flyer, projected image and emblem regardless of size and the surface it is on.

(2) During campaign period, nominating organisations and candidates shall be allowed to produce posters without permission or notification. The name and seat of the publisher and the name of the person responsible for publishing shall be indicated on posters.

(3) During campaign period posters may be placed without any limitation, except for the cases defined in paragraphs (4) to (7).

(4) Placing posters

- a) on a thing in private ownership shall be permitted only if the owner or the lessee,
- b) on a thing owned by the state or a local government shall be permitted if the entity exercising the asset management rights

gives in advance written consent thereto.

(5) It shall be forbidden to place posters on protected monument assets, protected heritage elements, protected elements of architectural heritage, protected natural sites and assets, and on buildings that serve as premises for state and local government authorities or inside of them.

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(6) The laws governing the use of public spaces shall apply to the placement of self-standing advertising equipment serving the election campaign and to billboards.

(7) Posters shall be placed in such a fashion that they do not cover the posters of other candidates or nominating organisations, and that they may be removed without causing any damage. Posters shall be removed within 30 days after voting day, or the costs of removal shall be borne, by those who have placed them or those on behalf of whom they have been placed.

70. Election rallies

Section 145 (1) The provisions of the Act on the right of assembly shall apply to election rallies with the derogations specified in this section.

(2) Election rallies may be held during campaign period. Election rallies shall not be held on voting day.

(3) For the purposes of election campaign, state and local government budgetary organs shall make premises and other necessary equipment available to candidates and nominating organisations on equal terms. In buildings that serve as premises for state and local government authorities, it shall be prohibited to carry out election campaign activities and hold election rallies, except at settlements with less than five hundred inhabitants, provided that no other community building is available.

(4) In the event of a violation of law regarding an election rally, an election-related legal remedy shall be available only if the provisions of this Act are violated.

71. Political advertisements and political commercials

Section 146 For the purposes of this Chapter:

a) political advertisement means political advertisement within the meaning of point 55 in section 203 of Act CLXXXV of 2010 on media services and mass media (hereinafter the “Media Act”) with the difference that political party, political movement and Government shall be construed to mean nominating organisation and independent candidate,

b) political commercial means any media content published in a press product or audio-visual content published in a movie theatre in return for consideration, promoting or advocating support for a nominating organisation or independent candidate, or promoting their name, objectives, activities, slogan or emblem.

Section 147 (1) The political advertisements of nominating organisations nominating candidates and of independent candidates shall be published by the media service provider on equal terms with regard to, in particular, the number, the order of appearing, duration and broadcast time of political advertisements. The nominating organisations of a joint candidate or joint list shall be jointly entitled to order political advertisement.

(2) No opinion or judgement shall be attached to political advertisements.

(3) Media service providers shall not demand or accept consideration for publishing political advertisements.

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(4) Those who order political advertisements to be published in audio-visual media services shall arrange for the advertisements to be subtitled or to be provided with sign language interpretation.

(4a) No political advertisement shall be published on voting day.

(5) In other respects, the provisions of the Media Act shall apply to publishing political advertisements.

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

Section 147/A (1) During the campaign period before the general election of the Members of the National Assembly, the public media service provider shall be obliged to broadcast, as part of linear media services, political advertisements of the nominating organisations that drew up national list in a duration determined, after the registration with final and binding effect of all national lists, by the National Election Commission in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) During the campaign period before the general election of the Members of the National Assembly, the length of time for broadcasting political advertisements shall be four hundred and seventy minutes for nominating organisations that drew up party list and one hundred and thirty minutes for nominating organisations that drew up national minority list. The length of time available to the nominating organisations shall be distributed equally among the party lists and national minority lists.

(3) The public media service provider shall broadcast political advertisements in equal shares as part of its linear audio-visual and radio media services that have the highest annual average audience share.

(4) The public media service provider shall be obliged to provide for the uninterrupted broadcasting of political advertisements three times daily, in time slots starting between 6.00 and 8.00, 12.00 and 14.00, and 18.00 and 20.00. The political advertisements of nominating organisations that drew up party list and of nominating organisations that drew up national minority list shall be broadcast successively. The order in which the political advertisements appear shall be changed daily to ensure equal opportunities.

(5) The public media service provider shall be obliged to broadcast the political advertisement on the day and in the time slot specified by the nominating organisations. The nominating organisations may request that a political advertisement be broadcast in a certain time slot once a day and for not longer than thirty seconds.

(6) The media service provider shall be obliged to broadcast the political advertisement if the nominating organisation hands over the political advertisement created by it not later than the third day before broadcasting.

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Section 147/B The provisions of section 147/A shall apply also to the election of the Members of the European Parliament, with the proviso that the total length of the available broadcast time regarding all lists shall be three hundred minutes.

Section 147/C The provisions of section 147/A shall apply also to the election of local government representatives and mayors, with the proviso that

a) the political advertisements of those eight nominating organisations shall be broadcast that nominated the most representative candidates and mayor candidates at country level; joint candidates and joint lists shall be taken into consideration according to the proportion of the nominations,

b) the total length of the available broadcast time regarding all lists shall be three hundred minutes.

Section 147/D At the general election of the national minority self-government representatives, on the day before voting day, the public media service provider shall be obliged to broadcast, as part of its linear audio-visual and radio media services, the political advertisements of the nominating organisations drawing up national list, once for each. The provisions of section 147/A (3) and (6) shall apply to broadcasting.

Section 147/E The public media service provider shall not broadcast any further political advertisement other than those according to sections 147/A to 147/D.

Section 147/F (1) During the campaign period before the general election, media service providers with linear national-level media services that are not covered by the provisions of section 147/A to 147/E shall communicate to the National Election Commission their intention to broadcast political advertisements, specifying their linear national-level media service or services that they intend to use for broadcasting political advertisements, not later than the fiftieth day before voting day. If a media service provider does not communicate such an intention within the time limit, broadcasting political advertisements shall not be allowed. The National Election Office shall publish on the official election website the media service providers which communicated their intention and the media services as well as the length of broadcast time.

(2) With the exception of section 147/A (3), the provisions of sections 147/A to 147/E shall apply accordingly to broadcasting political advertisements, with the proviso that at the general election of the Members of the National Assembly, the election of the Members of the European Parliament and the election of local government representatives and mayors

a) the media service provider shall determine the length of time for broadcasting political advertisements for each media service; however, this time shall not be less than half of the time determined for the public media service provider,

b) when communicating its intention according to paragraph (1), the media provider shall indicate also the length of time according to point a),

c) if the length of time according to point a) is different from the time determined for the public media service provider, the National Election Commission shall proportionally lower or increase the time available for the individual nominating organisations.

(3) During an election campaign period, media service providers providing linear media services that are available on internet may broadcast political advertisements taking into account the rules

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of this section, while media service providers providing media services with local and district broadcast coverage may do so taking into account the rules of section 147.

Section 148 (1) During an election campaign period, in press products defined in point 60 of section 203 of the Media Act, political advertisements may be published in accordance with the provisions laid down in this section.

(2) Political advertisements published in a press product shall be clearly recognisable and distinguishable from other media contents. The name and the domicile or seat of sponsors that ordered them shall be indicated on political advertisements.

(3) If a press product intends to publish political advertisements, it shall send a price list for its advertisement services to the State Audit Office not later than the sixtieth day before voting; the State Audit Office shall register and publish on its website the price list. The press product shall publish the same price list on its website.

(4) Political advertisements shall be published only by press products which have had their price lists registered with the State Audit Office. Political advertisements shall only be published in return for the consideration indicated in the registered price list. The press products of publishers established in Hungary shall publish political advertisements only if they are recorded in the official register referred to in the Media Act.

(5) The press products defined in paragraph (1) shall inform the State Audit Office of published political advertisements within 15 days after voting day. This information shall specify the sponsors of the political advertisements of the individual candidates and nominating organisations, the consideration paid, the time of publication and the volume. The State Audit Office shall publish this information on its website.

72. Direct political campaign

Section 149 Election campaign materials may be delivered to voters by direct distribution, taking into account section 89, with the proviso that the use of other data of the voter, such as phone number and email address, shall require explicit consent.

73. Opinion poll

Section 150 On voting day persons conducting opinion poll shall not enter the buildings in which polling stations are located, and shall not in any way disturb voters; they may only contact voters as they are exiting the building. The results of such opinion polls (exit polls) shall not be made public before the end of voting.

74. Legal remedy relating to the participation of the media in the campaign

Section 151 (1) The National Election Commission shall assess objections relating to the participation in election campaigns of media service providers, the press and movie theatres in violation of the provisions of this Act. The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission of the seat or domicile of the media content provider shall assess objections relating to a district, local or on-demand media service or a press product that is distributed in an area smaller than the whole country at the election of the Members of the National Assembly, and the regional election commission of the seat or domicile of the media content provider shall do so at

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the election of the Members of the European Parliament, the election of local government representatives and mayors and the election of national minority self-government representatives.

(2) For a violation of law in the page-for-page electronic copy of a printed press product, the time limit for submitting the objection shall expire on the third day after the publication of the printed press product.

(3) The applicant shall specify in the objection or, if possible, attach to it the programme that proves the violation of law. If the applicant did not attach the programme in question to the objection, the competent election commission as defined in paragraph (1) shall obtain it *ex officio* if necessary.

(4) Objections to an internet media content that is in violation of law shall be submitted within three days after the publication of the media content. An objection shall not be dismissed for late submission if it was submitted within three days after the detection of violation, and upon being called to do so by the election commission, the content provider is unable to provide sufficient evidence proving the date of publication of the media content.

(5) An objection shall not be examined as to its merits if the internet media content specified therein is an unaltered replication of other media content, and the objection is submitted later than three days after the date of publication of the original media content.

Section 152 (1) If the election commission grants the objection, it shall apply the legal consequences referred to in section 218 (2) a) to c), and oblige the media content provider to publish the part referred to in section 46 c) ca) of its conclusive decision as follows:

a) in the case of newspapers, internet press products and on demand media services, within three days of the communication of the conclusive decision, in a manner similar to the publication that constituted the violation,

b) in the case of other periodicals, in the next issue, in a manner similar to the publication that constituted the violation,

c) in the case of linear media services, within three days of the communication of the conclusive decision, in a manner similar to the publication that constituted the violation and at the same time of day.

(2) In addition to the measures referred to in paragraph (1), the election commission may impose a fine. In deciding whether it is justified to impose a fine and in determining the fine amount, the election commission shall consider all circumstances of the case, and in particular the type and broadcast coverage of the media service provider affected by, the characteristics of the press product affected by, the gravity of and the recurring nature of the violation. If the violation was evidently intentional, this fact shall be taken into account when determining the fine amount.

(3) The maximum fine amount shall be fifty times the monthly amount of the mandatory minimum wage.

(4)

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75. Data provision from the electoral register

Section 153 (1) While observing the provisions of section 89,

a) at the request of an individual candidate, the election office at the election commission competent to register the candidate concerned shall, with respect to the constituency concerned,

b) at the request of a nominating organisation drawing up a list, the National Election Office shall, with respect to the constituencies indicated by the nominating organisation,

hand over the name, address, age and sex of voters recorded in the polling district electoral register without delay after the data provision fee is paid, but not before the registration of the candidate or list pursuant to section 132 becomes final and binding.

(2) In a joint proceeding, those entitled to request data may use the data obtained from the data provision in each election concerned.

Section 154 (1) The fee for the data provision under section 153 shall be three forints for each voter covered by the data provision.

(2) The data provision shall be conditional on the requesting party providing proof of the payment of the data provision fee to the account of the National Election Office.

Section 155 (1) The data provided shall only be used for direct political campaigning. Other use, copying and handing over to third parties shall be forbidden.

(2) Candidates and nominating organisations drawing up a list registered pursuant to section 132 shall destroy the provided data on voting day at the latest, and it shall deliver the minutes taken of destruction to the election office that provided the data within three days.

Chapter IX

PREPARATION OF VOTING

76. Content of the ballot paper

Section 156 (1) The basic data content of candidate ballot papers is set out in Annex 5, while the basic data content of list ballot papers is set out in Annex 6.

(2) The ballot paper shall contain the name of the candidate as specified in the request under section 120 (5) and 129 (4).

(3) The name of the constituency candidate shall be indicated in the same form on all recommendation sheets and ballot papers, irrespective of any changes in the name of the candidate. If the constituency candidate stands for election as a candidate also on a list, the same name, except for any distinguishing marks under section 157, shall be indicated in the list ballot paper as on the candidate ballot paper.

Section 157 (1) If two or more voters with the same name are listed as candidates on a candidate ballot paper, the candidates shall be distinguished by indicating the year of their birth in parentheses after their name. If two candidates with the same name who were born in the same

year are nominated by the same nominating organisation or stand for election as independent candidates, these candidates shall be distinguished on the ballot paper by indicating

a) the settlement of their address, or, if that is also identical,

b) their occupation

in parentheses after their name.

(2) In a situation under paragraph (1) b), the candidates concerned shall provide their occupation to be indicated on the ballot paper not later than the third day after a request to that effect by the election office.

Section 158 (1) In the case of joint candidates and joint lists, the ballot paper shall include the names of all nominating organisations involved in nominating the candidate and drawing up the list.

(2) At the request of the nominating organisation at the time of notification, the ballot paper shall indicate the abbreviated name and greyscale logo of the nominating organisation.

Section 159 The name of the nominating organisation shall be indicated in the same form on all recommendation sheets and ballot papers, irrespective of any changes in the name of the nominating organisation.

77. Implementation of equal opportunities on ballot papers

Section 160 (1) Candidates and lists shall appear on ballot papers in the order determined by the election commission by drawing lots.

(2) The election commission shall draw lots to determine the order of notified candidates and lists, with the exception of candidates and lists whose registration was refused with final and binding effect, after 16.00 on the last day of the time limit for the notification of candidates and lists or on the next day. Lots need not be drawn if there is only one candidate or list.

(3) If, after drawing lots, a candidate or list is not registered or is deregistered, the relative order of candidates and lists on the ballot paper shall not change. Candidates and lists on a ballot paper shall be numbered consecutively.

(4) If there is only one candidate or list on a ballot paper, its serial number need not be indicated on the ballot paper.

Section 161 (1) Data of candidates and nominating organisations shall be indicated on ballot papers in capital letters using the same font and the same font size.

(2) On the ballot paper, the logo of a nominating organisation shall be placed in an area that is twenty millimetres tall and forty millimetres wide.

(3) If the nominating organisations involved in nominating a joint candidate or drawing up a joint list request multiple logos to be indicated on the ballot paper, they shall all be placed in an area that is twenty millimetres tall and forty millimetres wide.

78. Approving the data content of ballot papers

Section 162 (1) The election commission shall be responsible for approving the data content of ballot papers after adopting a conclusive decision on the registration of every notified candidate and list.

(2) If, as a result of a decision on a legal remedy or of deregistration, the content of a ballot paper changes after the approval of its data content, no new approval by the election commission shall be required; the election office shall provide for updating the ballot papers to reflect such changes and inform the election commission as well as the nominating organisations and independent candidates concerned accordingly.

79. Production of ballot papers

Section 163 (1) The National Election Office shall be responsible for producing ballot papers.

(2) Ballot papers shall be affixed with a security feature that can be checked at the polling station.

Section 163/A The National Election Office shall transmit ballot papers to the competent election offices.

80. Handing over documents and equipment for the day of voting

Section 164 (1) On the day before voting day, the local election office shall hand over to the chair of the polling station commission the polling district electoral register, the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box, the ballot papers and other equipment required for voting.

(2) The local election office shall provide for the safekeeping of documents and equipment until voting day.

81. Arrangement of polling stations

Section 165 (1) Polling stations shall be arranged so that

- a) they are easily accessible to voters;
- b) they guarantee the exercise of rights by voters free of any influence;
- c) they ensure the undisturbed operation of polling station commissions.

(2) Polling stations may not be located in a building that is used, in part or in whole, by a candidate or a nominating organisation.

Section 166 In each settlement and in each constituency there shall be at least one polling station where accessibility is ensured.

Section 167 (1) The local election office shall be responsible for setting up polling stations.

(2) To ensure the secrecy of voting, as many polling booths need to be set up in a polling station as required for the smooth conduct of voting, but not less than two.

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(3) At least two ballot boxes shall be placed and at least one mobile ballot box shall be available in a polling station.

(4) Properly fixed pens shall be placed in the polling station and the polling booths for the polling station commission and the voters.

(5) Braille voting template shall be provided in polling stations where there are voters recorded in the polling district electoral register who requested assistance pursuant to section 88 c) not later than the ninth day before voting day.

Chapter X

VOTING

82. Place of voting

Section 168 Voters shall vote in the polling district of their address

a) either at a polling station or

b) by mobile ballot box.

83. Voting period

Section 169 For casting votes at a polling station, the period between 6.00 and 19.00 on voting day shall be available.

84. Voting at a polling station

Section 170 Polling stations shall not be closed during the voting period, and voting shall not be extended or, with the exception of extraordinary events jeopardising the freedom, secrecy or conduct of election, suspended.

Section 171 (1) If the number of members participating in the work of a polling station commission or, in the case of a settlement with a single polling district, the local election commission is less than five, the head of the local election office shall supplement the commission by delegating elected members. If supplementing the commission in this manner is not possible, the head of the regional election office shall ensure supplementation by delegating members from polling station commissions of other settlements.

(2) If the number of polling station commission members present at the polling station falls below three on voting day, or voting becomes impossible due to an event that jeopardises the freedom, secrecy or conduct of election, the polling station commission members present shall immediately suspend voting, seal the ballot boxes and documents and inform without delay the head of the local election office of suspension with a view to ensuring the lawful continuation of voting.

(3) If the number of the elected members participating in the work of a polling station commission is less than three, the head of the local election office may supplement the commission by delegating elected members to bring the number of elected members to three.

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Section 172 (1) Members of polling station commissions shall use only pens that are officially placed in the polling station.

(2) During the period of voting, members of the polling station commission and the election office, not including the keeper of minutes, shall not use any tools suitable for data recording or data transmission in the polling station other than official election documents and the pen referred to in paragraph (1).

Section 173 (1) After the election documents and other equipment are placed, until the voting starts, only members of the polling station commission and the election office, and the international observer may be present in the polling station.

(2) From the start of voting to the closing of voting, only the polling station commission, the keeper of minutes and, if needed, other members of the election office, as well as media content provider representatives and international observers may be present in the polling station.

(3) Voters and their assistants under section 181 (1) may be present in the polling station for the time required for exercising the right to vote.

Section 174 (1) Before the voting starts, the polling station commission, together with the voter voting first, who must not be a member of the polling station commission or the keeper of minutes, shall examine the condition of ballot boxes and check whether they are empty.

(2) Ballot boxes shall be sealed in the presence of the voter voting first in such a manner that ballot papers cannot be taken out of them without taking the ballot box apart.

(3) Subsequently, the polling station commission members present and the voter voting first shall certify, signing the polling district minutes, that the ballot boxes were sealed empty and in accordance with the rules.

(4) The polling station commission shall place a control sheet in the mobile ballot box containing the time and date of the placement of the control sheet and the signatures of the members of the polling station commission present and of the voter voting first.

(5) Voting shall not commence before the ballot boxes are certified.

Section 175 (1) Only voters who are on the printed copy of the polling district electoral register shall be allowed to vote at the polling station.

(2) Also the voters who are registered on the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box shall be allowed to vote at the polling station, provided that the list is in the polling station.

Section 176 (1) Voters shall provide proof of their identity by furnishing an official verification card suitable for verifying identity issued by a Hungarian authority. Nationals of another Member State of the European Union may verify their identity also by furnishing a passport or other identity card issued by the competent authority of the Member State of their nationality.

(2)

(3) The polling station commission shall verify whether the citizen is on the printed copy of the polling district electoral register.

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(4) A digital document within the meaning of the Digital Citizenship Act shall not be applicable for the purposes of this section.

Section 177 (1) The polling station commission shall refuse a voter who

- a) cannot verify his identity,
- b) is not on the printed copy of the polling district electoral register,
- c) has already voted,
- d) refuses to confirm having received the ballot paper pursuant to section 179.

(2) The keeper of minutes shall keep a separate list of refused voters; refusals shall not require the form of a conclusive decision by the polling station commission.

Section 178 (1) If no obstacle to voting exists, the polling station commission shall, on the basis of the polling district electoral register, hand over to the voter the ballot paper, place a stamp in its top left corner in the presence of the voter, and shall hand over the envelope for the ballot paper, if the voter so requests.

(2) The polling station commission shall, where necessary, explain the voting process without influencing the voter.

(3) Where a candidate on a candidate ballot paper drops out, or a list is eliminated, after the fourteenth day prior to voting but before voting day, and ballot papers have already been produced, the polling station commission shall inform the voters to that effect in a notice displayed in the polling station, and, if necessary, orally. The local election office before voting day, or the polling station commission on voting day, shall cross out on the ballot paper the names of drop-out candidates or eliminated lists.

Section 179 (1) Voters shall confirm the receipt of the ballot paper by signing the printed copy of the polling district electoral register or, in the situations referred to in section 175 (2), the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box in their own hand.

(2) For a voter who is unable to write, two members of the polling station commission shall sign the electoral register, recording this fact in the register.

Section 180 (1) There shall be polling booths at the disposal of voters for filling in the ballot paper. The polling station commission shall advise, but may not oblige, voters to use the polling booth.

(2) With the exception specified in section 181 (1), only the voting voter may stay inside the polling booth when filling in the ballot paper.

(3) While staying in the polling station, voters shall in no way impede other voters in exercising their right to secret ballot.

Section 181 (1) Voters who cannot read or are prevented from voting by a physical handicap or due to any other reason may use the assistance of a person of their choice or, for lack of such assistants, the joint assistance of two members of the polling station commission.

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(2) In polling districts under section 167 (5), visually impaired voters may use braille voting templates to facilitate voting. The polling station commission shall place the ballot paper of the voter in the voting template before handing it over to the voter. After voting, the voter shall remove the ballot paper from the template, he may put it in an envelope, and he shall drop it in the ballot box, and hand back the voting template to the polling station commission.

Section 182 (1) Voters shall drop the ballot paper in the ballot box in such a way as to preserving secrecy.

(2) If a voter gives notice, before placing the ballot paper in the ballot box, that he filled in the ballot paper erroneously, the polling station commission shall withdraw the spoilt ballot paper, shall put it into an envelope reserved for this specific purpose and issue a new ballot paper in place of the spoilt one. The polling station commission may issue a new ballot paper in place of a spoilt one only once for each voter and for each type of ballot paper.

Section 183 Voters standing in queue at 19.00 shall be allowed to vote. Subsequently, the polling station commission shall close the voting.

85. Voting by mobile ballot box

Section 184 (1) Within the territory of the polling district, two members of the polling station commission shall take the mobile ballot box to voters who are registered on the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box.

(2) If a voter has been transferred from the polling district electoral register of his address to the electoral register of another polling district pursuant to section 102 (3) and he asks for a mobile ballot box to be taken to his address in accordance with section 103 (2) b) ba) or c), two members of the polling station commission shall take the mobile ballot box to the address of the voter outside the territory of the polling district.

(3) To replace any spoilt ballot papers, the two members of the polling station commission shall take with them for voting by mobile ballot box ten more ballot papers than the number of voters concerned.

(4) For voting by mobile ballot box, the polling station commission shall stamp ballot papers in advance at the polling station.

(5) The members of the polling station commission shall, upon return to the polling station, make unfit for use, and pack separately, any ballot papers stamped in advance that were not used for voting by mobile ballot box.

(6) Voting by mobile ballot box shall be organised in a manner that ensures that the members of the polling station commission return to the polling station with the mobile ballot box by 19.00.

Section 185 (1) The provisions of sections 175 to 182 shall apply accordingly to voting by mobile ballot box with the proviso that instead of the electoral register, the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box shall be used.

(2) Instead of a polling booth, conditions ensuring the secrecy of voting shall be provided to voters.

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86. Voting process

Section 186 (1) Valid votes may only be cast for candidates or lists that are on the official ballot paper.

(2) Valid votes may only be cast by drawing two intersecting lines in the circle beside the name of the candidate, or above the name of the list, using a pen.

Chapter XI

ESTABLISHING THE RESULT

87. Publicity of vote counting

Section 187 (1) When votes are counted, only the polling station commission, the keeper of minutes and, if needed, other members of the election office, as well as media content provider representatives and international observers may be present in the polling station.

(2) The nominating organisations and independent candidates that do not have a delegated member in the local election commission may each delegate an observer to observe the recounting of votes.

88. Vote counting

Section 188 The polling station commission shall count the votes cast at the polling station and by mobile ballot box without delay after the voting is closed.

Section 189 The polling station commission shall count unused and spoilt ballot papers first and pack them separately.

Section 190 The polling station commission shall establish the number of voters who turned up to vote on the basis of the polling district electoral register and the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box.

Section 191 (1) The polling station commission shall verify that a ballot box is intact before opening it; then it shall open the ballot box.

(2) If the control sheet is not found in a mobile ballot box, all ballot papers in the mobile ballot box concerned shall be invalid. In such a situation, the ballot papers concerned shall be counted and packed separately.

Section 192 With the exception of ballot papers invalid under section 191, the polling station commission shall mix the ballot papers from the ballot boxes with those from the mobile ballot box, and count them.

Section 193 (1) A ballot paper shall be invalid if

- a) it bears no official stamp;
- b) it contains more votes than specified by law; or

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c) it contains no valid vote.

(2) A vote shall be invalid if

a) it was cast in a manner other than that specified in section 186 (2),

b) it was cast for a drop-out candidate or eliminated list.

(3) Additional invalid votes within the meaning of paragraph (2), or any comments, such as changing the order of candidates and lists, crossing out the name of a candidate or a list, or adding a name or a list, on a ballot paper shall not affect the validity of a vote that otherwise meets all requirements.

Section 194 The polling station commission shall group invalid ballot papers separately and count them. The cause of invalidity shall be written on the back of the ballot paper, and it shall be signed by the members of the polling station commission present. The polling station commission shall pack invalid ballot papers separately.

Section 195 Valid votes shall be counted separately for each candidate and list, and then the ballot papers shall be packed. The number of valid votes per candidate and per list shall be written on the package.

Section 196 Ballot papers and votes shall be counted at least twice. Counting shall be repeated until the result is the same as the result of a previous count.

Section 197 If the number of ballot papers with an official stamp that are found in a ballot box exceeds the number of voters who turned up to vote, the polling station commission shall declare invalid a number of votes cast for each candidate and each list equal to the number of surplus votes.

Section 198 (1) The polling station commission shall seal the packages containing the ballot papers in the polling station after vote counting in such a way that ballot papers cannot be taken out of, or put into, them without damaging the packaging. The serial number of the polling district and the designation and number of ballot papers in the package shall be written on the package. The polling station commission members present shall certify the package by signing and stamping it.

(2) The sealed packages containing the ballot papers shall be locked in boxes. The boxes and the packages containing the ballot papers shall be allowed to be opened only for the purposes of legal remedy proceedings or the recounting of votes.

89. Establishing the result in polling districts

Section 199 After counting the votes, the polling station commission shall establish the result of the election in the polling district.

90. Establishing the election result

Section 200 The election commissions, not including polling station commissions, shall establish the election result in a conclusive decision. The minutes on the result shall be annexed to the conclusive decision.

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Section 201 When establishing the result of list voting, lists shall be considered in the order determined in accordance with the result of the drawing lots under section 160 (1).

91. Minutes

Section 202 (1) Minutes shall be drawn up on the results in the polling districts and the election results.

(2) Minutes shall be made in two copies signed by the election commission members present.

(3) After the minutes are filled in, the keeper of minutes of the polling station commission shall, without delay, transfer the data content of the polling district minutes to the local election office, which shall record the data content in the election information system.

(4) The chair of the competent election commission shall hand over a copy of the minutes to each of the delegated members of the election commission at their request, at the polling station, without delay and free of charge. After copying, the chair of the election commission shall certify the copy with a stamp and his signature.

Section 203 (1) After the vote counting is completed and the minutes are filled in, the polling station commission shall, without delay, transport the minutes, election documents, forms and ballot papers to the local election office, which shall record the data content of the polling district minutes in the election information system.

(2) After the voting is closed, election offices shall publish informational data containing the uncertified election results.

Section 204 A copy of the minutes may be inspected at the competent election office for three days following voting day.

Section 205 (1) The ballot papers shall be placed at the local election office, and shall be retained until destroyed in such a manner that unauthorised persons cannot access them. If there is a criminal proceeding regarding election results, the ballot papers concerned shall be retained until the case is closed with final and binding effect.

(2) The first copy of the minutes shall be handed over to the National Archives of Hungary after ninety days.

92. Credentials

Section 206 (1) The election commission that established the election result shall issue the credentials to the representative-elect within five days after the election result becoming final and binding or after the legal remedy proceedings that could lead to the repetition of voting are concluded with final and binding effect, whichever is later.

(2) If a vacancy is filled without holding a by-election, the credentials shall be issued to the representative within five working days after the conclusive decision on allocating the mandate becoming final and binding.

(3) The election commission may delegate its powers under paragraphs (1) and (2) to the chair of the election commission.

93. Registration of representatives

Section 207 (1) The National Election Office shall keep records on elected representatives.

(2) The election office at the election commission that issued credentials shall transfer to the register of representatives any changes in the person of the representative concerned between general elections.

(3) The National Election Office shall continuously update, on the basis of data from the central electoral register, the data of representatives set out in points a) to g) of Annex 9 during the term of their mandate, and inform, without delay, the election commission that issued the credentials of any deregistration from the central electoral register other than a deregistration under section 97 (3) and of a loss of the right to stand as a candidate at elections.

(4) A representative who is deregistered from the central electoral register under section 97 (3) need not be deregistered from the register of representatives.

(5) The chair of the election commission that issued the credentials shall provide information of the loss of suffrage of the representative concerned in a notice sent to

a) the Speaker of the National Assembly if that representative is a Member of the National Assembly,

b) the President of the European Parliament if that representative is a Member of the European Parliament,

c) the head of a mayor's office or joint local government office if that representative is a local government representative or mayor,

d) the president of the national minority self-government if that representative is a national minority self-government representative.

(6) The data set out in points c) to e) of Annex 9 shall be deregistered from the register of representatives after the expiry of fifteen years from the termination of the mandate.

93/A Filling a list vacancy

Section 207/A (1) If a representative elected from a list drops out, the candidate to whom the mandate is allocated in place of the drop-out candidate shall be notified to the election commission by the nominating organisation no later than the thirtieth day from the seat becoming vacant.

(2) If the National Election Office deregisters a nominating organisation involved in drawing up a joint list from the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists, the candidate who obtains mandate shall be notified by the other nominating organisations involved in drawing up the joint list.

(3) If the National Election Office deregisters the nominating organisation drawing up the list or all nominating organisations involved in drawing up the joint list from the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists, vacancy shall be filled by the next candidate on the list.

Chapter XII

LEGAL REMEDY

94. Submitting objections

Section 208 Objections may be submitted by voters recorded in the central electoral register, candidates, nominating organisations and natural and legal persons and organisations without legal personality affected by the case, referencing a breach of the laws on the election or the fundamental principles of election and election procedure (hereinafter “violation”).

Section 209 (1) Objections shall be submitted so that they are received by the election commission competent to assess the objections not later than the third day after the commission of the objected violation.

(2) In the case of an on-going activity, the objection may be submitted during the entire period of the objected activity. The time limit for legal remedy shall be calculated not from the start of the objected activity, but from the last point in time when the objected situation still exists.

(3) For printed press products, the time of the commission of the violation shall be the day of the publication of the press product. In this case, the provisions of paragraph (2) shall not apply.

Section 210 (1) Objections against the operation of an election office shall be assessed by the election commission at which the election office concerned operates.

(2) If there is no election commission under paragraph (1) at the election, the election commission at which the superior election office of the election office concerned operates shall assess the objection.

Section 211 Objections may be submitted against the activities and decisions of the polling station commission, except for the decision establishing the polling district result.

Section 212 (1) Objections shall be submitted in writing.

(2) Objections shall include the following:

a) description of the violation,

b) evidence for the violation,

c) name and address (seat) of the submitter of the objection,

d) personal identifier of the submitter of the objection, or, for a voter with no address in Hungary who lives abroad and has no personal identifier, the type and number of his official identity verification card, or, for a nominating organisation or other organisation, its court registration number or treasury register number, and

e) signature of the submitter of the objection for a paper-based application.

(3) Objections may include the email address or postal contact address of the submitter.

95. Transfer of objections

Section 213 (1) If an election commission deems that it is not competent to assess an objection, it shall transfer, in a minuted decision, the case to the election commission competent to assess it not later than the day following the day of receipt. Election commissions shall be obliged to proceed in cases transferred to them.

(2) The election commission may delegate, in a minuted decision, its powers under paragraph (1) to the chair of the commission.

(3) If the election commission or the chair of the election commission does not transfer the case to the competent election commission, the election commission concerned shall be obliged to proceed in the case.

(4) If the objection is transferred, the date on which the first election commission received the objection shall be decisive when examining whether the objection was submitted within the relevant time limit.

(5) If the National Election Commission finds that it has no subject-matter competence regarding an objection transferred to it, it may arrange for the transfer of the objection to the competent election commission not later than the day following the day of transfer.

96. Assessing objections

Section 214 (1) The election commission shall decide on submitted objections not later than the third day of receipt or, for transferred objections, of receipt by the election commission competent to assess the objection.

(2) The National Election Commission shall decide on an objection regarding the violation of election campaign rules on general election day not later than the fifth day after it receives it.

(3) The election commission shall make a decision within fifteen days after the submission of an objection if the application relates to an election other than one the date for which has already been set, but the result of which has not yet become final and binding.

Section 215 An objection shall be rejected without examination as to its merits if

- a) it was submitted by a person other than a person entitled to do so under section 208,
- b) it is submitted late,
- c) it does not contain the elements required by section 212 (2), or
- d) no election commission has the power to assess it.

Section 216 Objections may be withdrawn until the conclusive decision of the election commission is adopted; however, the election commission may continue to proceed *ex officio*.

Section 217 (1) The election commission may order the joining of cases pending before it concerning connected subjects for joint examination and assessment.

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(2) If another objection is submitted in a case that has been assessed on the merits by the election commission, and it does not contain any evidence that has not been previously evaluated by the election commission, the chair of the election commission shall send to the submitter of the objection a copy, without any personal data, of the conclusive decision by the election commission, and shall inform accordingly the election commission at its next sitting.

(3) The election commission shall acknowledge the information by the chair in a minuted decision or, if the conditions under paragraph (2) are not met, it shall adopt a conclusive decision on the merits of the case.

Section 218 (1) The election commission shall decide on objections on the basis of available information.

(2) If the election commission grants the objection,

a) it shall establish the violation,

b) it shall order the violator to cease the violation,

c) it shall annul and have repeated the election process or the part of it affected by the legal remedy,

d) it may impose a fine for the violation of the rules of the election campaign or for a breach of an obligation under section 155.

Section 219 (1) In deciding whether it is justified to impose a fine and in determining the fine amount, the election commission shall consider all circumstances of the case, and in particular the number of people affected by, the gravity of, the territory affected by and the recurring nature of the violation. If the violation was evidently intentional, this fact shall be taken into account when determining the fine amount.

(2) The maximum fine amount shall be five times the monthly amount of the mandatory minimum wage for natural persons, and fifteen times the monthly amount of the mandatory minimum wage in any other case.

(3) If the person liable for its payment did not pay a fine within fifteen days of the conclusive decision imposing the fine becoming final and binding, the National Election Office shall, after the expiry without result of a time limit set in a call for voluntary performance, request the state tax authority to collect the outstanding amount of the fine as public dues to be collected as tax, provided that the amount of the debt per person liable for payment reaches or exceeds the threshold specified in section 106 (1) of Act CLIII of 2017 on enforcement procedures to be effectuated by the tax authority.

(4) The right to enforce fine debt shall lapse after four years from the last day of the calendar year in which the due date fell; the state tax authority shall issue a procedural decision thereon. The National Election Office may, without a call for voluntary performance, waive the claims of the State that lapsed under a procedural decision and the claims of the State that do not reach the threshold referred to in paragraph (3).

Section 220 If the election commission does not grant an objection, it shall dismiss it.

97. Appeals

Section 221 (1) Natural and legal persons and organisations without a legal personality affected by the case may submit an appeal challenging a first-instance conclusive decision by the election commission.

(2) Minuted decisions, conclusive decisions adopted by the election commission of second instance, and conclusive decisions adopted by the National Election Commission shall not be subject to appeal.

98. Judicial review

Section 222 (1) Natural and legal persons and organisations without a legal personality affected by the case may submit a judicial review application against a second-instance conclusive decision by the election commission and a conclusive decision adopted by the National Election Commission.

(2) Judicial review shall be conducted only if in the election process, the right of appeal is exhausted or appeals are excluded by the provisions of this Act.

(3) Minuted decisions shall not be subject to judicial review.

99. Submitting appeals and judicial review applications

Section 223 (1) Appeals shall be submitted in writing, while judicial review applications shall be submitted in person, by mail or as an electronic document signed, using a qualified electronic signature, by the legal representative of the submitter or, in the cases specified in section 224 (5), by the submitter. If a judicial review application is submitted as an electronic document, the applicant shall convert the page-for-page copies of its annexes into electronic deeds.

(2) The election commission that proceeded in the case concerned and its members shall not submit appeals and judicial review applications.

(3) Appeals and judicial review applications may be submitted

a) with reference to a violation and

b) against a conclusive decision adopted by the election commission within its discretionary power.

Section 224 (1) Appeals and judicial review applications shall be submitted to the election commission that adopted the challenged conclusive decision.

(2) Appeals and judicial review applications shall be submitted so that they are received by the election commission referred to in paragraph (1) not later than the third day after the adoption of the challenged conclusive decision.

(3) Appeals and judicial review applications shall include the following:

a) grounds for the application under section 223 (3),

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b) name and address (seat) of the submitter of the application,

c) personal identifier of the submitter of the application, or, for a voter with no address in Hungary who lives abroad and has no personal identifier, the type and number of his official identity verification card, or, for a nominating organisation or other organisation, its court registration number or treasury register number, and

d) signature of the submitter of the application for a paper-based application.

(4) Appeals and judicial review applications may include the email address or postal contact address of the submitter.

(5) In a judicial review proceeding, representation by an attorney-at-law shall be mandatory. A person who has passed the professional examination in law, attaching a simple copy of his professional examination certificate, may proceed in his own cases without being represented by an attorney-at-law.

Section 225 In an appeal or judicial review application new facts and evidence may also be put forward.

Section 226 The election office shall refer, on the day of receipt, the appeal, together with all documents of the case, to the election commission entitled to assess the appeal.

Section 227 (1) The election office shall refer, no later than by 9.00 on the day following receipt, the judicial review application, together with all documents of the case, to the court entitled to adjudicate it.

(2)

100. Adjudication of appeals, judicial review applications, and constitutional complaints related to elections

Section 228 (1) The election commission entitled to assess an appeal shall decide on the appeal not later than the third day following receipt.

(1a) The election commission shall decide within fifteen days after the submission of an appeal if the application relates to an election other than one the date for which has already been set, but the result of which has not yet become final and binding.

(2) The court shall decide on a judicial review application not later than the third day from receipt. The provisions of the Act on the Code of Administrative Court Procedure shall apply accordingly to the proceedings of the court, with the derogations specified in this Act.

(3) The court shall decide within fifteen days after the receipt of a judicial review application if the application relates to an election other than one the date for which has already been set, but the result of which has not yet become final and binding.

Section 229 (1) The Curia shall adjudicate judicial review applications.

(2) The court, sitting as a panel of three professional judges, shall decide upon a judicial review application in a non-contentious proceeding.

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Section 230 Appeals and judicial review applications may be withdrawn until the decision of the election commission or the court is adopted; however, the election commission may continue to proceed in the appeal proceeding *ex officio*.

Section 230/A The election commission may assess appeals filed against the same first-instance conclusive decision in a single procedure.

Section 231 (1) An appeal or a judicial review application shall be rejected without examination as to its merits if

a) it was submitted by a person other than a person entitled to do so under section 221 (1) or section 222 (1),

b) it is submitted late,

c) it was submitted to an election commission other than the one under section 224 (1),

d) it does not contain the elements required by section 224 (3).

(2) Judicial review applications submitted in violation of the provision under section 224 (5) shall also be rejected without examination as to their merits.

(3) An appeal or a judicial review application shall not be rejected if the person entitled to submit it submits, within the relevant time limit, the appeal to the election commission entitled to assess it or the judicial review application to the court entitled to adjudicate it. In such a situation, the election office at the election commission entitled to assess the appeal or the court shall, without delay, provide for obtaining the documents.

(4) The election commission entitled to assess the appeal and the court shall, acting on the basis of the appeal or the judicial review application, respectively, examine the objected conclusive decision and the underlying proceeding.

(5) The election commission or the court shall either

a) uphold or

b) amend

the challenged conclusive decision.

Section 232 (1) The election commission of second instance shall communicate the conclusive decision adopted in the appeal procedure to

a) the appellant,

b) those on whom the decision confers rights or imposes obligations and

c) those to whom the first-instance decision was communicated.

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(2) After the conclusive decision becomes final and binding, the election commission of second instance shall send back to the election commission of first instance the documents received for assessing the appeal together with the conclusive decision.

(3) The court shall communicate the decision adopted in the judicial review proceeding to

a) the applicant,

b) those on whom the decision confers rights or imposes obligations and

c) those to whom the second-instance decision was communicated.

(4) Except for personal data, the court shall make its decision public. The name of the candidate and the nominating organisation shall be made public in the decision.

(5) No further legal remedy shall lie against decisions by the court.

(6) After the expiry without result of the time limit available for filing a constitutional complaint or, if a constitutional complaint was filed, after the documents are returned by the Constitutional Court, the court shall send back to the election commission that adopted the conclusive decision subject to review the documents received for adjudicating the judicial review application, together with its decision.

Section 233 (1) The time limit for submitting to the Constitutional Court a constitutional complaint against a court decision adopted, in accordance with this Act, in a legal remedy proceeding relating to the conclusive decision of an election body shall be three days from the adoption of the objected conclusive decision.

(2) The Constitutional Court shall decide on a constitutional complaint against a court decision adopted, in accordance with this Act, in a legal remedy proceeding relating to the conclusive decision of an election body within five days of receipt.

(3) Section 30 (2), (3) and (5), section 55 (3), section 56, section 57 (1) to (1f) and (7), section 58 (1) and section (60) of Act CLI of 2011 on the Constitutional Court shall not apply to a proceeding concerning a constitutional complaint against a court decision adopted, in accordance with this Act, in a legal remedy proceeding relating to a conclusive decision by an election body.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) to (3) shall not apply if the application relates to an election other than one the date for which has already been set, but the result of which was not yet final and binding at the time of the adoption of the conclusive decision of the election body.

101. Legal remedy regarding the arrangement and review of polling districts

Section 234 (1) An appeal challenging a conclusive decision by the head of the local election office on the arrangement and review of polling districts shall be submitted to the head of the local election office during the period for which the conclusive decision is published.

(2) The head of the local election office shall refer the appeal to the head of the regional election office, who shall assess it within three days and either modify the division of polling districts or dismiss the appeal.

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(3) No further legal remedy shall lie against the conclusive decision by the head of the regional election office.

102. Legal remedy regarding the electoral register

Section 235 (1) An appeal challenging a decision by the National Election Office regarding the central electoral register shall be submitted not later than the thirtieth day from its adoption.

(2) An appeal challenging a decision by the election office regarding the polling district electoral register shall be submitted not later than the third day following

a) the receipt of the notification about the decision,

b) the adoption of the decision where communication takes place in accordance with section 13/E (2) a) ab),

c) the publication of the public notice on the website where communication takes place by public notice in accordance with section 13/E (2a),

but by 14.00 on the second day before voting day at the latest.

Section 236 (1) An appeal regarding the electoral register shall be submitted to the election office that adopted the challenged decision.

(2) Appeals shall be submitted in writing.

(3) Appeals shall contain the following:

a) reference to the violation of rights or interests directly arising from the decision,

b) name, address, and place and date of birth of the submitter of the application, and

c) number to identify the challenged decision.

(4) The absence of data referred to in paragraph (3) b) or c) shall not result in the dismissal of the appeal without examination as to its merits, provided that the submitter of the application and the challenged decision are identifiable.

(5) The head of the election office shall decide on the appeal

a) not later than the fifteenth day after its receipt if it does not affect the polling district electoral register or the postal voter electoral register,

b) not later than

ba) the second working day after receipt if the appeal is received at the latest on the twenty-fifth day prior to voting,

bb) the first working day after receipt, but not later than by 15.00 on the third day before voting, if the appeal is received after the twenty-fifth day prior to voting,

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and it affects the polling district electoral register or the postal voter electoral register.

(6) If the head of the election office grants the appeal, he shall withdraw or modify the decision.

(7) If the head of the election office does not grant the appeal, he shall refer the appeal to the Budapest-Capital Regional Court not later than the last day of the time limit for its assessment.

(8) The Budapest-Capital Regional Court shall decide on the appeal not later than the fifteenth day after its receipt or, for a decision adopted after the election date has been set, on the third day after its receipt, but on the day before voting day at the latest. Representation by an attorney-at-law shall not be mandatory in the proceedings. The Budapest-Capital Regional Court shall sit as a single judge.

(9) If the Budapest-Capital Regional Court finds the appeal well-founded, it shall modify the decision; otherwise, it shall dismiss the appeal.

Section 237 An appeal shall be dismissed if the submitter bases it on facts that contradict data in the register of personal data and address of citizens, the relevant register according to the official identity verification card and the register of citizens without suffrage.

Section 238 The conclusive decision by the head of the election office shall be communicated to the person concerned and the person who submitted the appeal; the decision by the court shall be communicated also to the head of the election office that adopted the challenged conclusive decision.

103. Legal remedy regarding the drawing of lots to determine the order of candidates and lists

Section 239 No independent legal remedy shall lie against the drawing of lots under section 160, not including drawing lots to determine the order of compensatory lists. Legal remedy regarding the lawfulness of the drawing of lots may be sought as part of a judicial review application against the approval of the data content of the ballot paper.

104. Legal remedy against the approval of the data content of ballot papers

Section 240 (1) A conclusive decision by the election commission regarding the approval of the data content of the ballot paper shall not be subject to appeal.

(2) A judicial review application against a conclusive decision by the election commission regarding the approval of the data content of the ballot paper shall be submitted so that it is received by the election commission that adopted the challenged conclusive decision not later than the day after the adoption of the conclusive decision by the election commission. The judicial review application shall be adjudicated by the Curia. The court shall decide on the judicial review application not later than the day following referral.

105. Legal remedy against election results

Section 241 (1) A legal remedy against the decision by a polling station commission establishing the polling district result shall be available only together with an appeal challenging the decision by the election commission establishing the election result.

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(2) Appeals challenging the decision by the election commission establishing the election result may be submitted only with reference to

a) the unlawfulness of the decision by the polling station commission establishing the polling district result, or

b) a violation of the rules on aggregating polling district results and establishing the election result.

(3) If an appeal submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) a) may be assessed only if the votes are recounted, the election commission assessing the appeal or the court adjudicating the judicial review application shall order the recounting of votes within three days.

(4) Recounting of votes shall be carried out by the local election commission within three days after it is ordered, but not later than by 12.00 on the sixth day following the receipt of the application for legal remedy; the local election commission may make use of the assistance of the members of the local election office for the purpose of recounting the votes.

(5) The local election commission shall include the results of recounting into a minuted decision and shall transmit it without delay to the election commission or court that ordered the recounting. If the votes are recounted, the time limit available for assessing the appeal or adjudicating the judicial review application shall be six days.

106. Legal remedy due to the silence of an election body

Section 242 (1) If an election body fails to discharge its procedural obligations within the relevant time limit, the superior election body shall, within three days of receiving an objection to that effect or of officially becoming aware of the fact, establish the fact that a violation occurred, and, as necessary,

a) instruct the election body on the part of which the omission arose to conduct the proceeding as a matter of priority, or

b) adopt the omitted decision itself.

(2) If the National Election Commission fails to discharge its procedural obligations within the relevant time limit, the Curia shall, within three days of receiving an objection to that effect, establish the fact that a violation occurred, and instruct the National Election Commission to conduct the proceeding as a matter of priority.

(3) If the National Election Commission fails to discharge its obligation to establish the election result within two days of being instructed by the Curia pursuant to paragraph (2), the Curia shall establish, within two days, the election result on the basis of the minutes. The provisions of section 233 shall apply accordingly to constitutional complaints challenging the decision of the Curia.

(4) Regarding the time limits referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2), also the provisions of section 214 (3) and section 228 (1a) and (3) shall apply.

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SPECIAL PART
Chapter XIII

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Section 243 Chapters I to XII of this Act shall apply to the elections of the Members of the National Assembly with the derogations specified in this Chapter.

107. Setting the election date

Section 244 (1) The National Election Commission shall set the date for the by-election of the Members of the National Assembly, taking account of the recommendation by the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission.

(2) If the election commission or the court orders postal voting to be repeated, it shall set, in its decision on having the voting repeated, the date for repeated voting to a date between the fortieth and fiftieth day after the date of the voting to be repeated.

108. Election bodies

Section 245 (1) The following election commissions shall operate in the election of the Members of the National Assembly:

a) the National Election Commission,

b) regional election commissions,

c) parliamentary single-member constituency election commissions,

d) local election commissions,

e) polling station commissions.

(2) With the exception of the national self-governments of national minorities, nominating organisations entitled to delegate members to the National Election Commission may delegate up to five observers to the National Election Office to verify the lawfulness of voting document check and the counting of votes. Members of the election commission or election office shall not be observers.

(3) Only voters recorded in the central electoral register who have taken the oath or the affirmation before the chair of the election commission reciting the wording laid down in the Act on the oath and affirmation of certain public law officers may serve as observers. The provisions of section 5 (3), (4) a), b) and d), and (5) shall, in other respects, apply to observers.

(4) If the head of the local election office divides the electoral register into several parts pursuant to section 257/A, the nominating organisations and independent candidates that delegate members to the polling station commission concerned may delegate further members to the polling station commission by 16.00 on the second day before voting day in a manner to have

a) not more than one delegated member per location in a situation under section 257/A (1) a),

b) not more than two delegated members per polling sub-district in a situation under section 257/A (1) b).

(5) The head of the local election office shall notify without delay those entitled to delegate of the option set out in paragraph (4).

(6) The head of the local election office may complement a polling station commission by adding the necessary number of members for the performance of the task laid out in section 292 (4).

109. Arrangement of polling districts

Section 246 In settlements with more than one parliamentary single-member constituency, the polling district under section 78 (1) shall be designated in the parliamentary single-member constituency in which the seat of the mayor's office or joint local government office is located.

110. The polling district electoral register

Section 247 (1) The printed polling district electoral register shall not contain data on voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register and, with the exception set out in section 257 (1b), in the postal voter electoral register.

(2) For absentee voters, the polling district electoral register shall contain, in addition to their data, also a reference to the parliamentary single-member constituency of their address in Hungary.

(3) In a request for a mobile ballot box, the absentee voter shall specify the address within the territory of the settlement to which he requests the mobile ballot box to be taken.

Section 248 Where, on the basis of a request to that effect submitted by the voter not later than the ninth day before voting day, a voter is recorded in the central electoral register as national minority voter also for the election of the Members of the National Assembly, the poll card and the polling district electoral register shall contain a reference to the national minority the voter belongs to.

Section 249 (1) Data relating to the belonging to a national minority of a voter shall be deleted from the polling district electoral register if, on the basis of a request by him to that effect received by the third day before voting at the latest, the National Election Office deletes from the central electoral register the voter's belonging to a national minority, or the National Election Office modifies the voter's data in the central electoral register so that his registration as national minority voter does not apply to the electoral register for the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

(2) A request under paragraph (1) that has been submitted on the third before voting day shall be assessed immediately, but within not more than one hour.

(3) The National Election Office shall delete from the polling district electoral register the data relating to the belonging to a national minority of voters if the national minority in question does not have a national minority list.

Section 249/A In a situation under section 257 (1b), the printed polling district electoral register and the printed list of voters who requested mobile ballot box shall specify that the voter is only allowed to vote on single-member constituency ballot paper.

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111. Requesting absentee voting

Section 250 (1) A voter recorded in the polling district electoral register of his address may submit a request for absentee voting if, on voting day, he stays within the territory of a polling district within the territory of Hungary other than the polling district of his address in Hungary.

(2) Requests for absentee voting shall be submitted not later than the ninth day before voting day.

(3) A request for absentee voting shall specify the settlement in which the voter wishes to vote.

(4) On the basis of the request, the National Election Office shall deregister the voter from the polling district electoral register of his address and, at the same time, enter the voter into the electoral register of the polling district designated under section 78 of the settlement specified under paragraph (3) or in the case of a settlement with a single polling district, in the electoral register of the polling district.

(5) A voter who requested absentee voting

a) may, within the time limit under paragraph (2), modify or

b) may, on the third day before voting at the latest, withdraw

his request for absentee voting.

(6) If, within the time limit under paragraph (2),

a) a voter requests a mobile ballot box to an address that is not in the polling district in the electoral register of which he is recorded, or

b) a voter who requested absentee voting requests a mobile ballot box to an address that is not in the settlement in the electoral register of which he is recorded,

his request shall be considered also a request for absentee voting or a request to modify his request for absentee voting. In such a situation, the National Election Office shall decide on both the request for absentee voting and the request for mobile ballot box.

(7) In the absence of a statement providing otherwise, if a voter who submitted requests for both absentee voting and mobile ballot box withdraws his request for mobile ballot box, he shall be registered in the electoral register of the polling district at the location of absentee voting. In the absence of a statement providing otherwise, if a request for mobile ballot box under paragraph (6) is withdrawn, the voter shall be registered in the electoral register of the polling district of his address.

(8) In a joint proceeding, a request for absentee voting shall apply to all elections of the joint proceeding.

112. Electoral register for repeated voting

Section 251 If the election commission or the court orders a voting to be repeated in a polling district, voters who at the voting to be repeated were recorded in the foreign mission electoral

register or the postal voter electoral register shall not be recorded in the polling district electoral register for the repeated voting.

113. Notifying candidates

Section 252 (1) Single-member constituency candidates shall be notified not later than the thirty-seventh day before voting day.

(2) The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall register single-member constituency candidates.

(3) When nominating a joint candidate, it shall be specified in the notification, which nominating organisation the candidate belongs to in terms of budget support for political parties.

(4) The candidate of a nominating organisation shall also make a statement that he undertakes to return party subsidies within the meaning of section 1 of the Act on the transparency of campaign costs related to the election of the Members of the National Assembly in case such debts cannot be collected from the political party.

114. Notifying national lists

Section 253 (1) National lists shall be notified not later than the thirty-sixth day before voting day.

(2) The National Election Commission shall register the national lists not later than the second day after the day of notification.

(3) When drawing up a joint list, it shall be specified in the notification for each candidate, which nominating organisation that candidate belongs to in terms of budget support for political parties.

(4) The candidate included in a nominating organisation shall also make a statement that he undertakes to return party subsidies within the meaning of the Act on the transparency of campaign costs related to the election of the Members of the National Assembly in case such debts cannot be collected from the political party.

Section 254 (1) For drawing up a party list, the number of the single-member constituency candidates of the nominating organisation that have been notified by the date of registration of the list shall be taken into account, with the exception of candidates whose registration was refused by the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission.

(2) The National Election Office shall deregister a party list from the register if the total number of the single-member constituency candidates of the nominating organisation who are registered with final and binding effect and not deregistered and of those who are notified but not yet assessed with final and binding effect does not reach the minimum number determined in the Act on the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

(3)

Section 255 (1) The provisions of section 120 (1) to (2) and sections 121 to 127 shall apply to recommending a national minority list. National minority lists may be recommended by voters who are recorded in the central electoral register as national minority voters also for the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

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(2) For establishing the number of voters recorded in the electoral register as voters of a particular national minority, the voters who on the fiftieth day before voting day are recorded in the central electoral register as national minority voters also for the election of the Members of the National Assembly shall be taken into account.

(3) The National Election Office shall transmit, free of charge, to the national self-government of the national minority registered with final and binding effect as a nominating organisation the name, address, age and sex of voters who are listed in the central electoral register as voters of the national minority also for the election of the Members of the National Assembly

a) at the time of handing over the recommendation sheet,

b) at the request of the nominating organisation on the thirty-eighth and thirteenth day before voting day, with the exception of data of voters who prohibited the release of their data under section 89 (1).

(4) Data provided pursuant to paragraph (3) a) shall only be used for gathering recommendations, while data provided pursuant to paragraph (3) b) shall only be used for direct political campaigning. The provisions of section 155 and section 218 (2) d) shall also apply to processing the data provided.

115. Content of the ballot paper

Section 256 (1) Separate ballot papers shall be used for single-member constituency and national party list voting and, for each national minority, for national minority list voting.

(2) Postal ballot papers shall include the circular text "*levélben szavazás szavazólapja*" ("ballot paper for postal voting") written in the area for stamps.

(3) When drawing lots to determine the serial number of the lists, party lists and national minority lists shall be handled together. Party lists shall be listed on national party list ballot papers in the order determined this way by the drawing of lots, but on the ballot paper, party lists shall be numbered consecutively starting with one.

(4) Ballot papers for a national minority list drawn up by a national minority self-government shall contain also a reference to the national minority. The serial number of the list need not be indicated on a national minority list ballot paper.

(5) The text under points a) to f) and k) of Annex 6 and a reference to the national minority shall be indicated also in the language of the national minority on the ballot papers for a national minority list drawn up by a national minority self-government.

(6) At the request of the nominating organisation and of the candidate, the name and abbreviated name of the nominating organisation and the name of the candidate respectively shall be indicated also in the language of the national minority on the ballot papers for a national minority list drawn up by a national minority self-government.

116. Voting

Section 257 (1) On the basis of the polling district electoral register and the list of voters who requested mobile ballot box, the polling station commission shall hand over to voters a single-member constituency ballot paper and a party list ballot paper.

(1a) The polling station commission shall hand over to voters who are recorded in the electoral register as national minority voters also for the election of the Members of the National Assembly a single-member constituency ballot paper and the list ballot paper of his national minority.

(1b) The polling station commission shall hand over a single-member constituency ballot paper to a voter recorded in the polling district electoral register if he established an address in Hungary following the seventh day before election day, and

a) the National Election Office sent him a postal voting package pursuant to section 277 (1) or

b) he was recorded in the postal voter electoral register on any day between the fifteenth and seventh day before voting day and requested to receive the ballot paper in person.

(2) Absentee voters shall vote on the ballot paper of the parliamentary single-member constituency of their address and on the national list ballot paper. A reference to the parliamentary single-member constituency shall be indicated on the ballot paper envelopes. The voters shall place the ballot papers in the envelope and seal the envelope.

(2a) In a joint proceeding, absentee voters shall place the ballot paper of the parliamentary single-member constituency of their address, the national list ballot paper and the ballot paper of the election of the Members of the European Parliament conducted in the framework of the joint proceeding or the national referendum conducted in the framework of the joint proceeding in an envelope and seal the envelope. A reference to the parliamentary single-member constituency shall be indicated on the ballot paper envelopes.

(3) For absentee voters and voters with settlement-based domicile, the polling station commission of the designated polling district shall be competent to conduct voting by mobile ballot box in the entire settlement.

Section 257/A (1) Where the number of voters recorded in the electoral register in a polling district designated for absentee voting exceeds one thousand five hundred, the head of the local election office may decide, no later than the fifth day before voting day, to divide the polling district electoral register into multiple parts, and

a) to conduct voting in a single polling station in a manner that the members of the polling station commission perform the procedural acts laid out in sections 176 to 179 at several separate locations within a single polling station,

b) to divide the designated polling district into polling sub-districts and to conduct voting in multiple separate polling stations within a single building.

(2) Where the number of voters recorded in the electoral register in a polling district designated for absentee voting exceeds two thousand, voting shall be conducted in accordance with paragraph (1) a) or b).

(3) The separate locations and the polling sub-districts shall be arranged so that the number of voters in the electoral register does not exceed eight hundred in any of the locations and polling sub-districts.

Section 257/B (1) Polling sub-commissions shall operate in polling sub-districts specified in section 257/A (1) b). The head of the local election office shall designate, from among the elected members of the polling station commissions, the three or, for sub-commissions under paragraph (3), the required number of elected members of polling sub-commissions. The chair of the polling station commission shall act as the chair of the polling sub-commission, while a member elected by the elected members of the other sub-commissions from among themselves shall act as its deputy chair.

(2) The provisions of section 112 (5), section 113 (3), Chapter X and section 189 shall apply to voting at a polling sub-district, with the proviso that the polling sub-commission shall exercise the powers of the polling station commission.

(3) The polling sub-commission the chair of which is the chair of the polling station commission shall certify mobile ballot boxes and carry out the tasks under section 184 and section 185 relating to voting by mobile ballot box.

(4) The other tasks falling within the powers of the polling station commission shall be carried out by a polling station commission composed of the members of the polling sub-commissions.

117. Vote counting

Section 258 (1) When the votes cast by mail by voters with no address in Hungary are counted, only the representatives of the National Election Commission, National Election Office and media content providers, observers under section 245 (2) and international observers may be present.

(2) In the application of the rules on vote counting and on drawing up the minutes, single-member constituency elections and national list elections shall be handled separately.

117/A Vote recounting

Section 258/A (1) The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall order the recounting of votes cast at a single-member constituency election if data recorded in the information system in accordance with section 203 (1) indicate that

a) the difference between the number of votes of the candidate with the most votes and the candidate with the second-most votes, excluding votes to be counted by the polling station commission referred to in section 292 (1), is one hundred or less, and the candidate with the second-most votes requests recounting;

b) the difference between the number of votes of the candidate with the most votes and the candidate with the second-most votes, including votes counted by the polling station commission referred to in section 292 (1), is one hundred or less, recounting under point a) did not take place, and the candidate with the second-most votes requests recounting;

c) the two or more candidates with the highest number of votes, including votes counted by the polling station commission referred to in section 292 (1), had an equal number of votes, and recounting under point a) did not take place.

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(2) The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall recount the single-member constituency votes counted by the polling station commission referred to in section 292 (1) if the votes were recounted in accordance with paragraph (1) a), and data recorded in the information system indicate that in the single-member constituency,

a) the difference between the number of votes of the candidate with the most votes and the candidate with the second-most votes is one hundred or less, and the candidate with the second-most votes requests recounting; or

b) the two or more candidates with the highest number of votes had an equal number of votes.

(3) A request for recounting under paragraph (1) a) shall be submitted by 10.00 on the day after voting day and a request for recounting under paragraph (1) b) or paragraph (2) a) shall be submitted by 10.00 on the seventh day after voting day in writing to the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission.

(4) The votes shall be recounted

a) by the local election commission

aa) within three days following voting day if paragraph (1) a) applies;

ab) on the seventh day following voting day if paragraph (1) b) or c) applies;

b) by the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission on the seventh day following voting day if paragraph (2) applies.

(5) The election commission may make use of the assistance of the members of the local election office in recounting the votes.

118. The foreign mission electoral register

Section 259 (1) Requests for registration in the foreign mission electoral register may be submitted by voters recorded in the polling district electoral register who stay abroad on voting day.

(2) Requests for registration in the foreign mission electoral register shall arrive not later than the ninth day before voting day.

(3) The request shall specify the foreign mission in which the requesting person wishes to exercise his right to vote.

Section 260 (1) On the basis of the request, the National Election Office shall register the voter in the foreign mission electoral register without delay and, at the same time, indicate in the polling district electoral register that the voter is recorded in the foreign mission electoral register.

(2) The printed foreign mission electoral register shall contain the data set out in Annex 7, with the exception of data referred to in point d) db) of Annex 7.

Section 261 (1) Voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register may modify the data set out in section 259 (3) not later than the ninth day before the voting day in Hungary.

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(2) Voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register may request to be deregistered from the foreign mission electoral register not later than the fourth day before the voting day in Hungary.

Section 262 (1) Persons who are deregistered from the polling district electoral register shall also be deregistered from the foreign mission electoral register.

(2) Changes to an address that occur after the seventh day before voting day need not be recorded in the foreign mission electoral register.

Section 263 The National Election Office shall transfer to foreign missions the data in the foreign mission electoral register in a manner that only the foreign mission election office can access that data. The foreign mission election office shall print and certify the foreign mission electoral register.

Section 264

119. The postal voter electoral register

Section 265

Section 266 (1) The National Election Office shall register in the postal voter electoral register voters with no address in Hungary who are recorded in the central electoral register on the basis of a request submitted not later than the twenty-fifth day before voting day. The National Election Office shall indicate in the central electoral register that the voter is recorded in the postal voter electoral register.

(2) In the postal voter electoral register only those requests for change may be recorded that are received on the twenty-fifth day before voting at the latest.

Section 267 The following shall be deregistered from the postal voter electoral register:

- a) voters who established an address in Hungary not later than the seventh day before election day,
- b) voters with no address in Hungary who are deregistered from the central electoral register.

Section 267/A The National Election Office shall, by the sixteenth day before voting day, make available to the competent election office the part of postal voter electoral register that contains those voters who requested the receipt in person of the postal voting package.

Section 268 (1) A voter recorded in the postal voter electoral register may request, in person, information at the foreign mission about data recorded under point c) cd) to cf) of Annex 8.

(2)

120. Voting at a foreign mission

Section 269 (1) Voting at foreign missions shall be possible if the host state does not object to it.

(2) Votes may be cast at foreign missions on the voting day in Hungary between 6.00 and 19.00 local time. At foreign missions where the time difference is -1 or -2 hours compared to Central

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European Time, votes may be cast between 6.00 local time and 19.00 CET. At foreign missions established on the American continent, votes may be cast on the day before the voting day in Hungary between 6.00 and 19.00 local time.

(3) With the exception of vote counting, the foreign mission election office shall carry out the tasks set out for the polling station commission. The head of the foreign mission election office shall decide any disputed matters arising during the voting.

(4) Voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register may vote at the foreign mission or, if the building of the foreign mission is not suitable for conducting the voting, at another premises provided by the foreign mission. If necessary, more than one premises shall be provided for voting, and a sufficient number of polling booths and ballot boxes shall be provided to ensure continuous voting for the voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register.

(5) From the start of voting to the closing of voting, only members of the foreign mission election office, media content provider representatives, observers at foreign missions and international observers may be present in the polling station.

(6) The National Election Office shall be informed of the suspension of voting without delay with a view to ensuring the lawful continuation of voting.

(7) The foreign mission election office shall place a control sheet in the ballot box containing the time and date of the placement of the control sheet and the signatures of the members of the foreign mission election office present and of the voter voting first.

Section 270 The foreign mission election office shall verify the identity of the citizen wishing to vote on the basis of a verification card suitable for verifying identity, and check whether the citizen is recorded in the foreign mission electoral register. Anyone who cannot verify his identity as set forth above or who is not recorded in the foreign mission electoral register shall be refused.

Section 271 (1) Voters voting at a foreign mission shall vote on the ballot paper of the parliamentary single-member constituency of their address and on the national list ballot paper. A reference to the parliamentary single-member constituency shall be indicated on the ballot paper envelopes.

(2) The voters shall place the ballot papers in the envelope and seal the envelope.

Section 272 (1) If no voter votes at a foreign mission by an hour before the voting is closed, also a member of the foreign mission election office may be the voter voting first.

(2) The voting shall be closed before the time set out under section 269 (2) for closing it if all voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register have cast their votes.

Section 273 After voting is closed, the foreign mission election office shall place the minutes on the conclusion of voting in the ballot box without opening it and seal the ballot box in a manner that no ballot paper can be put in or taken out of it.

121. Postal voting package

Section 274 Voters recorded in the postal voter electoral register shall vote by mail.

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Section 275 (1) The postal voting package shall contain the following:

- a) postal ballot paper,
- b) voter identification statement form (hereinafter “identification statement”),
- c) envelope for postal ballot paper (hereinafter “inner envelope”),
- d) prepaid envelope for posting (hereinafter “outer envelope”),
- e) information on how to vote.

(1a) In the case of a joint proceeding, the postal voting package shall contain, beyond the elements under paragraph (1), also the ballot papers for the other elections conducted in the framework of the joint proceeding.

(2) The direction on the outer envelope of the postal voting package shall include the address of the National Election Office.

(3) The size and layout of the postal ballot paper may be different from that of the ballot paper used in polling stations. Postal ballot papers shall be valid without a stamp.

Section 276 If the voter has an address in Hungary, he shall vote on the ballot paper of the parliamentary single-member constituency of his address and on the national list ballot paper.

122. Delivery of postal voting packages

Section 277 (1) The National Election Office shall send by mail the postal voting packages to voters recorded in the postal voter electoral register, other than those who requested to receive the postal voting package in person, after the postal ballot paper is prepared without delay. If for the receipt of the ballot paper a voter provided an address that is in a country that prohibits dual nationality, the National Election Office shall deliver the postal voting package with assistance from the foreign mission.

(2) A voter with no address in Hungary who, pursuant to section 92 (3) b), requested, by the twenty-fifth day before voting day, to receive the postal voting package in person may receive the postal voting package at the time determined by the president of the National Election Office from the fifteenth day before voting day, or during the period of voting on voting day, at the election office

- a) of the settlement of the seat of the parliamentary single-member constituency,
- b) of another settlement designated by the Minister in a decree, or
- c) of a foreign mission specified by the Minister in a decree

in accordance with his choice.

(3) The president of the National Election Office shall provide for the receipt of the postal voting package in person under paragraph (2) so as to ensure that such a receipt is possible at least between 9.00 and 16.00 on working days from the fifteenth day before voting day. The president

of the National Election Office may move the beginning or the end of the period between 9.00 and 16.00 to an earlier or later time, respectively, and he may extend the possibility of receipt in person to Saturdays not qualifying as working days as well as to Sundays and also public holidays. The decision of the president of the National Election Office shall be published on the official election website.

(4) Any voter who does not receive by the seventh day before voting day the postal voting package sent in accordance with paragraph (1) may request in person a replacement of the postal voting package at any foreign mission or parliamentary single-member constituency election office. Before handing over the postal voting package, the election office shall check whether the voter is recorded in the postal voter electoral register and whether he requested the postal voting package to be delivered by post.

123. Postal voting

Section 278 (1) After filling in the ballot paper received as part of the postal voting package, the voter shall place the filled in ballot paper in the inner envelope, and seal the inner envelope.

(2) The identification statement shall be completed with the following data of the voter:

- a) name,
- b) place of birth,
- c) personal identifier or the number of his official identity verification card, or, in the absence thereof, the number of his naturalisation certificate.
- d) date of birth where the identification statement does not contain the personal identifier.

(3) The voter shall sign the identification statement in his own hand.

(4) The voter shall seal the sealed inner envelope and the filled in identification statement in

- a) the outer envelope, or
- b) in any other envelope (points a) and b) hereinafter jointly "return envelope").

(5) Voters may vote by way of postal voting at foreign missions designated in accordance with section 277 (2) c). During voting, the foreign mission election office operating at the foreign mission shall provide for the conditions ensuring the secrecy of voting, in particular by applying accordingly section 173 (3), section 178 (2), section 180, section 181 (1) and section 269 (5), with the proviso that the polling station commission shall be construed to mean foreign mission election office.

124. Returning postal voting documents to the election office

Section 279 (1) A voter with no address in Hungary recorded in the postal voter electoral register may return the return envelope containing his vote under section 278 (4) a) in any of the following ways:

- a) by mail to the National Election Office so that it is received by 19.00 on voting day,

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b) within fifteen days before the voting day in Hungary, in the period set by the president of the National Election Office for receipt in person of postal voting packages or during the period of voting at the foreign mission

ba) in person or by way of delivery by another person without authorisation, or

bb) by way of a postal service provider, placed in an outer envelope addressed to the foreign mission

to any foreign mission election office, or

c) during the period for voting in Hungary in person or by way of delivery by another person without authorisation to any parliamentary single-member constituency election office.

(2) A voter with no address in Hungary recorded in the postal voter electoral register may return the return envelope containing his vote under section 278 (4) b) in person or by way of delivery by another person without authorisation

a) within fifteen days before the voting day in Hungary, in the period set by the president of the National Election Office for receipt in person of postal voting packages or during the period of voting at the foreign mission to any foreign mission election office, or

b) during the period for voting in Hungary to any parliamentary single-member constituency election office.

Section 280 (1) Return envelopes containing a vote under section 278 (4) a) may be mailed without having to pay the postage.

(2) The postal service provider shall be required to deliver, by 24.00 on the day before voting day, to the election office return envelopes under section 278 (4) a) that it collected or received in Hungary not later than the third day before voting day.

Section 281 (1) The foreign mission election office at a foreign mission and the parliamentary single-member constituency election office in the settlement of the seat of a parliamentary single-member constituency shall ensure that return envelopes containing a vote can be handed over.

(2) Return envelopes may be dropped in the ballot box under the permanent supervision of the office. Ballot boxes shall be kept at a safe place at the foreign mission. Return envelopes may be returned to a foreign mission also by mail.

(3) In settlements that are the seat of a parliamentary single-member constituency, observers delegated by nominating organisations drawing up a national list may be present at the supervision of the ballot box. Section 5 shall apply to observers.

125. Forwarding the votes

Section 282 (1) The polling station commission shall not open envelopes of votes cast by absentee voters, but transport them to the local election office sealed in a separate transportation envelope. The number of envelopes contained in the transportation envelope shall be indicated on the transportation envelope.

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(2) The local election office shall hand over to the parliamentary single-member constituency election office the transportation envelope on the day following voting day.

Section 283 (1) The parliamentary single-member constituency election office shall seal return envelopes containing votes cast at it by mail pursuant to section 279 (1) c) in a transportation envelope.

(2) On the day after voting day, the parliamentary single-member constituency election office shall transport to the National Election Office the transportation envelopes referred to in paragraph (1) and the transportation envelopes received from local election offices.

Section 284 By 24.00 on the fourth day after the voting day in Hungary, the foreign mission election office shall transport to the National Election Office the sealed ballot boxes containing the votes cast at the foreign mission and the return envelopes returned to the foreign mission. Votes arriving later shall be ignored.

Section 285 (1) The National Election Office shall open the ballot boxes containing the votes cast at foreign missions after the arrival of all ballot boxes, but not later than the fifth day after the voting day in Hungary.

(2) If a ballot box arrives to the National Election Office after the expiry of the time limit, or if it is not sealed in accordance with section 273 at arrival, or if the control sheet cannot be found in the ballot box, the votes in it shall not be taken into account when establishing the result. The National Election Commission shall decide whether the ballot box is sealed in accordance with section 273.

Section 286 Unsealed envelopes and envelopes containing no reference to the single-member constituency found in ballot boxes received from foreign missions or among the votes of absentee voters shall be considered votes not cast and shall be packed separately.

Section 287 (1) The National Election Office shall sort by parliamentary single-member constituency the sealed envelopes found in ballot boxes received from foreign missions and the sealed envelopes containing the votes of absentee voters, and place them in sealed packages on which the number of envelopes in the package concerned shall be indicated. The National Election Office shall record the number of envelopes in a package in separate minutes, a copy of which shall be placed in the package, and the package shall be sealed. The president of the National Election Office shall certify the package by signing and stamping it.

(2) The National Election Office shall hand over the package to the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office or a member delegated by him.

126. Checking postal voting documents

Section 288 (1) The National Election Office shall check voting documents containing the votes of voters with no address in Hungary.

(2) The National Election Office shall start checking the voting documents not sooner than on the sixth day before voting day.

(3) Members of election commissions, observers under section 245 (2) and international observers may monitor the entire voting document checking process. Employees of media

service providers may be present during voting document checking if the conditions guaranteeing the protection of personal data are ensured.

Section 289 (1) The election office shall examine the received voting documents.

(2) When examining voting documents, the election office shall check received voting documents without opening the inner envelope containing the ballot paper. The election office shall check the content of the identification statement on the basis of the postal voter electoral register. If necessary, the National Election Office shall check the content of the identification statement by way of direct access to the relevant register according to the official identity verification card or the naturalisation certificate register, or by requesting the assistance of the organ competent in citizenship matters or in the register of personal data and address of citizens.

(3) A voting document shall be invalid if

- a) the return envelope is not sealed,
- b) the identification statement or the inner envelope is missing from the return envelope,
- c) there is more than one inner envelope for the same election in the return envelope,
- d) the inner envelope is not sealed,
- e) the data of the voter included in the statement are incomplete or the signature of the voter is missing from the statement,
- f) the citizen is not recorded in the postal voter electoral register,
- g) the voter already submitted a voting document,
- h) the data of the voter indicated in the identification statement are different from the data recorded in the electoral register or register under paragraph (2), with the exception of a difference referred to in paragraph (4),
- i) the voting document is late.

(4) The following shall not render the voting document invalid:

- a) the voting document is in an outer envelope other than that sent by the National Election Office,
- b) the return envelope is damaged to a lesser extent, but documents cannot be put in and taken out of it and the data content filled in the identification statement or the ballot paper cannot be accessed without opening the return envelope.

(5) Where the identity of the voter can be established beyond reasonable doubt, the return envelope shall not be considered invalid if the reason for the difference in data under paragraph (3) h) is caused by any of the following:

- a) change of name that happened in the meantime,
- b) accent error,

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c) spelling difference,

d) specification of a geographic name in a foreign language,

e) in data provided under section 278 (2) a), the omission of one of multiple given names, the omission or inclusion of the “dr.” title, the inclusion of a junior, senior, widowed or other prefix or an abbreviation thereof; or the provision of data in another language.

(6) If the voter indicates on the identification statement the number of his official identity verification card, for the purposes of the check, the verification card shall be considered valid if it was valid on any of the days between the first day of the sending of postal voting packages and the day on which the identification statement is checked.

(7) For the purposes of paragraph (3) g), a voting document can be considered a voting document already submitted by the voter only if it is valid or if invalid, then for a reason other than those referred to in paragraph (3) e), f) and h).

(8) If a voting document is valid or if it is invalid for a reason other than those referred to in paragraph (3) e), f) and h), the election office shall indicate in the central electoral register that the voter has submitted a voting document.

Section 290 (1) If a voting document is invalid pursuant to section 289 (3), the reason for this invalidity shall be indicated on the return envelope.

(2) Return envelopes containing invalid voting documents shall be packed separately.

Section 291 (1) If a voting document is not invalid pursuant to section 289, the election office shall indicate in the postal voter electoral register that the voter submitted a valid voting document.

(2) The election office shall store separately inner envelopes found in valid voting documents without opening them until they are counted.

(3) Identification statements found in valid voting documents shall be packed separately.

127. Counting of votes

Section 292 (1) For counting the votes cast at foreign missions and the votes cast by absentee voters, the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall, by the 8th day before voting day, designate the responsible polling station commission from among those operating in the settlement of the seat of the parliamentary single member constituency, other than the polling station commission of the polling district designated under section 78.

(2) The polling station commission referred to in paragraph (1)

a) shall give all voters a ballot paper envelope on which a reference to the parliamentary single-member constituency is indicated; and

b) shall, when the voting is closed, seal the ballot box in a manner that no ballot paper can be put in or taken out of it.

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(2a) The polling station commission shall hand over the ballot box to the head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission, who shall arrange for its safe storage.

(3) The head of the parliamentary single-member constituency election office shall, not later than the sixth day after the voting day in Hungary, hand over to the chair of the polling station commission referred to in paragraph (1) the ballot box and the package referred to in section 287 (1).

(4) The polling station commission referred to in paragraph (1) shall mix the envelopes in a package under section 287 (1), without opening them, with the envelopes containing the votes cast in the polling district, and shall perform, without delay, the tasks set for the polling station commission in Chapter XI, for which it may make use of the assistance of the members of the local election office.

Section 293 (1) The votes cast by mail by voters with no address in Hungary shall be counted by the National Election Office under the supervision of the National Election Commission. The counting shall not start before 19.00 on voting day.

(2) Observers under section 245 (2), international observers and the press may monitor the entire vote counting process.

128. Establishing the election result

Section 294 (1) The local election office shall forward a copy of the polling district minutes on the result of the single-member constituency voting to the parliamentary single-member constituency election office and a copy of the polling district minutes on the result of the national list voting to the regional election office.

(2) Not later than the sixth or, in the case of recounting, eighth day after voting, the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall, on the basis of the polling district minutes on the result of the single-member constituency voting, establish the result of the single-member constituency election. The parliamentary single-member constituency election office shall transmit a copy of the minutes on the result of the single-member constituency election to the National Election Office immediately after the conclusive decision establishing the result of the single-member constituency election becomes final and binding.

(3) Not later than the sixth day after voting day, the regional election commission shall, on the basis of the polling district minutes on the result of the national list voting, establish the partial regional result of the national list election. The regional election office shall transmit a copy of the minutes on the partial regional result of the national list election to the National Election Office.

Section 295 The National Election Office shall record the result of postal voting by voters with no address in Hungary in minutes.

Section 296 (1)

(2) Not later than the nineteenth day after voting day, the National Election Commission shall, on the basis of

a) the minutes on the partial regional result of the national list election referred to in section 294 (3),

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b) the minutes establishing the result of postal voting, and

c) the minutes annexed to the final and binding conclusive decisions establishing the result of the single-member constituency election referred to in section 294 (2)

establish the national list result of the election.

129. Legal remedy

Section 297 (1) The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall decide on

a) objections against the activities and decisions of the polling station commission, and objections regarding other acts committed at polling stations,

b) all objections that are specifically related to the single-member constituency election,

c) appeals challenging a decision on an objection against a conclusive decision of the local election commission adopted in accordance with section 32 (2) or of the head of the local election office adopted in accordance with section 32 (3).

(2) The regional election commission shall decide on appeals challenging a decision of the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission adopted in accordance with section 32 (2), section 124 (2) to (3) or section 252 (2).

(2a) Legal remedy against a decision establishing the partial result referred to in section 294 (3) or the result of postal voting referred to in section 295 shall be available only in the context of a judicial review application challenging the decision of the National Election Commission establishing the result of election.

(3) The National Election Commission shall decide on

a) all objections not falling under paragraph (1) b),

b) appeals challenging a decision of the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission other than those referred to in paragraph (2),

c) appeals challenging a decision of the regional election commission adopted in accordance with section 32 (2).

(4) A judicial review application against a decision of the National Election Commission establishing the national list result of the election shall be submitted so that it is received by the National Election Commission not later than the day after the adoption of the conclusive decision by the election commission. The Curia shall decide on the judicial review application not later than the day following referral.

(5) A judicial review application against a decision by the National Election Commission establishing the national list result of the election may be submitted with reference to the unlawfulness of

a) the aggregation of the wasted votes generated in an election under section 294 (2),

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b) the establishment or aggregation of the partial results under section 294 (3), or

c) the establishment of the result of the voting under section 295 or its aggregation with the partial results generated taking account of points a) and b),

or to a violation of the rules on establishing election result.

129/A Resignation of a representative-elect

Section 297/A After voting day until the confirmation of the validity of the mandate by the National Assembly, a representative-elect may resign by tendering his resignation in writing to the National Election Commission.

130. Publication of election result

Section 298 After the election result becomes final and binding, the National Election Commission shall publish a notice on the election result in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny*.

131. Credentials

Section 299 The National Election Commission shall issue credentials to also the national minority advocates.

132. By-election

Section 300 (1) In a by-election, a nominating organisation shall be notified to the election commission competent to register the candidate concerned, which shall decide on the registration of the nominating organisation.

(2) In a by-election, absentee voting may be requested only regarding polling districts within the parliamentary single-member constituency concerned.

(3) The provisions concerning absentee voting of section 286, section 287 and section 292 (1) and the provisions of section 247 (2), section 257 (1a) to (2), section 282 and section 283 shall not apply to by-elections.

(4) The votes of absentee voters shall be counted by the polling station commission of the polling district in which they cast votes.

132/A. Filling a single-member constituency vacancy

Section 300/A If the mandate of a representative elected in a single-member constituency terminates and the mandate is allocated to a candidate named by a nominating organisation, the candidate to whom the mandate is allocated shall be notified to the National Election Commission by the nominating organisation no later than the thirtieth day from the seat becoming vacant.

Chapter XIV

ELECTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND MAYORS

Section 301 Chapters I to XII and section 250 (6) and (7) shall apply to the elections of local government representatives and mayors with the derogations specified in this Chapter.

133. Setting the election date

Section 302 The local election commission shall set the date for the by-election of local government representatives and mayors, and the regional election commission shall set the date for the by-election to a county general assembly or the Budapest-Capital General Assembly and of the Capital Mayor.

134. Costs of the election process

Section 303 The costs of the preparation and conduct of a by-election shall be paid from the local government budget if it is held because the representative body or the general assembly declared its dissolution or was dissolved.

135. Election bodies

Section 304 The following election commissions shall operate in the election of local government representatives and mayors:

- a) the National Election Commission,
- b) regional election commissions,
- c) local election commissions,
- d) polling station commissions.

136. Notifying a Union citizen as a candidate

Section 305

137. Determining the number of mandates

Section 306 (1) By 15 October in the year preceding a general election, the central organ managing the register of the personal data and address of citizens shall transmit to the National Election Office the data on the number of inhabitants of settlements, counties and the capital as of 1 September. The National Election Office shall inform, within three days, the heads of local and regional election offices of the number of inhabitants.

(2) The heads of the local election offices and regional election offices, except the capital election office, shall by 31 October in the year preceding the general election determine in a conclusive decision the number of members to be elected to the representative body and the general assembly, respectively.

137/A. Arrangement of single-member constituencies

Section 306/A (1) In settlements with more than ten thousand inhabitants, the head of the local election office shall be responsible for the arrangement of single-member constituencies. The head of the local election office shall in advance seek the opinion of the local election commission as regards the arrangement of constituencies; however, this opinion shall not be binding to the head of the local election office.

(2) Single-member constituencies shall be arranged in a manner to ensure that

a) they form contiguous areas;

b) the number of voters who are eligible according to the central electoral register be approximately the same in each of them.

(3) When arranging single-member constituencies, the number of eligible voters in a single-member constituency may not deviate from the arithmetic mean of eligible voters in each single-member constituency at the settlement by a rate exceeding fifteen per cent taking into account the settlement structure related, geographical and other local characteristics.

Section 306/B The head of the local election office shall publish, for fifteen days and in accordance with established local practice, the conclusive decision on the arrangement of constituencies that contains the boundaries of single-member constituencies, the number of voters in the single-member constituency who are eligible according to the central electoral register, the rate of deviation of the number of eligible voters in the single-member constituency from the mean of eligible voters in each single-member constituency at the settlement, the reason for a deviation exceeding five per cent, and the opinion of the local election commission.

Section 306/C The head of the local election office shall modify the division of constituencies by 30 November in the year preceding the general election if:

a) the number of inhabitants of the settlement increases to over ten thousand or the number of single-member constituency changes,

b) the number of eligible voters in a single-member constituency deviates from the mean of eligible voters in each single-member constituency at the settlement by a rate exceeding twenty per cent.

Section 306/D (1) The rate of deviation referred to in section 306/A (3) and section 306/C b) shall be determined on the basis of data in the central electoral register as of 1 September in the year preceding the general election.

(2) The provisions of section 306/A and section 306/B shall apply to the modification of the division of constituencies.

138. Arrangement of polling districts

Section 307 In settlements with more than ten thousand inhabitants, the polling district under section 78 shall be designated in the single-member constituency in which the seat of the mayor's office or joint local government office is located.

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138/A. Requesting absentee voting

Section 307/A (1) A voter may submit a request for absentee voting if

a) he had a place of residence in the constituency concerned both on the thirtieth day before the election date was set and at the time of the assessment of his request for absentee voting; or

b) he had domicile on the thirtieth day before the election date was set and a place of residence at the time of the assessment of his request for absentee voting in the constituency concerned,

and his place of residence remains valid at least until voting day.

(2) Requests for absentee voting shall be submitted not later than the ninth day before voting day.

(3) A voter who requested absentee voting may withdraw his request for absentee voting by the third day before voting at the latest.

Section 307/B (1) On the basis of the request, the National Election Office shall deregister the voter from the polling district electoral register of his domicile and, at the same time, enter the voter into the electoral register of the polling district of his place of residence.

(2) Voters whose place of residence ceased shall be re-registered in the polling district electoral register of their domicile.

138/B. Polling district electoral register for by-election

Section 307/C (1) With the exception specified in paragraph (3), requesting absentee voting shall not be permitted in by-elections.

(2) In a by-election, voters who have a domicile or a place of residence in the constituency where they were last recorded on the day of the general or by-election of local government representatives and mayors may be registered in the polling district electoral register only in the constituency concerned.

(3) In a by-election, requesting absentee voting shall be permitted only if the domicile and place of residence of the voter is in the same constituency.

138/C. Notifying nominating organisations

Section 307/D (1) The nominating organisation shall be registered by the regional election commission or the National Election Commission, depending on to which it was notified.

(2) In a by-election, the election commission competent to register the candidate or the list shall register the nominating organisation.

(3) Upon the notification of an association, the association shall make a statement that it complies with the requirements for associations set out in paragraph (4) and that it does not use, regarding the election concerned, foreign support and support from any Hungarian legal person or organisation without legal personality, anonymous donation or any asset element originating therefrom for the purpose of performing any activity aimed at influencing or attempting to influence

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the will of voters. The election commission shall register an association as nominating organisation if it has made such a statement.

(4) An association that requests its registration as nominating organisation and a registered association shall not use, regarding the election concerned, foreign support and support from any Hungarian legal person or organisation without legal personality, anonymous donation or any asset element originating therefrom for the purpose of performing any activity aimed at influencing or attempting to influence the will of voters. If a violation is suspected, the State Audit Office shall check compliance with the provisions of this paragraph.

(5) Where, following the registration as nominating organisation of an association, the State Audit Office establishes that the association violated the provisions of paragraph (4), the association shall pay twice the amount of support to the central budget within fifteen days after being called upon to do so by the State Audit Office.

(6) If an association violates the provisions of paragraph (4), the State Audit Office shall inform thereof the tax authority and, for a public-benefit-status association, the court that registered the association.

(7) If an association fails to comply with the obligation under paragraph (5) within the time limit, the state tax authority shall collect the debt as taxes at a request by the State Audit Office.

(8) Upon the notification of a national minority organisation, the organisation shall make a statement that the organisation complies with the requirements for national minority organisations set out in the Act on the rights of national minorities.

138/D. Determining the number of recommendations required for nominating a candidate and for drawing up a list

Section 307/E (1) The head of the local election office shall determine the number of recommendations required for nominating a multi-member list candidate, a single-member constituency candidate and in a settlement with no more than ten thousand inhabitants a mayor candidate, and the head of the regional election office shall determine the number of recommendations required for drawing up a county list, in both cases on the sixty-sixth day before voting, and they shall publish it in a notice.

(2) When determining the number of required recommendations, the number of voters shall be established on the basis of the data in the central electoral register as of the sixty-seventh day before voting day.

(3) For determining the number of required recommendations, the number shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

138/E. Recommending candidates and lists

Section 307/F (1) When requesting recommendation sheets, a voter who wishes to stand for election as a national minority candidate shall make a statement that

a) he is willing to undertake to represent the national minority,

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b) he speaks the language of the national minority community and is familiar with its culture and traditions.

(2) The election office shall verify in the register of candidates that the voter who requested the recommendation sheets and wishes to stand for election as a national minority candidate did not stand for election as a national minority candidate for another national minority in the last two general elections of local government representatives and mayors, and of national minority self-government representatives and in the subsequent by-elections.

(3) On the recommendation sheets of a voter who wishes to stand for election as a national minority candidate, a reference to the national minority he wishes to represent shall be indicated.

(4) The provisions of section 120 (1) and (2) and sections 121 to 127 shall also apply to recommending a county list and capital list.

138/F. Notifying candidates

Section 307/G (1) Multi-member list candidates, single-member constituency candidates, mayor candidates and Capital Mayor candidates shall be notified not later than the thirty-fourth day before voting day.

(2) The local election commission shall register multi-member list candidates, single-member constituency candidates and mayor candidates, and the regional election commission shall register Capital Mayor candidates.

(3)

Section 307/H When notifying a national of another Member State of the European Union as a candidate, a statement by the candidate shall also be attached that he is not subject in his state of nationality to any legislative, judicial or other administrative provision prohibiting him from standing for election.

138/G. Notifying lists

Section 307/I (1) Each compensatory list, capital list and county list shall be notified not later than the thirty-third day before voting day.

(2) The local election commission shall register the compensatory lists, and the regional election commission shall register the county lists and the capital lists.

(3) The provisions of section 307/F (1) and (2) and section 307/H shall apply also to candidates included in a list.

(4) The provisions of section 129 (4) shall not apply to compensatory lists and national minority compensatory lists.

Section 307/J (1) For drawing up a compensatory list, the number of the single-member constituency candidates of the nominating organisation that have been notified by the date of registration of the list shall be taken into account, with the exception of candidates whose registration was refused by the local election commission.

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(2) The local election office shall deregister a compensatory list if the total number of the single-member constituency candidates of the nominating organisation who are registered with final and binding effect and not deregistered and of those who are notified but not yet assessed with final and binding effect does not reach the minimum number determined in an Act.

(3)

Section 307/K (1) For drawing up a capital list, the number of the mayor candidates or the Capital Mayor candidate of the nominating organisation that have been notified by the date of registration of the list shall be taken into account, with the exception of a mayor candidate or Capital Mayor candidate whose registration was refused by the election commission.

(2) The regional election office shall deregister a capital list if

a) the total number of the mayor candidates of the nominating organisation who are registered with final and binding effect and not deregistered and of those who are notified but not yet assessed with final and binding effect does not reach the minimum number determined in an Act, and

b) the nominating organisation does not have a Capital Mayor candidate who is registered with final and binding effect and not deregistered or who is notified but not yet assessed with final and binding effect.

138/H. Content of the ballot paper

Section 307/L (1) Separate ballot papers shall be used for multi-member list, single-member constituency, mayoral, county list and capital list elections as well as the election of the Capital Mayor.

(2) For national minority candidates, the ballot papers used in multi-member list, single-member constituency and mayoral elections shall contain also a reference to the national minority.

(3) At the request of the national minority nominating organisation and of the national minority candidate, the name and abbreviated name of the national minority nominating organisation and the name of the candidate respectively shall be indicated also in the language of the national minority on the ballot papers.

138/I. Vote counting

Section 307/M (1) In the application of the rules on vote counting and on drawing up the minutes, multi-member list, single-member constituency, mayoral, county general assembly and the Budapest-Capital General Assembly elections as well as the election of the Capital Mayor shall be handled separately.

(2) The local election commission, or for an election of the Capital Mayor the regional election commission shall order the recounting of votes if data fully recorded in the information system in accordance with section 203 (1) indicate that in a single-member constituency election or an election of a mayor or the Capital Mayor,

a) the two or more candidates with the highest number of votes had an equal number of votes;

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b) the difference between the number of votes cast for the candidate with the most votes and the number of votes cast for the candidate with the second-most votes is less than 0.5 per cent of the total combined number of valid and invalid ballot papers, and the candidate with the second-most votes requests in writing recounting by 10.00 on the day after voting day from the election commission competent to establish the results.

(3) In a multi-member list election, the provisions of paragraph (2) shall apply in the context of the numbers of votes of the candidate with the least votes from the candidates entitled to a mandate and of the candidate with the most votes from the candidates not entitled to a mandate.

(4) If the local election commission deregisters the mayor from the multi-member list, the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply also to the changed order of candidates. In such a situation, the candidate with the most votes from the candidates not entitled to a mandate may request the recounting of votes by 10.00 on the day following the conclusive decision establishing the result of the mayoral election becoming final and binding.

(5) The local election commission shall recount the votes within three days following

a) voting day in a situation referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3),

b) the conclusive decision establishing the results of the mayoral election becoming final and binding in a situation referred to in paragraph (4).

(6) The local election commission may make use of the assistance of the members of the local election office in recounting the votes.

138/J. Establishing the election result

Section 307/N (1) On the basis of the polling district minutes, the local election commission shall aggregate the polling district results of the mayoral election and the multi-member list election or single-member constituency elections, and shall establish the election result.

(2) The local election commission shall, in its conclusive decision establishing the result, order the voting to be repeated if the two or more candidates with the highest number of votes had an equal number of votes in a mayoral election or single-member constituency election.

(3) The local election commission shall establish the compensatory list election result within three days following the conclusive decisions establishing the results of the single-member constituency elections becoming final and binding.

(4) Where the same person stood for election as both a mayor candidate and a multi-member list or compensatory list candidate, the results of

a) the multi-member list election shall be established within three days following the conclusive decision establishing the results of the mayoral election

b) the compensatory list election shall be established within three days following the conclusive decision establishing the result of the mayoral election and the conclusive decisions establishing the results of the single-member constituency elections

becoming final and binding.

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(5) Within three days following the compensatory list election result becoming final and binding, the local election commission shall issue credentials to the representatives who won a mandate in a single-member constituency or from a compensatory list.

Section 307/O (1) The local election office shall transfer to the regional election office a copy of the polling district minutes on the result of the county general assembly and the Budapest-Capital General Assembly election and the election of the Capital Mayor no later than by 10.00 on the day following voting day.

(2) On the basis of the polling district minutes, the regional election commission shall establish the result of the county general assembly and the Budapest-Capital General Assembly election and the election of the Capital Mayor.

(3) Where the same person stood for election as a candidate for both Capital Mayor and on a capital list, the result of the capital list election shall be established within three days following the conclusive decision establishing the result of the election of the Capital Mayor becoming final and binding.

138/K. Legal remedy

Section 307/P (1) The local election commission shall decide on

a) objections against the activities and decisions of the polling station commission, and objections regarding other acts committed at polling stations;

b) all objections that are specifically related to the multi-member list, single-member constituency, compensatory list or mayoral election.

(2) The regional election commission shall decide on

a) all objections that are specifically related to the county or capital local government election or the election of the Capital Mayor,

b) all objections not falling under paragraph (1) where the act is committed within the territory of competence of the regional election commission,

c) appeals challenging a decision of the local election commission.

(3) The National Election Commission shall decide on

a) all objections not falling under paragraphs (1) and (2) if the place where the act is committed cannot be ascertained,

b) appeals challenging a decision of the regional election commission.

Section 307/Q (1) An appeal against a conclusive decision of the head of a local election office on the arrangement and review of single-member constituencies shall be submitted within the period for which the conclusive decision is published to the head of the regional election office, who shall decide on the appeal within eight days following the last day of the period for which the conclusive decision is published. A judicial review application against the conclusive decision of

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the head of the regional election office shall be submitted within three days to the competent regional court. The application shall be adjudicated by the regional court.

(2) The regional court shall

a) uphold the challenged conclusive decision;

b) amend the challenged conclusive decision ; or

c) annul the challenged conclusive decision and require the head of the regional election office to conduct a new proceeding.

Section 307/R Appeals challenging the establishment of the compensatory list result may be submitted only with reference to a violation of the rules on aggregating single-member constituency results and establishing the election result.

138/L. Resignation of a representative-elect

Section 307/S After voting day until the representative body is constituted, a representative-elect may resign by tendering his resignation in writing to the competent election commission.

138/M. Filling a single-member constituency vacancy

Section 307/T If the mandate of a representative elected in a single-member constituency terminates and the mandate is allocated to a candidate named by a nominating organisation, the candidate to whom the mandate is allocated shall be notified to the election commission by the nominating organisation no later than the thirtieth day from the seat becoming vacant.

Chapter XV

ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY SELF-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Section 308 Chapters I to XII of this Act and the provisions of section 307/D, section 307/E, section 307/F (3) and (4) and section 307/L (2) and (3) shall apply to the elections of the national minority self-government representatives with the derogations specified in this Chapter.

139. Setting the election date

Section 309 (1) The National Election Commission shall set the date for the general election of national minority self-government representatives not later than the sixty-ninth day before voting day for the same day as the date set for the general election of local government representatives and mayors.

(2) The local election commission shall set the date for the by-election of settlement national minority self-government representatives, the regional election commission shall set the date for the by-election of regional national minority self-government representatives, and the National Election Commission shall set the date for the by-election of the national self-government representatives of national minorities.

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140. Costs of the election process

Section 310 (1) The costs of the preparation and conduct of a by-election shall be paid from the budget of the national minority self-government if it is held because

- a) the representative body or the general assembly was dissolved,
- b) the representative body or the general assembly declared its dissolution.

(2) The national minority self-government shall pay the costs of the by-election referred to in paragraph (1) to the election office at the election commission competent to set a date for this by-election in advance, before a date for the election is set.

141. Election bodies

Section 311 (1) The following election commissions shall operate in the election of national minority self-government representatives:

- a) the National Election Commission,
- b) regional election commissions,
- c) local election commissions,
- d) polling station commissions.

(2) Nominating organisations may not delegate members to election commissions.

(2a) Each nominating organisation associated with a national minority as regards which a settlement national minority self-government election is held in the settlement may delegate one observer to the polling station. Observers shall only be voters recorded in the central electoral register as voters of the national minority concerned. Persons under section 18 (1) a) to e), g) and h) and members of an election commission or an election office shall not be observers. The provisions of section 5 (4) and (5), sections 29 to 31 and section 32 (3) shall, in other respects, apply to observers. The national minority observer may be present also when the votes are counted.

(3)

142.

Section 312

143. Electoral register

Section 313 A voter may be recorded as national minority voter in the polling district electoral register in a settlement where he is recorded or, in the case of a by-election, can be recorded in the polling district electoral register for the election of local government representatives and mayors.

Section 314 (1) If a voter is recorded as national minority voter in the central electoral register on the basis of a request to that effect submitted by the voter not later than the ninth day before voting day, the poll card and the polling district electoral register shall contain a reference to the national minority the voter belongs to.

(2) If, at the request of the voter concerned, the National Election Office deregister from the central electoral register the reference to the voter's belonging to a national minority not later than the ninth day before voting day, then the data relating to the belonging to a national minority of the voter shall be deleted from the polling district electoral register.

Section 315 A voter shall be entered into the polling district electoral register as national minority voter if he is recorded in the central electoral register as national minority voter on the basis of a request submitted by the voter not later than the ninth day before voting day.

144. Determining the number of recommendations required for nominating a candidate and for drawing up a list

Section 316 The number of recommendations required for nominating a candidate and for drawing up a list shall be determined, rounded up to the nearest whole number, in the conclusive decision setting the election date.

145. Recommendations

Section 317 (1) When requesting recommendation sheets, the candidate shall make a statement that

a) he is willing to undertake to represent the national minority, and

b) he speaks the language of the national minority community and is familiar with its culture and traditions.

(2) The election office shall verify in the register of candidates that the candidate did not stand for election as a candidate for another national minority in the last two general elections of national minority self-government representatives and in the subsequent by-elections.

(3) The recommendation sheets shall also contain a reference to the national minority.

(4) The election office shall transmit, free of charge, to the nominating organisation or the candidate the name, address, age and sex of voters who are recorded in the central electoral register as voters of the national minority concerned

a) at the time of handing over the recommendation sheets,

b) at the request of the nominating organisation on the thirty-eighth and thirteenth day before voting day, with the exception of data of voters who prohibited the release of their data under section 89 (1).

(5) Data provided pursuant to paragraph (4) a) shall only be used for gathering recommendations, and data provided pursuant to paragraph (4) b) shall only be used for direct political campaigning. The provisions of section 155 and section 218 (2) d) shall also apply to processing the data provided.

146. Notifying candidates

Section 318 (1) Settlement national minority self-government candidates shall be notified not later than the thirty-fourth day before voting day.

(2) The local election commission shall register settlement national minority self-government candidates.

(3)

(4)

147. Notifying lists

Section 319 (1) Lists drawn up for the regional and national self-government elections of national minorities shall be notified not later than the thirty-third day before voting day.

(2) The regional election commission shall register the lists drawn up for the regional national minority self-government elections and the candidates on those lists, and the National Election Commission shall register the lists drawn up for the national self-government elections of national minorities and the candidates on those lists.

(3) The provisions of section 317 (1) and (2) shall apply also to candidates included in a list.

Section 320 (1) For drawing up a list, the number of the settlement national minority self-government candidates of the nominating organisation that have been notified by the date of registration of the list shall be taken into account, with the exception of candidates whose registration was refused by the local election commission.

(2) The election office shall deregister a list if the total number of the settlement national minority self-government candidates of the nominating organisation who are registered with final and binding effect and not deregistered and of those who are notified but not yet assessed with final and binding effect does not reach the minimum number determined in the Act on the rights of national minorities.

148. Content of the ballot paper

Section 321 (1) Separate ballot papers shall be used for the elections of settlement self-governments, regional self-governments and national self-governments of national minorities.

(2) The ballot papers shall contain also a reference to the national minority.

(3) The text under points a) to f) and k) of Annex 5 and points a) to f) and k) of Annex 6 and a reference to the national minority shall be indicated also in the language of the national minority on the ballot papers.

(4)

149. Transmitting the postal voting packages to voters recorded in the postal voter electoral register

Section 322

150. Voting

Section 323 (1) The polling station commission shall hand over to the voters recorded in the electoral register as national minority voters the ballot papers of their national minority's settlement, regional or national self-government.

(2) The voter shall put the ballot papers in an envelope on which there is reference to the national minority. The voter shall seal the envelope.

151. Forwarding the votes

Section 323/A (1) The polling station commission shall seal envelopes, without opening them, in separate transportation envelopes for each national minority and shall transport the transportation envelopes to the local election office.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1),

a) the local election commission acting within the powers of a polling station commission in a settlement with a single polling district shall not seal the envelopes containing ballot papers under section 327 (1) in a transportation envelope and shall not transport them to the local election office,

b) the polling station commission operating in a settlement other than the seat of the local election office shall transport the envelopes containing ballot papers under section 327 (1) directly to the local election commission.

(3) The local election office shall transport to the regional election office the transportation envelopes containing the ballot papers under section 327 (2).

Section 324

152. Publicity of vote counting

Section 325

153. Vote counting

Section 326 (1) In the application of the rules on vote counting and on drawing up the minutes, for each national minority, the national minority's settlement, regional and national elections shall be handled separately.

(2) With the exception set out in paragraph (3), ballot papers in an unsealed envelope and ballot papers found outside an envelope shall be invalid.

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(3) In a settlement with a single polling district a ballot paper in an unsealed envelope and a ballot paper found outside an envelope shall not be invalid provided that it is to be counted by the local election commission under section 327 (1).

(4) In a settlement with multiple polling districts, the local election commission or the regional election commission shall count the votes within three days following voting.

Section 326/A (1) The local election commission shall count all votes concerned again if, in a settlement national minority election, the difference between the number of votes cast for the candidate with the least votes from the candidates entitled to a mandate and the number of votes cast for the candidate with the most votes from the candidates not entitled to a mandate is less than 0.5 per cent of the total combined number of valid and invalid ballot papers, and the candidate with the most votes from the candidates not entitled to a mandate requests recounting by 10.00 on the day following vote counting.

(2) The votes shall be recounted by the local election commission within three days following voting.

154. Counting of votes

Section 327 (1) The local election commission shall count the settlement, regional list and national list ballot papers of a national minority as regards which a settlement national minority self-government election is held in the settlement.

(2) The regional election commission shall count the regional list and national list ballot papers of a national minority as regards which no settlement national minority self-government election is held in the settlement.

(3) In settlements with multiple polling districts, the local election commission may make use of the assistance of its substitute members, the elected members of the polling station commission and the members of the local election office for vote counting. The regional election commission may make use of the assistance of its substitute members and the members of the regional election office for vote counting. During vote counting, in addition to the members of the election commission and the assisting persons, the persons referred to in section 187 and section 311 (2a) may be present.

155. Establishing the election result

Section 328 The local election commission shall establish the result of the settlement national minority self-government election.

Section 329 (1) The local election office shall transmit a copy of each minutes on the result of vote counting under section 327 (1) to the regional election office not later than the third day following voting day.

(2) The regional election commission shall establish the result of the regional national minority self-government election on the basis of the minutes on the counting of regional list ballot papers under paragraph (1) and the minutes establishing the result of the vote counting performed by itself.

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(3) The regional election commission shall establish the partial regional result of the national self-government election of the national minority on the basis of the minutes on the counting of national list ballot papers under paragraph (1) and the minutes establishing the result of the vote counting performed by itself.

(4) The National Election Commission shall establish the result of the national self-government election of the national minority on the basis of the minutes drawn up by the regional election commissions establishing the partial regional results of the national self-government election of the national minority.

156. Legal remedy

Section 330 (1) The local election commission shall decide on

a) objections against the activities and decisions of the polling station commission, and objections regarding other acts committed at polling stations,

b) all objections that are specifically related to the settlement national minority self-government election.

(2) The regional election commission shall decide on

a) all objections that are specifically related to the regional national minority self-government election,

b) all objections not falling under paragraph (1) b) where the act is committed within the territory of competence of the regional election commission,

c) appeals challenging a decision of the local election commission.

(3) The National Election Commission shall decide on

a) all objections that are specifically related to the national self-government election of the national minority,

b) all objections not falling under paragraph (1) b) and paragraph (2) a) if the place where the act is committed cannot be ascertained,

c) appeals challenging a decision of the regional election commission.

(4) Legal remedy against a decision establishing the result of vote counting referred to in section 327 (1) and (2) and a decision establishing the partial result referred to in section 329 (3) shall be available only in the context of an appeal or judicial review application challenging the decision of the election commission establishing the result of election.

(5) The provision laid down in paragraph (4) shall not apply to a decision establishing the result of a settlement national minority election.

156/A. By-election

Section 330/A A separate polling district covering the whole settlement shall be set up for by-elections, except for when the by-election is held on the same day as the by-election of local government representatives and mayors in respect of a whole settlement. The head of the local election office shall determine the number of keepers of minutes.

Chapter XVI

ELECTION IN A JOINT PROCEEDING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS WELL AS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND MAYORS AND THE NATIONAL MINORITY SELF-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Section 331 (1) Chapters I to XII Chapter XIV, Chapter XV and section 244 (2), section 245 (2) to (5), section 247 (1) and (3), section 250 (1), (3), (4) and (6) to (8), section 251, section 257 (3), section 257/A, section 257/B, section 258 (1), sections 259 to 263, sections 266 to 270, section 271 (2), section 272 to 281, sections 283 to 285, sections 288 to 291, section 293 and section 295 shall apply to the election in a joint proceeding of the Members of the European Parliament with the derogations specified in this Chapter.

(2) Section 302, section 303, section 304, section 307/C, section 307/D (2) as well as section 307/P, section 309 (2), section 310, section 311 (1), section 330 and section 330/A shall not apply to the joint proceeding.

(3) If the election of the Members of the European Parliament and the general election of the Members of the National Assembly are held on the same day, section 247 (2), section 257 (2), section 271 (1), section 282, section 286, section 287, section 292, section 294, section 296 and section 297 shall apply also to the election of the Members of the European Parliament. In such a situation, section 333, section 341/A, section 342, section 343 (2) and section 345 shall not apply.

157. Setting the election date

Section 332 (1)

(2) The election date shall be set for a Sunday within the period determined by the European Union. If the Sunday within the period determined by the European Union falls on a public holiday according to the Labour Code, or on Easter Sunday or Whit Sunday, the date of the election of the Members of the European Parliament shall be set for another day within the period determined by the European Union.

158. Election bodies

Section 333 (1) The following election commissions shall operate in a joint proceeding:

- a) the National Election Commission,
- b) regional election commission,
- c) local election commission,

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d) polling station commission.

(2) In addition to those referred to in section 28 (3), the nominating organisations that drew up a list in the election of the Members of the European Parliament shall each delegate an additional member to the local election commission. Section 29 (2) to (3) shall apply also to this delegation.

158/A The postal voter electoral register in the election of the Members of the European Parliament

Section 333/A A voter not recorded in the register of personal data and address of citizens may be entered into the postal voter electoral register only if his address is recorded in the central electoral register on the basis of a request submitted not later than the twenty-fifth day before voting day.

159. Requests for the registration of nationals of other Member States of the European Union

Section 334 (1) A national of another Member State of the European Union may request not later than the ninth day before voting day that his registration in the central electoral register apply to also the election of the Members of the European Parliament. The request shall include

- a) a statement by the voter that he only exercises his voting right in Hungary,
- b) the specification of the settlement or constituency in the electoral register of which he is registered in the Member State of his nationality, if applicable.

(2) A national of another Member State of the European Union who is recorded in the central electoral register also for the election of the Members of the European Parliament may request not later than the ninth day before voting day that his registration in the central electoral register do not apply to the election of the Members of the European Parliament.

160. Registration of nationals of other Member States of the European Union

Section 335 (1) The National Election Office shall notify, not later than the fifteenth day before voting day, the central organs of the Member States of the European Union competent to receive such data in the course of elections to the European Parliament of the nationals of each country who are recorded in the polling district electoral register of the election of the Members of the European Parliament. The notification shall contain the following data of the voter:

- a) name,
- b) sex,
- c) place and date of birth,
- d) nationality,
- e) the settlement or constituency in the electoral register of which the person concerned was last recorded in the state of his nationality.

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(2) On the basis of a request to that effect by the Member State concerned, data provision under paragraph (1) may also include other personal data included in the central electoral register of the voter.

161. Deregistration of voters exercising their suffrage in another EU Member State

Section 336 (1) On the basis of a notification to that effect about Hungarian citizens recorded in the electoral register of another Member State of the European Union for the election of the Members of the European Parliament, or a certificate issued by the competent authority of the Member State concerned submitted by the voter, the National Election Office shall, by the closing of the electoral register at the latest, deregister the voters concerned from the polling district electoral register of the election of the Members of the European Parliament and from the postal voter electoral register.

(2) If, by the closing of the electoral register at the latest, the voter concerned who holds Hungarian citizenship proves by means of a certificate issued by the competent authority of the Member State concerned that he was deregistered from the electoral register of another Member State of the European Union, the National Election Office shall enter him into the polling district electoral register of the election of the Member of the European Parliament or the postal voter electoral register.

162. Provision of data from the register of citizens without suffrage

Section 337 At the request of the competent organ authorised to process data in the course of elections to the European Parliament of a Member State of the European Union, the National Election Office shall, within five days, provide data from the register of citizens without suffrage as regards the suffrage of a Hungarian citizen who for the election to the European Parliament applies for registration in the electoral register in the Member State concerned or stands for election there.

162/A. Requesting absentee voting

Section 337/A (1) Requests for absentee voting shall be submitted not later than the ninth day before voting day.

(2) A voter who requested absentee voting

a) may, within the time limit under paragraph (1), modify or

b) may, on the third day before voting at the latest, withdraw

his request for absentee voting.

(3) If a voter who requested absentee voting complies with the requirements for requesting absentee voting under both section 250 and section 307/A

a) and changes his voting location to the settlement of his place of residence, he shall be entered into the electoral register of the polling district referred to in section 307/B (1) at all three elections,

b) and changes his voting location to a settlement other than the settlement of his place of residence, he shall be entered into the electoral register of the polling district referred to in

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section 250 (4) for the election of the Members of the European Parliament, but at the election of local government representatives and mayors and the election of national minority self-government representatives he shall be entered into the electoral register of the polling district of his domicile or the polling district referred to in section 102 (3).

162/B. Notifying nominating organisations

Section 337/B The nominating organisation shall be registered by the regional election commission or the National Election Commission, depending on to which it was notified.

163. Notifying lists drawn up for the election of the Members of the European Parliament

Section 338 (1) Lists shall be notified not later than the thirty-seventh day before voting day.

(2) The National Election Commission shall register the lists.

(3) The provisions of section 120 (1) to (2) and sections 121 to 127 shall also apply to recommending lists.

(3a) A voter with no address in Hungary may enter on the recommendation sheet the number of his official identity verification card and his date of birth instead of his personal identifier and address.

(4)

Section 339 (1) When notifying a national of another Member State of the European Union as a candidate, a statement by the candidate shall be attached that shall contain the following:

a) nationality, address, place and date of birth and the address of his last domicile in the state of his nationality,

b) he stands as a candidate in the election of the Members of the European Parliament only in Hungary,

c) the specification of the settlement or constituency in the electoral register of which the candidate concerned was last registered in the Member State of his nationality,

d) in the Member State of his nationality, he is not subject to any provision prohibiting him from standing for election.

(2) When notifying a national of another European Union Member State as a candidate, the National Election Office shall inform the competent authority of the Member State of the nationality of the candidate of the statement under paragraph (1) and request a verification of the fact that, in the Member State of his nationality, the candidate is not subject to any provision prohibiting him from standing for election.

(3) The National Election Office shall inform, by sending the data set out in points a) and c) of Annex 2 and within three days of the registration becoming final and binding, the competent bodies of the Member States of the European Union about their citizens who are registered as candidates by the National Election Commission.

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Section 340 The National Election Commission shall refuse to register, or the National Election Office shall deregister from among the candidates, a candidate who

- a) was registered as a candidate in another Member State of the European Union,
- b) who does not have the right of suffrage according to the response to a request under section 339 (2) from the competent authority of the Member State of the nationality of the candidate.

164. Voting

Section 341 Unsealed envelopes found in ballot boxes received from foreign missions shall be considered votes not cast and shall be packed separately.

Section 341/A A voter shall not be entered into the polling district electoral register of the election of the Members of the European Parliament and shall not be allowed to cast a vote in person at the election of the Members of the European Parliament if he established an address in Hungary following the seventh day before election day, and

- a) the National Election Office sent him a postal voting package pursuant to section 277 (1) or
- b) he was recorded in the postal voter electoral register on any day between the fifteenth and seventh day before voting day and requested to receive the ballot paper in person.

165. Vote counting

Section 342 The votes cast at a foreign mission shall be counted by the National Election Office under the supervision of the National Election Commission. The counting shall not start before 19.00 on voting day.

166. Establishing the election result

Section 343 (1) The local election office shall transmit a copy of the polling district minutes on the result of voting to the National Election Office.

(2) Not later than the nineteenth day after voting day, the National Election Commission shall, on the basis of

- a) the polling district minutes,
- b) the minutes establishing the result of voting at foreign missions, and
- c) the minutes establishing the result of postal voting

establish the result of the election of the Members of the European Parliament.

Section 344 With the exception of the number of voters who turned up to vote, informational data containing the uncertified result of the election of the Members of the European Parliament, and the election result, may be made publicly available only after voting is concluded in all Member States of the European Union.

167. Legal remedy

Section 345 (1) The local election commission shall decide on

- a) objections against the activities and decisions of the polling station commission, and objections regarding other acts committed at polling stations;
- b) all objections that are specifically related to the multi-member list, single-member constituency, compensatory list, settlement national minority or mayoral election,
- c) objections that are related to the election of the Members of the European Parliament specifically within the territory of competence of the local election commission.

(2) The regional election commission shall decide on

- a) all objections that are specifically related to the county or capital local government election, the election of the Capital Mayor or the regional national minority election,
- b) all objections not falling under paragraph (1) regarding which territorial competence lies specifically with the regional election commission,
- c) appeals challenging a decision of the local election commission and appeals challenging a decision on an objection against a decision of the head of the local election office adopted in accordance with section 32 (3).

(3) The National Election Commission shall decide on

- a) all objections not falling under paragraphs (1) and (2) if the place where the act is committed cannot be ascertained,
- b) appeals challenging a decision of the regional election commission.

(4) The Curia shall decide on judicial review applications against the result of the election of local government representatives and mayors or the election of national minority self-government representatives on the eighth day from receiving the application at the latest.

167/A Resignation of a representative-elect

Section 345/A After voting day until the confirmation of the validity of the mandate by the European Parliament, a representative-elect may resign by tendering his resignation in writing to the National Election Commission.

FINAL PART
Chapter XVII

Final provisions

168. Authorising provisions

Section 346 Authorisation shall be given to the Minister to determine in a decree

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- a) the detailed rules on the performance of tasks falling within the competence of election offices,
- b) the forms to be used for the purpose of election procedure,
- c) the time limits and due dates for election procedure,
- d) the scope of data in national election result summaries,
- e) allocations, items and accounting and internal audit procedures for election costs,
- f) the amount of honorarium for election commission members, with the exception of the National Election Commission, and of remuneration for election office members,
- g) documents accepted as proof of the capacity of a person to act as the representative of a media content provider,
- h) detailed rules on the payment of fines,
- i) the settlements and foreign missions where voters with no address in Hungary may collect the postal voting package in person if they request to do so,
- j) the detailed rules on carrying out the IT tasks of capital and county government offices relating to elections,
- k) the range, and the rules on reimbursement, of justified and certified expenses relating to the operation of the National Election Commission incurred by the elected members of the National Election Commission,
- l) the detailed rules for the payment in advance under section 310 (2).

169. Provisions on entry into force

Section 347 This Act shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following its promulgation.

170. Abbreviation of the Act

Section 348 The short title for this Act shall be the following: “Election Procedure Act”.

171. Transitional provisions

Section 349 (1) The provisions of Act C of 1997 on election procedure shall apply to the following:

- a) parliamentary by-elections before the first general election of the Members of the National Assembly held after the entry into force of this Act,
- b) local government by-elections before the first general election of local government representatives and mayors held after the entry into force of this Act,

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c) national and local referendums, national and local popular initiatives and citizens' initiatives until the entry into force of the Act on national and local referendums, national and local popular initiatives and citizens' initiatives,

d) regional and national self-government by-elections of national minorities as well as filling the vacancy if a seat in a regional or national self-government of a national minority becomes vacant, before the first general election of national minority self-governments following the entry into force of this Act,

e) filling the vacancy if a seat in the European Parliament becomes vacant, before the first general election of the Members of the European Parliament following the entry into force of this Act.

(1a) Section 48 (1) and (3), Chapter X and section 148/B (2) to (4) of Act C of 1997 shall apply to a European citizens' initiative with the proviso that in the application of section 148/B (3), it shall be established whether the person signing the statement of support is a national of a Member State of the European Union and whether he attained, at the time of signing the statement of support, the age at which citizens are entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament in the Member State of his nationality.

(1b) Section 16 (1) of Act C of 1997 shall apply with the derogation that if a change in the address of the voter is transferred to the register of personal data and addresses by the district office, the head of the local election office shall enter the voter in the electoral register within five days following the change in address.

(2) The powers established in Act C of 1997 for the State Election Commission shall be exercised by the National Election Commission, and those established for the State Election Office shall be exercised by the National Election Office.

(3) Data in the register under section 99/E of Act C of 1997 on election procedure shall be erased within fifteen days following the entry into force of this Act.

(4) A person shall also be entered into the register of citizens without suffrage if he was, on 1 January 2012, under custodianship precluding or limiting his capacity to act on the basis of a final and binding judgment, and if the court did not yet decide on the question of his deprivation of suffrage. Section 13/A (4) shall apply to bringing actions for establishing suffrage.

Section 350 (1) In the 2014 general election of local government representatives and mayors and the subsequent by-elections, a national minority candidate shall also make a statement that he did not stand for election as a national minority candidate of another national minority in the last two general elections of local government representatives and mayors and national minority self-government representatives and in the subsequent by-elections. Section 307/F (2) shall not apply before the 2019 general election of local government representatives and mayors.

(2) In the 2014 general election of national minority self-government representatives and the subsequent by-elections, a candidate shall also make a statement that he did not stand for election as a candidate of another national minority in the last two general elections of national minority self-government representatives and in the subsequent by-elections. Section 318 (4) shall not apply before the 2019 general election of national minority self-government representatives.

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(3) In the application of section 307/G (4) and section 317 (2), in the 2019 general election of local government representatives and mayors and national minority self-government representatives and the subsequent by-elections, the elections before the 2014 general election of local government representatives and mayors and national minority self-government representatives need not be examined.

Section 351 (1) Polling districts shall be set up for the first time by 31 July 2013.

(1a) The constituencies for local government elections shall be set up for the first time by 31 March 2014.

(2) Registration in the central electoral register and the recording of data under section 85 (1) may be requested from 1 November 2013. A voter with no address in Hungary may submit by mail a request for registration in the central electoral register already from 1 August 2013; such requests submitted before 1 November 2013 shall be assessed by the National Election Office by 30 November 2013.

(3) A voter with address in Hungary and a voter living in Hungary with no address may request the registration of data under section 85 (1) after 1 January 2014.

Section 352 (1) Members of the National Election Commission shall be elected for the first time in the month of September following the entry into force of this Act.

(2) The mandate of the members of the State Election Commission operating at the time of the entry into force of this Act shall last until the constituent sitting of the National Election Commission elected pursuant to paragraph (1).

Section 353 In 2013, the date of by-elections of Members of the National Assembly may not be set for a day following 1 September.

Section 353/A The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act XXXVI of 2018 amending certain Acts relating to elections shall apply to elections the date of which is set after its entry into force.

Section 353/B The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act CXXVII of 2019 amending certain Acts in connection with the introduction of single-instance district office proceedings shall apply to elections the date of which is set after 1 January 2020.

Section 353/C The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act CLXVII of 2020 amending certain Acts on the subject of elections shall apply to elections the date for which is set after their entry into force.

Section 353/D (1) The president and vice-president of the National Election Office shall, in accordance with section 57 (1) of this Act as introduced by Act XVIII of 2022 amending Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly and certain related Acts, make a declaration of assets by 5 August 2022 reflecting the situation on the day when the declaration of assets is made.

(2) The entity in charge of dealing with the declarations of assets shall retain the declarations of assets of the spouses, cohabitants and children of the president and vice-president of the National Election Office living in the same household with the president and vice-president of the National Election Office, respectively, that are kept by the entity in charge of dealing with the declarations

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on the day of entry into force of Act XVIII of 2022 amending Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly and certain related Acts until 1 August 2023.

(3) To proceedings related to declarations of assets pending on the day of entry into force of Act XVIII of 2022 amending Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly and certain related Acts, the rules in force on the day of commencement of the proceeding shall apply.

Section 353/E (1) The president and vice-president of the National Election Office shall for the first time make a declaration of assets covering the information and in the form set out in Act LVI of 2022 amending, at the request of the European Commission, certain Acts for the successful conclusion of the conditionality mechanism procedure, reflecting the situation on 1 November 2022, by 31 January 2023 in accordance with the provisions introduced by Act XXXI of 2022 amending certain Acts on declaration of assets relating to the control of the use of European Union budget funds, attaching also the declarations of assets of their spouses, cohabitants and children living in the same household with them.

(2) To proceedings relating to declarations of assets pending on the day of entry into force of Act XXXI of 2022 amending certain Acts on declaration of assets relating to the control of the use of European Union budget funds, the rules in force on the day of commencement of the proceeding shall apply.

Section 353/F (1) By way of derogation from section 8 (2) b) of this Act as introduced by Act XXIV of 2023 amending the election procedure rules in connection with electronic administration (hereinafter the “Amending Act”), a day shall not be set as the date of a by-election of the local government representatives and mayors if it falls between the day of the entry into force of the Amending Act and the day of the 2024 general election of local government representatives and mayors, and any election already set for this period shall be cancelled except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) Where the election campaign period for a by-election the date for which had been set before the entry into force of the Amending Act started before the entry into force of the Amending Act, the election shall be held.

(3) For a by-election cancelled under paragraph (1), the time limit specified in section 307/T of this Act as introduced by the Amending Act shall start on the day of the entry into force of the Amending Act.

Section 353/G (1) By way of derogation from section 8 (2) c) of this Act as introduced by the Amending Act, a day shall not be set as the date of a by-election of the national minority self-government representatives if it falls between the day of the entry into force of the Amending Act and the day of the 2024 general election of national minority self-government representatives, and any election already set for this period shall be cancelled except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) Where the election campaign period for a by-election the date for which had been set before the entry into force of the Amending Act started before the entry into force of the Amending Act, the election shall be held.

(3) For a by-election cancelled under paragraph (1), the time limit specified in section 307/T of this Act as introduced by the Amending Act shall start on the day of the entry into force of the Amending Act.

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Section 353/H The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act XCV of 2023 amending certain election-related Acts for fairer and more proportionate local government elections (hereinafter “Amending Act 1”) shall apply for the first time to the general election of local government representatives and mayors the date of which is to be set following the entry into force of the Amending Act 1.

Section 353/I A decision adopted by the head of the Capital Election Office in accordance with section 306 (2) regarding the general election of local government representatives and mayors the date of which is set after the entry into force of the Amending Act 1 shall cease to have effect.

Section 353/J The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act LXXIX of 2024 amending certain election-related Acts shall apply to elections held after 1 February 2025.

172. Compliance with the requirement of the Fundamental Law on cardinality

Section 354 (1) The General Part, with the exception of section 3 10, section 146 a), sections 147 to 147/F, subtitle 74 and section 233; furthermore, section 346, section 347, section 353/D, section 353/E, section 353/H and Annexes 1 to 6 and Annex 9 qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIX (3), Article 2 (1) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(2) Section 3 10, section 146 a), sections 147 to 147/F and subtitle 74 qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article IX 3, Article XXIX (3), Article 2 (1) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(3) Section 233 qualifies as cardinal on the basis of Article 24 (9) of the Fundamental Law.

(4) Chapter XIII, section 331 (3) and Annexes 7 and 8 qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article 2 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(5) Chapter XIV, section 331 (1) to (2), section 333, subtitle 162/A, subtitle 162/B, section 345, section 353/F and section 353/I qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

(6) Chapter XV and section 353/G qualify as cardinal on the basis of Article XXIX (3) of the Fundamental Law.

173. Compliance with European Union law

Section 355 (1) Section 90, sections 334 to 337, section 339 and section 340, in conjunction with Article XXIII (2) of the Fundamental Law, serve the purpose of compliance with Council Directive 93/109/EC of 6 December 1993 laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not national and Directive 2013/1/EU of 20 December 2012 amending Directive 93/109/EC.

(2) Section 305, in conjunction with Article XXIII (2) of the Fundamental Law, serves the purpose of compliance with Council Directive 94/80/EC of 19 December 1994 laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals.

(3) Section 332 (2), section 338 (3a), section 341/A, section 343 (2) and section 344, in conjunction with Article XXXIII (2) of the Fundamental Law and with Act CXIII of 2003 on the

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election and status of the Members of the European Parliament, contain provisions for the implementation of Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2018/994 of 13 July 2018 amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, annexed to Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom of 20 September 1976.

174. Amending provisions

Section 356

Section 357

Section 358

Section 359

Section 360

Section 361

Section 362

Section 363

Section 364 Section 459 (1) 11 of Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code shall enter into force supplemented by the following subpoint I):

“I) a member of the election commission;”

Section 365

Section 366

175. Repealing provisions

Section 367

Annex 1 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Data content of the register of polling districts and constituencies

The register of polling districts and constituencies contains the following:

- a) the serial number of parliamentary single-member constituencies, the number of voters belonging to a constituency, the name of settlements belonging to a constituency and, in the case of settlements divided into more than one single-member constituency, the serial number of polling district belonging to the constituency,
- b) in settlements with more than ten thousand inhabitants, the serial number of local government single-member constituencies, the number of voters belonging to the constituency, the serial number of polling districts belonging to the constituency,
- c) for each settlement, the serial number of each polling district, the addresses belonging to each polling district, the number of voters belonging to each polling district, the address of the polling station for each polling district,

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- d) indication of the polling district designated under section 78 and the polling district designated under section 292 (1),
- e) address of the place where votes can be handed over in accordance with section 281 (1),
- f) information on the accessibility of the polling stations,
- g) cartographic indication of polling districts and constituencies,
- h) indication of national minorities the number of persons belonging to which in the settlement reaches twenty-five according to the data, aggregated by national minority, provided in response to the questions of the last census regarding belonging to a national minority.

Annex 2 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Data content of the central electoral register

The central electoral register contains the following:

- a) name and birth name of the voter,
- b) personal identifier of the voter,
- c) address of the domicile and place of residence of the voter,
- d) name of the mother of the voter,
- e) place and date of birth of the voter,
- f) for a voter with no address in Hungary, the type and number of the official verification card for verifying identity if he does not have a personal identifier,
- g) reference to the election and the constituency in which the voter has the right to vote and of the election in which he can be voted for,
- h) reference to the settlement and single-member constituency in which the voter was recorded in the polling district electoral register on the day of the last election of local government representatives and mayors,
- i) for a voter recorded in the electoral register for an election of the Members of the European Parliament as a national of another Member State of the European Union,
- ia) nationality,
- ib) reference to the settlement or constituency in the electoral register of which he was last recorded in the Member State of his nationality, if available,
- j) for a voter recorded in the electoral register as national minority voter, the date of the submission of his request and the date on which he was entered into the electoral register as national minority voter, and reference to
- ja) the national minority to which the voter belongs according to the electoral register,
- jb) whether the registration of the voter as national minority voter applies to also the election of the Members of the National Assembly,
- k) reference to the type of assistance under section 88 the voter with a disability requires,
- l) the content of the statement under section 89 (1),
- m) reference to the constituency and the polling district where the voter can exercise his right to vote,
- n) the date on which a voter living abroad with no address in Hungary is entered into the central electoral register and the date on which the act referred to in section 97 (1) b), is indicated in the central electoral register,
- o) for a voter with no address in Hungary,
- oa) reference to the settlement where he wishes the postal voting package to be received in person,
- ob) postal address if he requested the postal voting package to be delivered by post,
- oc) postal address or email address as provided under section 92 (4),
- p) status of the voter,
- q) the reason for, and the date of, the deregistration of the voter under section 97 (2).

Annex 2/A to Act XXXVI of 2013

Data content of the register of citizens without suffrage

The register of citizens without suffrage contains the following data for a citizen:

- a) name,
- b) birth name,
- c) personal identifier, if any,
- d) address,
- e) name of the mother,
- f) place of birth,
- g) date of birth,
- h) reference to the lack of active and/or passive suffrage,
- i) specification of the data source of his data transferred under section 98 (2), and
- j) the reason for, and the date of, the deletion of data of the citizen, until the date specified under section 98 (4).

Annex 3 to Act XXXVI of 2013**Data content of the polling district electoral register**

The polling district electoral register contains the following:

- a) name of election,
- b) voting day,
- c) settlement and constituency,
- d) serial number of the polling district,
- e) address of the polling station,
- f) the following data of the voter:
 - fa) name,
 - fb) birth name,
 - fc) name of mother,
 - fd) place and date of birth,
 - fe) personal identifier,
 - ff) address in Hungary,
 - fg) reference to the voting assistance requested by him pursuant to section 88,
 - fh)
 - g) reason for and date of deregistration from the polling district electoral register,
 - h) number of voters recorded in the polling district electoral register,
 - i) in a situation under section 257 (1b), reference to the fact that the voter can only vote on single-member constituency ballot paper.

Annex 4 to Act XXXVI of 2013**Data content of the register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists**

The register of nominating organisations, candidates and lists contains the following:

- a) for a nominating organisation:
 - aa) name and seat,
 - ab) abbreviated name,
 - ac) logo,
 - ad) type,
 - ae) court registration number or identifier in the public register of the treasury,
 - af) phone number and email address,
 - ag) name, birth name, name of the mother, and place and date of birth of its statutory representative, the scope of his right of representation, the way this right is exercised, term of mandate, termination date of mandate,

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- ah) name, birth name, name of the mother, and place and date of birth of its authorised representative, and the territorial limitation of authorisation if applicable,
- ai) statement as to whether it wishes its abbreviated name and/or logo to be placed on the ballot paper,
- aj) statement as to whether it wishes its name and/or abbreviated name to be indicated on the ballot paper in the national minority language,
- b) for a candidate:
 - ba) name and address,
 - bb) personal identifier or, if a personal identifier is not available, the number of his passport, identity card or driving licence issued by a Hungarian authority,
 - bc) reference to his independent candidacy or the nominating organisation of which he is a constituency candidate or in the list of which he is included,
 - bd) statement as to whether he wishes that out of his multiple given names, only one be indicated on, or that the “dr.” title be omitted from, the ballot paper,
 - be) statement as to whether he wishes his name to be indicated on the ballot paper in the national minority language,
 - bf) in a situation under section 157 (2), his occupation,
- c) the nominating organisation drawing up a list,
- d) other data not qualifying as personal data as specified by the Minister in a decree,
- e) reference to the election for which the nominating organisation, candidate or list was registered, the constituency in which the candidate stands for election or for which the list is drawn up.

Annex 5 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Content of the candidate ballot paper

The candidate ballot paper contains the following:

- a) the designation “szavazólap” (“ballot paper”),
- b) a space marked for stamping in the top left corner of the ballot paper,
- c) name of the election,
- d) voting day,
- e) reference to the constituency,
- f) number of candidates for whom votes can be cast validly,
- g) serial number of the candidate
- h) name of the candidate,
- i) a circle to mark the vote,
- j) name of the nominating organisation or the reference “független jelölt” (“independent candidate”),
- j) information on the form-related requirements for a valid vote.

Annex 6 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Content of the list ballot paper

The list ballot paper contains the following:

- a) the designation “szavazólap” (“ballot paper”),
- b) a space marked for stamping in the top left corner of the ballot paper,
- c) name of the election,
- d) voting day,
- e) reference to the constituency,
- f) note indicating that a vote will be valid only if it is cast for one list,
- g) serial number of the list,
- h) a circle to mark the vote,
- i) name of the nominating organisation,

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- j) the names of the first five candidates included in the list,
- k) information on the form-related requirements for a valid vote.

Annex 7 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Data content of the foreign mission electoral register

The foreign mission electoral register contains the following:

- a) name of the election,
- b) voting day,
- c) reference to the foreign mission,
- d) for voters:
 - da) name,
 - db) personal identifier,
 - dc) birth name,
 - dd) name of the mother,
 - de) place and date of birth,
- e) specification of ballot papers to be handed over to the voter,
- f) number of voters recorded in the foreign mission electoral register.

Annex 8 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Data content of the postal voter electoral register

The postal voter electoral register contains the following:

- a) name of the election,
- b) voting day,
- c) for voters:
 - ca) name, birth name, name of the mother,
 - cb) personal identifier, or if a personal identifier is not available, the type and number of the official identity verification card,
 - cc) place and date of birth,
 - cd) reference to the settlement where he wishes the postal voting package to be received in person, if applicable,
 - ce) postal address if he requested the postal voting package to be delivered by post,
 - cf) postal address or email address as provided under section 92 (4),
- d) number of voters recorded in the postal voter electoral register.

Annex 9 to Act XXXVI of 2013

Data content of the register of representatives

The register of representatives contains the following data for a representative:

- a) name,
- b) birth name,
- c) personal identifier or, for a citizen not having personal identifier, the type and number of the official identity verification card,
- d) address in Hungary,
- e) name of the mother,
- f) place of birth,
- g) date of birth,
- h) type of mandate and reference to the constituency,
- i) day of establishment and termination of mandate, and voting day,
- j) reason for the termination of mandate,

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k) reference to his independent candidacy or the nominating organisation of which he was a constituency candidate or in the list of which he was included.

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Act CCXXXVIII of 2013

on initiating referendums, the European Citizens' Initiative and referendum procedure

It is a constitutional principle that power is held by the people. It exercises its power within the framework of the Fundamental Law, primarily through its elected representatives. It is part of the democratic exercise of power that the citizens may participate directly, through referendum in deciding the most important issues affecting the fate of the country. The communities of local governments enjoy the same rights in their exercise of local public power.

In light of these basic principles and for the implementation of Article 8 and Article 31 (2) of the Fundamental Law, the National Assembly adopts the following Act:

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1 (1) Subject to the derogating provisions laid down in this Act, the General Part of Act XXXVI of 2013 on election procedure (hereinafter the "Election Procedure Act") shall apply to the proceedings falling under the scope of this Act.

(2) The National Election Commission may issue guidelines for election bodies for the uniform interpretation of legislation on procedures regulated in this Act.

(3) Section 2 (4) of the Election Procedure Act shall apply to also signature gathering forms.

Chapter II

INITIATING A NATIONAL REFERENDUM

1. The organiser of a voters' initiative

Section 2 (1) A voters' initiative for a national referendum may be organised by the following:

- a) a private person who has the right to vote at election of the Members of the National Assembly,
- b) a political party,
- c) an association that does not have the legal status of a political party (hereinafter "other association") on matters relating to any objective set out in its instrument of incorporation.

(2) An initiative may have multiple organisers. In such a case, the organisers shall designate a person for communication with election bodies.

2. Submission of the question proposed for a referendum

Section 3 (1) Before commencing signature gathering, the organiser shall submit the proposed referendum question to the National Election Commission for approval.

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(2) An initiative shall include a single question.

(3) When submitting a question, the private person organiser shall provide the National Election Commission with his name, address and personal identifier or, if he has no personal identifier, the number of his official identity verification card.

(4) An other association shall attach also its instrument of incorporation when submitting a question.

(5) The National Election Office shall verify the existence of the political parties or other associations and the authenticity of their data in the court register of non-governmental organisations.

Section 4 (1) A question shall be submitted with supporting signatures from not less than twenty and not more than thirty voters.

(2)

(3) Section 15 (2) and (3) shall apply to the signatures of supporting voters.

(4) The National Election Office shall verify in the central electoral register whether the organiser and the supporting voters have the right of suffrage.

(5) When establishing the number of supporting voters, the private person organiser shall also be taken into account.

Section 5 The President of the Republic and the Government shall submit the question proposed for a referendum initiated by them to the National Election Commission for approval.

Section 6 (1) The question shall be submitted in person or by mail.

(2) The date of submission shall be the date on which the question is filed by the National Election Office.

Section 7 On the working day after the day of the submission of the question, the National Election Office shall publish the question submitted, the date of its submission and the name of the organiser.

Section 8 (1) No other question on the same subject shall be submitted

a) after the National Election Commission establishes in a final and binding conclusive decision under section 22 (3) that the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand

aa) until the conclusive decision refusing to order the referendum becomes final and binding,

ab) until the referendum is held, or

ac) until the expiry of the period under section 31 (2),

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b) after the National Assembly orders the referendum with final and binding effect pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law,

ba) until the referendum is held, or

bb) until the expiry of the period under section 31 (2).

(2) After the submission by the organiser of the proposed referendum question, the President of the Republic and the Government shall not submit another question on the same subject

a) within sixteen days following a decision rejecting the question under section 10 (1) by the president of the National Election Office if it has not been submitted again,

b) until the expiry under section 29 (1) of the time limit for submitting a review application against the decision concerning the approval of the question if no review application was submitted against the decision refusing to approve that question,

c) up until 0.00 o'clock on the day after the publication under section 30 (3) in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny* of the decision by the Curia

ca) upholding the decision by the National Election Commission refusing approval, or rejecting, without any examination as to its merits, the review application submitted against that decision, or

cb) amending the decision by the National Election Commission approving the question,

if a review application against the decision concerning the approval of the question has been submitted,

d) until the referendum initiative is withdrawn,

e) until the time limit for the submission of signature gathering forms expires without result,

f) until the conclusive decision refusing to order the referendum becomes final and binding,

g) until the referendum is held, or

h) until the expiry of the period under section 31 (2).

(3) Two questions shall be considered to be on the same subject if they would impose obligations on the National Assembly that are, even if only in part, identical or mutually exclusive.

Section 9 (1) The proposed referendum question shall be worded in a manner that allows for a straightforward answer, and that on the basis of the referendum results, the National Assembly can decide whether it has an obligation to legislate and if so, in what form.

(2) The proposed referendum question shall not contain any expression that is indecent or causes outrage in any other way.

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3. Approving the question

Section 10 (1) Where an initiative is clearly contrary to the constitutional purpose and function of the legal institution of the national referendum, or where it does not meet the conditions set out in sections 2 to 4, section 6 and section 8 (1), the president of the National Election Office shall reject, in a conclusive decision, the question within five days after submission, and shall not put it forward to the National Election Commission. Section 46, section 47, section 48 (3) and section 50 of the Election Procedure Act shall apply to the content and communication of a conclusive decision rejecting a question.

(2) No legal remedy shall lie against the conclusive decision of the president of the National Election Office; the organiser, however, may submit the question again. Approval of a question submitted again shall be put on the agenda of the National Election Commission, except where the number of supporting voters, including private person organisers, does not reach twenty.

(3) If the organiser submits the question again within fifteen days after the communication of the conclusive decision by the president of the National Election Office rejecting the question, for the purposes of section 8, the date of the first submission shall be considered to be the date of the submission of the question.

Section 11 (1) The National Election Commission shall decide whether to approve or refuse to approve the question within sixty days after submission. The National Election Commission shall approve the question if it meets the conditions set for the question in the Fundamental Law and in this Act.

(2) In its conclusive decision approving the question, the National Election Commission shall determine whether the circumstance specified in section 8 (3) exists.

(3) If the circumstance specified in section 8 (3) occurs after the approval of the question, the National Election Office shall, without delay, notify the organiser thereof in writing by sending him the final and binding conclusive decision to that effect.

(4) The National Election Office shall inform, without delay, the voters on the official website of the elections about questions on the same subject. This information shall contain

a) the date of the approval with final and binding effect of the question on the same subject,

b) the date on which the signature gathering forms containing a question on the same subject were submitted pursuant to section 19 (1),

c) the final and binding findings under section 22 (3) of the verification of signatures on signature gathering forms that are submitted pursuant to section 19 (1) and contain questions on the same subject,

d) the date of the decision by the National Assembly ordering with final and binding effect the referendum pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law concerning referendum initiatives on the same subject,

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e) the date of the decision by the National Assembly not ordering the referendum under the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law concerning referendum initiatives on the same subject, and

f) the referendum initiatives which are suspended under section 19/B (2) a), and those which are stayed under section 19/C (1).

(5) If a final and binding conclusive decision under section 22 (3) by the National Election Commission establishes that the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand, or if the National Assembly ordered with final and binding effect the referendum pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law, another question on the same subject shall not be approved.

Section 12 If the question proposed for referendum contains an expression that is indecent or causes outrage in any other way, the National Election Commission shall reject the initiative without any examination as to its merits.

Section 13 (1) The National Election Commission shall publish its conclusive decision approving the question in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny* within eight days.

(2) The National Election Commission shall publish in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny* a notice of its conclusive decision refusing to approve the question, including also a conclusive decision rejecting the initiative; this notice shall contain

a) the number of the conclusive decision,

b) the fact that approval is refused, and

c) information that the conclusive decision is accessible on the official website of the elections.

(3) The National Election Commission shall publish on the official website of the elections its conclusive decision approving or refusing to approve the question, including also a conclusive decision rejecting the initiative, on the day of passing that conclusive decision.

Section 14 (1) If

a) the time limit for legal remedy against a decision approving the question expires without result;

b) if legal remedy is sought, the time limit available for submitting a constitutional complaint against the decision of the Curia expires without result; or

c) the decision of the Constitutional Court rejecting or dismissing a constitutional complaint is published in the official gazette *Alkotmánybíróság Határozatai*;

the National Election Office shall, without delay following the occurrence of an event referred to in points a) to c), but not later than within five days, hand over to the organiser the signature gathering forms containing the approved question in the quantity requested by the organiser. The National Election Office shall affix a unique identifier to each of the signature gathering forms.

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(1a) Where an organiser submits a request for signature gathering forms after an event referred to in paragraph (1), the National Election Office shall hand over the signature gathering forms to the organiser within five days following the request.

(2) The organiser may, at any time during the period for gathering signatures, request additional signature gathering forms.

(3) The National Election Office shall indicate the proposed referendum question on the signature gathering forms.

(4) Within five days after the expiry without result of the time limit for legal remedy against a decision approving a question submitted by the President of the Republic or the Government, or if legal remedy is sought, after the expiry without result of the time limit for submitting a constitutional complaint against a decision by the Curia or the publication in the official gazette *Alkotmánybíróság Határozatai* of a decision of the Constitutional Court rejecting or dismissing a constitutional complaint, the chair of the National Election Commission shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly of the approval of the question submitted by the President of the Republic or the Government.

4. Signature gathering

Section 15 (1) Support for a voters' initiative for a national referendum may be expressed on a signature gathering form issued by the National Election Office. A signature of support shall not be withdrawn.

(2) The data of the voter shall be indicated on the same page as the question. The supporting voter shall sign the signature gathering form in his own hand. The family and given name, personal identifier and address of the signing voter shall be legibly recorded on the signature gathering form. A voter with no address in Hungary may record on the signature gathering form the number of his official identity verification card and his date of birth instead of his personal identifier and address.

(3) A voter may support an initiative by a single signature; his further signatures shall be invalid.

(4) The persons gathering signatures shall indicate on the signature gathering forms

a) their name,

b) their personal identifier or the number of their official identity verification card,

and shall sign the signature gathering forms.

Section 16 (1) Signatures may be gathered without disturbing voters anywhere except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) Signatures shall not be gathered

a) at the workplace of the person gathering signatures and the signing person during working hours, or while one or the other is fulfilling his obligations to perform work arising from employment or other employment-related relationship,

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b) from persons employed under a service relationship at the Hungarian Defence Forces or a central state administration organ at their service post or while they are performing their duty,

c) on means of public transport,

d) in the official premises of state and local government organs and the organs of national minority self-governments,

e) in the premises of healthcare providers,

f) in higher education and public upbringing institutions,

g) on private properties open to the public without the written consent of the owner given in advance.

(3) It shall be forbidden to grant or promise advantages to signing voters in return for their signature. Signing voters shall be forbidden to ask for or accept advantage or a promise thereof in return for their signature.

Section 17 Signatures gathered in a manner that is not in compliance with section 15, or in breach of the provisions set out in section 16, shall be invalid.

Section 17/A If a final and binding conclusive decision under section 22 (3) by the National Election Commission establishes that the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand, or if the National Assembly ordered with final and binding effect the referendum pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law, no signature gathering forms shall be handed over to the organiser for a referendum initiative on the same subject.

Section 18 (1) In the period between the fiftieth day before the date of the general election of the Members of the National Assembly, the Members of the European Parliament, of local government representatives and mayors, and of national minority self-government representatives and the thirtieth day after the voting, the signature gathering shall be suspended.

(2) If the organiser does not finish signature gathering by the fiftieth day before the date of the general election of the Members of the National Assembly, the Members of the European Parliament, of local government representatives and mayors, and of national minority self-government representatives, he shall be required to hand over the signature gathering forms with the signatures so far gathered and the signature gathering forms without any signatures to the National Election Office not later than on the forty-ninth day before voting date. If he fails to comply with this obligation, the National Election Commission shall impose a fine *ex officio*. The amount of fine shall be eight hundred forints for each signature gathering form not submitted, but in total not more than five times the monthly amount of the mandatory minimum wage for a voter, or ten times the monthly amount of the mandatory minimum wage for an organisation.

(3) Signatures gathered on signature gathering forms that are not handed over within the time limit specified in paragraph (2) shall be invalid.

(4) On the thirty-first day after voting date, the National Election Office shall hand over to the organiser the signature gathering forms containing the approved question in the requested quantity.

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5. Verification of signatures

Section 19 (1) Within one hundred and twenty days after receiving the signature gathering forms under section 14 (1) or (2), but not later than within one hundred and twenty days after the tenth day following an event referred to in section 14 (1), the organiser may submit the signature gathering forms of the citizens' initiative for a national referendum to the National Election Office on a single occasion for the verification of signatures. The period specified in section 18 (1) and the period of suspension under section 19/B (6) *b*) shall not be calculated into this time limit.

(2)

(3) At the time of the submission under paragraph (1), but not later than on the last day of the time limit for the submission of signature gathering forms under paragraph (1), the organiser shall hand over all signature gathering forms to the National Election Office. If he fails to comply with this obligation, the National Election Commission shall impose a fine *ex officio* pursuant to the provisions of section 18 (2).

(4) Signatures on signature gathering forms that are submitted late or as a supplement or by a person other than the organiser or handed over pursuant to section 19/A (1) shall be invalid.

Section 19/A (1) If the National Assembly ordered with final and binding effect the referendum pursuant to Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law, the organiser shall hand over to the National Election Office all signature gathering forms of a referendum initiative on a question on the same subject within fifteen days following the date of the decision by the National Assembly ordering with final and binding effect the referendum.

(2) In the case of a failure to comply with the obligation specified in paragraph (1), the National Election Commission shall impose a fine *ex officio* pursuant to the provisions of section 18 (2).

Section 19/B (1) If the circumstance specified in section 8 (3) exists, and the number of valid signatures on the signature gathering forms submitted first under section 19 (1) (hereinafter "primary submission") does not attain two hundred thousand, but is not less than one hundred thousand, and the conclusive decision establishing the findings of the verification of signatures became final and binding, the organiser shall, in the case of referendum initiatives on the same subject, hand over all signature gathering forms (hereinafter "secondary submission") to the National Election Office by the 85th day following the day of primary submission (hereinafter "submission time limit with suspensory effect").

(2) When making the secondary submission, the organiser shall state whether

a) he requests that the signature gathering be suspended,

b) he requests that the signatures submitted be verified under section 19 (1), or

c) he withdraws his referendum initiative.

(3) In the case of a failure to comply with the obligation to make a statement under paragraph (2), the referendum initiative shall be considered withdrawn.

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(4) In the case of a failure to comply with the obligation specified in paragraph (1), the National Election Commission shall impose a fine *ex officio* pursuant to the provisions of section 18 (2).

(5) The time limit set out in section 14 (1) shall be suspended from the day following the submission time limit with suspensory effect until the decision, under section 25 (2), not ordering the referendum pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law and on the basis of information provided under section 23 (3) is passed by the National Assembly.

(6) In the case of suspension under paragraph (2) a),

a) the suspension shall terminate on the day on which the National Assembly passes its decision, under section 25 (2), not ordering the referendum pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law and on the basis of information provided under section 23 (3), and the National Election Office shall hand over to the organiser the signature gathering forms containing the approved question in the requested quantity,

b) the time limit under section 19 (1) shall be suspended from the day of secondary submission until the day of handing over the signature gathering forms specified in point a), and

c) the suspended referendum initiative shall conclude once the National Assembly orders with final and binding effect the referendum pursuant to Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

Section 19/C (1) If a final and binding conclusive decision under section 22 (3) by the National Election Commission establishes that the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand, in the case of referendum initiatives on the same subject, the time limits under section 14 (1) and section 19 (1) shall be suspended from the day following the day on which the conclusive decision by the National Election Commission becomes final and binding.

(2) In a situation under paragraph (1), the organiser shall be required to hand over to the National Election Office all signature gathering forms within 15 days following the day on which the conclusive decision establishing the findings of the verification of signatures becomes final and binding.

(3) When handing over the signature gathering forms, the organiser may declare that he withdraws his referendum initiative.

(4) In the case of a failure to comply with the obligation under paragraph (2), the National Election Commission shall impose a fine *ex officio* pursuant to the provisions of section 18 (2).

(5) In the case of suspension under paragraph (1),

a) the referendum initiative affected by the suspension shall conclude once the National Assembly orders with final and binding effect the referendum pursuant to Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law,

b) if the National Assembly's decision ordering the referendum does not become final and binding pursuant to section 33 of Act CLI of 2011 on the Constitutional Court, the suspension shall terminate on the day following the day of the publication of the decision by the Constitutional Court and the National Election Office shall hand over to the organiser the signature gathering forms containing the approved question in the requested quantity.

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Section 20 After the submission of the signature gathering form, the organiser shall not withdraw the referendum initiative.

Section 21 (1) The National Election Office shall verify the signatures. Signatures on signature gathering forms submitted under section 19 (4), and signatures gathered in violation of the provisions set out in section 16, shall not be verified by the National Election Office.

(2) In the approval process of more than one question on the same subject, the signatures on the signature gathering forms that were submitted first shall be verified first.

(3) In verifying the signatures, it shall be checked whether the requirements referred to in section 15 are complied with, the citizens signing the initiative shall be identified, it shall be established whether they have the right of suffrage and the number of valid signatures shall be determined.

(4) For identifying the citizens signing the initiative and establishing whether they have the right of suffrage, the data indicated on the signature gathering forms shall be compared with information in the central electoral register.

(5) The detailed verification of signatures shall continue until one of the following can be ascertained:

a) the number of valid signatures attains two hundred thousand, or

b) the number of valid signatures remains under one hundred thousand, or

c) the number of valid signatures attains one hundred thousand but does not attain two hundred thousand.

(6) If a final and binding conclusive decision under section 22 (3) by the National Election Commission establishes that the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand, or if the National Assembly ordered the referendum pursuant to the second sentence of Article 8 (1) of the Fundamental Law with final and binding effect, the signatures in a referendum initiative on the same subject need not be verified in detail.

(7) If a final and binding conclusive decision under section 22 (3) by the National Election Commission establishes that the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand, but the decision by the National Assembly ordering the referendum does not become final and binding by virtue of section 33 of Act CLI of 2011 on the Constitutional Court, the signatures in a referendum initiative on the same subject shall be verified in detail after the publication of the Constitutional Court decision.

(8) When establishing the number of signatures, the number of voters supporting the submission for approval of the initiative shall also be taken into account.

(9) The National Election Office shall inform the National Election Commission about the findings of the verification of signatures.

Section 22 (1) During the verification of signatures, a person representing the organiser may be present.

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(2) The signatures shall be verified within sixty days after the date of submission of the signature gathering forms.

(3) The findings of the verification of signatures shall be established by the National Election Commission in a conclusive decision.

Section 23 (1) If the number of valid signatures is at least two hundred thousand, the chair of the National Election Commission shall inform the Speaker of the National Assembly about the findings of the verification of signatures on the working day after the date on which the conclusive decision establishing the findings becomes final and binding.

(2) If the number of valid signatures does not attain two hundred thousand but is not less than one hundred thousand, and the circumstance specified in section 8 (3) does not exist, the chair of the National Election Commission shall inform the Speaker of the National Assembly about the findings of the verification of signatures on the working day after the date on which the conclusive decision establishing the findings becomes final and binding.

(3) If the number of valid signatures does not attain two hundred thousand but is not less than one hundred thousand, and the circumstance specified in section 8 (3) exists, the National Election Commission shall inform the Speaker of the National Assembly accordingly on the working day after the date on which the findings of the verification of signatures on the signature gathering forms containing a further question on the same subject that were submitted for verification under section 19/B (2) *b*) before the submission time limit with suspensory effect becomes final and binding. This information shall include both the final and binding findings of the verification of signatures on the signature gathering forms containing a further question on the same subject that were submitted for verification under section 19/B (2) *b*) before the submission time limit with suspensory effect and the order of submission.

Section 23/A (1) A fine imposed due to signature gathering forms shall become statute-barred after the expiry of the fifth year following its imposition at the latest, and it shall be considered an irrecoverable claim by virtue of law.

(2) If the amount of fine imposed with final and binding effect exceeds five hundred thousand forints, the person on whom the fine was imposed may, at any stage of the proceeding, request at the organ managing his debt the payment of the fine in equal monthly instalments for a period of no more than two years.

(3) When fulfilling an obligation set out in section 18 (2), section 19 (1), section 19 (3), section 19/A (1), section 19/B (1) or section 19/C (2), the organiser may hand over the signature gathering forms that do not contain signatures also within 15 days after the time limit specified in the relevant provision. The National Election Commission shall impose the fine for a failure to fulfil the obligation within 30 days after the expiry of the time limit specified in the relevant provision.

6. Protection of personal data

Section 24 (1) The data of the voter and the citizen gathering signatures recorded in the signature gathering form shall not be public, copying them shall be forbidden, with the exception of copying for technical records kept for establishing the validity of signatures by the organ verifying signatures.

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(2) The data of the voter and the citizen gathering signatures, and the technical records may be verified only by the National Election Commission, the National Election Office and the Curia.

(3)

(4) The National Election Office shall destroy the signature gathering form submitted and the technical records between the thirtieth and the forty-fifth day after the date on which the number of valid signatures was established.

(5) Personal data of the organiser and the voters supporting the initiative under section 4 shall be processed by the National Election Commission, the National Election Office and the Curia for verifying eligibility to the submission of the initiative and for communication; with the exception of the data published under section 7, these data shall be deleted

a) between the thirty-fifth and the fortieth day after the date referred to in section 8 (2) a) to f), or

b)

c) within five days after the date on which the resolution ordering the referendum becomes final and binding.

7. Ordering the referendum

Section 25 (1) The Speaker of the National Assembly shall announce the initiative on the sitting day immediately following the receipt of information under section 14 (4) or section 23 (1) to (3). When calculating the time limit, the recess between sessions and the period of adjournment shall not be taken into account.

(2) The National Assembly shall decide on an initiative for a referendum within thirty days after the announcement under paragraph (1) and in the order of submissions if information under section 23 (3) was provided. When calculating the time limit, the recess between sessions and the period of adjournment shall not be taken into account.

(3) With regard to more than one question on the same subject, the National Assembly may order only a single referendum.

Section 26 The President of the Republic and the Government may withdraw the referendum initiative submitted by them until the referendum is ordered.

Section 27 (1) The resolution by the National Assembly ordering the referendum shall contain the referendum question and shall provide for the budget of the referendum. The question shall be put to referendum in the form in which it was worded in the initiative.

(2) The resolution ordering the referendum shall be published in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny*. The Speaker of the National Assembly shall inform the President of the Republic about ordering the referendum.

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8. Legal remedies

Section 28 (1) The time limit for submitting and assessing applications for legal remedy relating to signature gathering and the verification of signatures shall be five days. If the last day of the time limit falls on a day other than a working day, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.

(2) The National Election Commission shall be responsible for assessing objections relating to signature gathering.

Section 29 (1) A review application against a decision by the National Election Commission concerning the approval of the question shall be addressed to the Curia and submitted to the National Election Commission in a manner that it is received by it within fifteen days from the publication of the conclusive decision. If the last day of the time limit falls on a day other than a working day, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.

(2) The National Election Commission shall send the review application to the Curia within five days after receipt.

Section 30 (1) The Curia shall adjudicate the review application within ninety days. The Curia shall either uphold or amend the conclusive decision by the National Election Commission. No further legal remedy shall lie against the decision by the Curia.

(2) The Curia shall adjudicate a review application submitted against a conclusive decision by the National Election Commission rejecting the initiative within thirty days. The Curia shall either uphold the conclusive decision by the National Election Commission rejecting the initiative or instruct the National Election Commission to conduct a new proceeding. No further legal remedy shall lie against the decision by the Curia. If the Curia instructs the National Election Commission to conduct a new proceeding, the National Election Commission shall take a decision as to approve or refuse to approve the question within thirty days from the date on which the Curia took its decision.

(3) The decision by the Curia shall be published in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny* within eight days and on the website of the Curia on the day on which it is taken.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), if the Curia upholds a conclusive decision by the National Election Commission refusing to approve the question, including a conclusive decision rejecting the initiative, it shall publish a notice in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny* within eight days which contains

a) the number of the decision by the Curia,

b) the number of the conclusive decision by the National Election Commission and the fact that it has been upheld, and

c) information about the fact that the decision by the Curia can be accessed on the website of the Curia.

(5) A constitutional complaint against a decision by the Curia referred to in paragraph (1) shall not be submitted later than within eight days following the publication of the decision by the Curia in

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the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny*. The Constitutional Court shall decide on the constitutional complaint within thirty days.

9. The binding force of the referendum

Section 31 (1) If the referendum creates an obligation to legislate, the National Assembly shall be required to adopt an Act in compliance with the outcome of the valid and conclusive referendum within a period of one hundred and eighty days from referendum day.

(2) The outcome of the referendum shall be binding on the National Assembly for a period of three years from referendum day or, for a referendum creating an obligation to legislate, from the promulgation of the resulting Act was promulgated.

Chapter III

INITIATING A LOCAL REFERENDUM

10. The subject-matter of a local referendum

Section 32 (1) The representative body of a local government may order a local referendum in subject-matters falling within the competence of that representative body.

(2) No local referendum may be held on

a) the budget and the closing accounts,

b) local taxes,

c) personal and organisational matters falling within the competence of the representative body,

d) declaring the representative body dissolved.

Section 33 The representative body shall be required to order a local referendum in any matter on which an Act or a local government decree prescribes holding a local referendum.

Section 34 (1) The following may initiate a local referendum:

a) at least one quarter of the members of the representative body,

b) a committee of the representative body,

c) a number of voters specified in a local government decree; this number shall be not less than ten per cent, but not be more than twenty-five per cent of the voters.

(2) The representative body shall be required to order a local referendum if that referendum was initiated by a number of voters specified in the relevant local government decree.

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(3) The number of voters required for an initiative shall be determined on the basis of the data in the central electoral register valid on the day when the signature gathering form is affixed with the certification clause.

11. The organiser of a voters' initiative

Section 35 (1) A voters' initiative for a local referendum may be organised by the following:

- a) a private person who has the right to vote at the election of local government representatives and mayors,
- b) a political party,
- c) an other association on matters relating to any objective set out in its instrument of incorporation.

(2) An initiative may have multiple organisers. In such a case, the organisers shall designate a person for communication with election bodies.

12. Submission of the question proposed for a local referendum

Section 36 (1) Before commencing signature gathering, the organiser shall submit to the local election commission the proposed local referendum question for approval on the specimen signature gathering form.

(2) A signature gathering form shall contain a single question.

(3) When submitting the question, the private person organiser shall provide the local election commission with his name, address and personal identifier. The local election office shall verify in the central electoral register whether the organiser has the right of suffrage.

(4) An other association shall attach also its instrument of incorporation when submitting a question. The local election office shall verify the existence of the political parties and other associations and the authenticity of their data in the court register of non-governmental organisations.

(5) Members and the committee of the representative body shall submit the question proposed for a local referendum initiated by them to the local election commission for approval.

(6) The question shall be submitted in person or by mail.

(7) The date of submission shall be the date on which the question is filed by the local election office.

Section 37 On the working day after the day of the submission of the question, the local election office shall publish the question submitted, the date of its submission and the name of the organiser.

Section 38 (1) After the submission of the question, no other question on the same subject shall be submitted

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- a) within sixteen days following a decision rejecting the question under section 40 (1) by the head of the local election office if it has not been submitted again,
- b) until the decision refusing to approve the question becomes final and binding,
- c) until the local referendum initiative is withdrawn,
- d) until the time limit for the submission of signature gathering forms expires without result,
- e) until the conclusive decision refusing to order the local referendum becomes final and binding,
- f) until the local referendum is held, or
- g) until the expiry of the period under section 60 (2).

(2) In a situation under paragraph (1) a) to e), within thirty days from the date specified therein, the same organiser or the same initiator within the meaning of section 34 (1) a) and b) shall not submit another question on the same subject.

(3) Two questions shall be considered to be on the same subject if they would impose obligations on the representative body that are, even if only in part, identical or mutually exclusive.

Section 39 (1) The proposed local referendum question shall be worded in a manner that allows for a straightforward answer, and that on the basis of the local referendum results, the representative body can decide whether it has an obligation to adopt a decision and if so, what type of decision.

(2) The proposed local referendum question shall not contain any expression that is indecent or causes outrage in any other way.

13. Approving the question

Section 40 (1) Where an initiative is clearly contrary to the constitutional purpose and function of the legal institution of the local referendum, or where it does not meet the conditions set out in section 35, section 36 and section 38 (1) and (2), and if the signature gathering form does not comply with the legal requirements, the head of the local election office shall reject, in a conclusive decision, the question within five days after submission, and shall not put it forward to the local election commission. Section 46, section 47, section 48 (3) and section 50 of the Election Procedure Act shall apply to the content and communication of a conclusive decision rejecting a question.

(2) No legal remedy shall lie against the conclusive decision of the head of the local election office; the organiser, however, may submit the question again. Approval of a question submitted again shall be put on the agenda of the local election commission.

(3) If the organiser submits the question again within fifteen days after the communication of the conclusive decision by the head of the local election office rejecting the question, for the purposes of section 38, the date of the first submission shall be considered to be the date of the submission of the question.

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Section 41 (1) The local election commission shall decide whether to approve or refuse to approve the question within thirty days after submission. The local election commission shall approve the question if it meets the conditions set for the question in this Act.

(2) The question submitted by the organiser may only be approved if the signature gathering form also complies with the legislative provisions.

Section 42 The local election commission shall publish its conclusive decision concerning the approval of the question in the official gazette of the local government or in accordance with established local practice within eight days.

Section 43 (1) Within five days after the expiry without result of the time limit for legal remedy against a decision approving a question, or if legal remedy is sought, after the expiry without result of the time limit available for submitting a constitutional complaint against the decision by the regional court or the publication in the official gazette *Alkotmánybíróság Határozatai* of the decision by the Constitutional Court rejecting or dismissing the constitutional complaint, the head of the local election office shall affix a certification clause to the specimen signature gathering form and hand it over to the organiser.

(2) Within five days after the expiry without result of the time limit for legal remedy against the decision approving the question, or if legal remedy is sought, after the expiry without result of the time limit available for submitting a constitutional complaint against the decision by the regional court or the publication in the official gazette *Alkotmánybíróság Határozatai* of the decision by the Constitutional Court rejecting or dismissing the constitutional complaint, the chair of the local election commission shall inform the mayor of the approval of the question submitted by the members or a committee of the representative body.

14. Signature gathering

Section 44 (1) Support for a voters' initiative for a local referendum may be expressed on a copy of the specimen signature gathering form affixed with a certification clause. A signature of support shall not be withdrawn.

(2) In addition to the voter's signature in his own hand, the family and given name, personal identifier and mother's name of the voter shall also be legibly recorded on the signature gathering form, for verifying the authenticity of the signature. The data of the voter shall be indicated on the same page as the question.

(3) The persons gathering signatures shall indicate on the signature gathering forms their name and personal identifier, and shall sign the signature gathering forms.

(4) A voter may support an initiative by a single signature; his further signatures shall be invalid.

(5) A voter shall be eligible to support an initiative if he has domicile or, if he established a place of residence by the thirtieth day before the certification of the signature gathering form at the latest, a registered place of residence in the settlement concerned.

Section 45 (1) Signatures may be gathered without disturbing voters anywhere except as provided in paragraph (2).

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(2) Signatures shall not be gathered

a) at the workplace of the person gathering signatures and the signing person during working hours, or while one or the other is fulfilling his obligations to perform work arising from employment or other employment-related relationship,

b) from persons employed under a service relationship at the Hungarian Defence Forces or a central state administration organ at their service post or while they are performing their duty,

c) on means of public transport,

d) in the official premises of state and local government organs and the organs of national minority self-governments,

e) in the premises of healthcare providers,

f) in higher education and public upbringing institutions,

g) on private properties open to the public without the written consent of the owner given in advance.

(3) It shall be forbidden to grant or promise advantages to signing voters in return for their signature. Signing voters shall be forbidden to ask for or accept advantage or a promise thereof in return for their signature.

Section 46 Signatures gathered in a manner that is not in compliance with section 44, or in breach of the provisions set out in section 45, shall be invalid.

15. Verification of signatures

Section 47 (1) Within thirty days after the specimen signature gathering form is affixed with a certification clause, the organiser may submit the signature gathering forms of the citizens' initiative for a local referendum to the local election office on a single occasion for the verification of signatures.

(2) Signatures on signature gathering forms that are submitted late or as a supplement or by a person other than the organiser shall be invalid.

Section 48 After the submission of the signature gathering form, the organiser shall not withdraw the initiative.

Section 49 (1) The local election office shall verify the signatures. Signatures on signature gathering forms submitted under section 47 (2), and signatures gathered in violation of the provisions set out in section 45, shall not be verified by the local election office.

(2) In verifying the signatures, it shall be checked whether the requirements referred to in section 44 are complied with, the citizens signing the initiative shall be identified, it shall be established whether they have the right of suffrage and the number of valid signatures shall be determined

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(3) For identifying the citizens signing the initiative and establishing whether they have the right of suffrage, the data indicated on the signature gathering forms shall be compared with information in the central electoral register.

(4) The detailed verification of signatures shall continue until it can be ascertained whether the number of valid signatures reaches or stays below the number of voters required for initiating a local referendum.

(5) During the verification of signatures, a person representing the organiser may be present.

(6) The signatures shall be verified within forty-five days after the date of submission of the signature gathering forms.

(7) The local election office shall inform the local election commission of the findings of the verification of the signatures. The findings of the verification of the signatures shall be established by the local election commission in a conclusive decision.

Section 50 If the number of valid signatures reaches the number required for initiating a local referendum, the chair of the local election commission shall inform the mayor about the findings of the verification of signatures within eight days after the date on which the conclusive decision establishing the findings becomes final and binding.

16. Protection of personal data

Section 51 (1) The data of the voter and the citizen gathering signatures recorded in the signature gathering form shall not be public, copying them shall be forbidden, with the exception of copying for technical records kept for establishing the validity of signatures by the organ verifying signatures.

(2) The data of the voter and the citizen gathering signatures, and the technical records may be verified only by the election bodies and the regional court.

(3) The organisers shall within three days after the expiry of the time limit for submission destroy the signature gathering forms not submitted, and shall draw up minutes of doing so. The minutes shall be handed over to the local election office within three days.

(4) The local election office shall destroy the signature gathering forms submitted and the technical records between the thirtieth and the forty-fifth day after the date on which the number of valid signatures was established.

(5) Personal data of the organiser shall be processed by the election bodies and the regional court for verifying eligibility to the submission of the initiative and for communication; with the exception of the data published under section 37, these data shall be deleted

a) between the thirty-fifth and the fortieth day after the date referred to in section 38 (1) a) to e), or

b) within five days after the adjudication of respective application if legal remedy is sought relating to the prohibition under section 38 (2), or

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c) within five days after the date on which the resolution ordering the referendum becomes final and binding.

17. Ordering the local referendum

Section 52 The mayor shall announce the initiative meeting the legal requirements at the sitting of the representative body immediately following the receipt of information under section 43 (2) or section 50.

Section 53 The representative body shall decide on ordering a local referendum within thirty days after the announcement under section 52.

Section 54 The committee or the members of the representative body may withdraw a local referendum initiative submitted by them until the local referendum is ordered.

Section 55 (1) The resolution by the representative body ordering the local referendum shall contain the local referendum question and shall provide for the budget of the local referendum. The question shall be put to local referendum in the form in which it was worded in the initiative.

(2) The resolution ordering the local referendum shall be published in the official gazette of the local government or in accordance with established local practice. The mayor shall inform the chair of the local election commission about ordering the local referendum.

18. Legal remedies

Section 56 (1) The time limit for submitting and assessing applications for legal remedy relating to signature gathering and the verification of signatures shall be five days. If the last day of the time limit falls on a day other than a working day, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.

(2) The local election commission shall be responsible for assessing objections relating to signature gathering. An appeal challenging a conclusive decision by the local election commission shall be assessed by the regional election commission.

Section 57 (1) A review application against a decision by the local election commission concerning the approval of the question shall be addressed to the regional court and submitted to the local election commission in a manner that it is received by it within fifteen days from the publication of the conclusive decision. If the last day of the time limit falls on a day other than a working day, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.

(2) The local election commission shall send the review application to the regional court within five days after receipt. If a review application is submitted directly to the regional court, the regional court shall inform the local election commission accordingly without delay.

(3) The regional court shall adjudicate the review application within thirty days. The regional court shall either uphold or amend the conclusive decision by the local election commission; no further legal remedy shall lie against that decision.

(4) The regional court shall send its decision without delay to the local election office that shall publish it, indicating the date of publication, on its website not later than on the working day

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following receipt. A constitutional complaint against the decision of the regional court shall be submitted not later than within eight days following the publication of the decision of the regional court on the website of the local election office. The Constitutional Court shall decide on the constitutional complaint within thirty days.

Section 58 (1) A review application against a resolution by the representative body ordering a local referendum or rejecting to order a local referendum the ordering of which is mandatory shall be addressed to the regional court and submitted to the local election commission in a manner that it is received by it within fifteen days from the publication of the resolution.

(2) The local election commission shall send the review application to the regional court within five days after receipt. The chair of the local election commission shall inform the mayor about the submission of a review application without delay.

(3) In the proceeding under paragraph (1) the regional court shall examine the resolution as to its merits only if between the certification of the signature gathering form and the ordering of the local referendum there was an essential change in the circumstances that could not be taken into account by the local election commission when deciding on the approval of the question or on a review application against the approval of the question or, in a proceeding under section 57, by the regional court and that may substantially influence the decision concerned. The regional court shall not examine as to its merits a review application in which the applicant refers to constitutional concerns relating to the substance of the question or to approval.

(4) The regional court shall adjudicate the review application within thirty days. The regional court shall either uphold the resolution by the representative body, or annul it and instruct the representative body to adopt a new resolution.

19. The binding force of the local referendum

Section 59 A local referendum shall be valid if more than half of the voters have cast a valid vote, and it shall be conclusive if more than half of those voting validly have given the same answer to the question asked.

Section 60 (1) If the local referendum creates an obligation to adopt a decision, the representative body shall be required to adopt a decree or a conclusive decision in compliance with the outcome of the valid and conclusive local referendum within a period of one hundred and eighty days from local referendum day.

(2) The outcome of a valid and conclusive local referendum shall be binding on the representative body for a period of one year from local referendum day or, for a local referendum creating an obligation to adopt a decree, from the promulgation of the resulting decree.

20. Regional-level local referendum

61 (1) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply accordingly to county-level or capital-level local referendums.

(2) From the powers established in this Chapter, those established for the local election commission shall be exercised by the regional election commission, those established for the regional election commission shall be exercised by the National Election Commission, and those

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established for the local election office and its head shall be exercised by the regional election office and its head.

(3) The power established in this Chapter for regional courts shall be exercised by the Curia.

Chapter IV

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

Section 62 The provisions of section 16 (1) and (3) and section 28 shall apply to a European citizens' initiative.

Section 63 The National Election Office shall be responsible for verifying statements of support and certifying the number of valid statements of support. The findings of the verification of statements of support shall be established by the National Election Commission in a conclusive decision.

Section 64 (1) In verifying the signatures, it shall be checked whether the form of the statement of support is acceptable, the citizens signing the statement of support shall be identified, it shall be verified whether they are adult Hungarian nationals, and the number of valid statements of support shall be established.

(2) The identification of the citizens signing the statement of support shall be carried out by comparing the data indicated on the signature gathering form with information in the personal data and address register and, if required, in the register of travel documents or the register of official identity verification cards.

(3) During the verification of signatures, a person representing the organisers may be present.

Chapter V

NATIONAL REFERENDUM PROCEDURE

Section 65 (1) Subject to the derogating provisions specified in this Chapter, the provisions of section 244 (2), section 245 (1) a), c), d) and e) and paragraphs (2) to (5), section 247 (1) and (3), section 250, section 251, section 256 (2), section 257 (3), section 257/A, section 257/B, section 258 (1), sections 259 to 263, sections 266 to 270, section 271 (2), sections 272 to 274, section 275, sections 277 to 281, sections 283 to 285, sections 288 to 291, section 293, section 295, section 297 (1) and (3), section 298 and section 341/A of the Election Procedure Act shall apply to national referendum proceedings.

(2) Section 68 and section 70 (1) and (2) shall not apply to a national referendum proceeding where the national referendum is held on the same day as the general election of the Members of the National Assembly (hereinafter "joint proceeding") and was initiated by the President of the Republic or the Government.

(3) The provisions of section 76 and section 77 (2) b) shall not apply to joint proceedings.

(4) The provisions of sections 282, 286, 287 and 292 of the Election Procedure Act shall apply also to joint proceedings.

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Section 66 For voting and establishing the result and for a legal remedy, each referendum question shall be considered separately.

Section 66/A In the referendum proceeding of a referendum initiated by the President of the Republic or the Government, the President of the Republic or the Government, respectively, shall be entitled to the rights granted to organisers under this Chapter.

21. Setting a national referendum date

Section 67 (1) The President of the Republic shall set the referendum date within 15 days after the expiry without result of the time limit for legal remedy against the parliamentary resolution ordering the referendum or, if legal remedy is sought, after the adjudication of the respective application.

(2) The referendum date may be set also if

- a) a referendum date was previously set by the President of the Republic on another question,
- b) there are at least fifty days left until the referendum date, and
- c) holding the referendum on the new question on the same date does not jeopardise the legality of conducting the voting.

(3)

(4) A resolution ordering, and a decision setting the date for, the referendum shall be published in the official gazette *Magyar Közlöny*.

22. Election bodies

Section 68 (1) Organisations organising the initiative that do not have a parliamentary group may delegate a single joint member to the National Election Commission.

(2) The organisers of the initiative may delegate a single joint member and political parties with a parliamentary group that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative may delegate one member each to the parliamentary single-member constituency election commission.

(3) The organisers of the initiative may delegate two joint members and political parties with a parliamentary group that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative may delegate two members each to the polling station commission and, in a settlement with a single polling district, to the local election commission.

(4) The organisers of the initiative and the political parties with a parliamentary group that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative may delegate observers to foreign missions in accordance with section 5 of the Election Procedure Act.

(5) The organisers of the initiative and the political parties with a parliamentary group that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative shall have the right to delegate an observer within the meaning of section 245 (2) of the Election Procedure Act.

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23. Referendum campaign

Section 69 (1) During a national referendum campaign period, political advertisements may be published only by the organisers of the initiative and by political parties with a parliamentary group that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative.

(2) Within five working days after the national referendum date is set, the National Election Commission shall determine in what length a public media service provider is obliged to broadcast, as part of linear media services, political advertisements of those eligible under paragraph (1). The period for broadcasting political advertisements shall be three hundred minutes per referendum, which shall be distributed equally among those eligible. For more than one referendum initiated by the same initiator or, for a voters' initiative, the same organiser that is set for the same day, the total period for broadcasting political advertisement shall be three hundred minutes.

(3) The public media service provider shall broadcast political advertisements in equal shares as part of its linear audio-visual and radio media services that have the highest annual average audience share.

(4) The public media service provider shall be obliged to provide for the uninterrupted broadcasting of political advertisements three times daily, in time slots starting between 6.00 and 8.00, 12.00 and 14.00, and 18.00 and 20.00. The political advertisements of those eligible under paragraph (1) shall be broadcast successively. The order in which the political advertisements appear shall be changed daily to ensure equal opportunities.

(5) The public media service provider shall be obliged to broadcast the political advertisement on the day and in the time slot specified by those eligible under paragraph (1). Those eligible under paragraph (1) may request that political advertisement be broadcast in a certain time slot once a day and for not longer than thirty seconds.

(6) The media service provider shall be obliged to broadcast the political advertisement if those eligible under paragraph (1) hand over the political advertisement created by them not later than on the third day before broadcasting.

24. Data provision from the electoral register

Section 70 (1) The data provision under section 153 of the Election Procedure Act may be requested by an organiser of the initiative or a political party with a parliamentary group that is not involved in the organisation of the initiative.

(2) The National Election Office shall provide the data not earlier than on the fiftieth day or, in a joint proceeding, the thirty-sixth day before referendum day.

(3) Private person organisers shall be required to pay a fee equal to 25 per cent of the data provision fee specified section 154 (1) of the Election Procedure Act.

(4) In a joint proceeding, a political party with a parliamentary group that requested data provision as a nominating organisation drawing up a national list may use the data thus received for the purpose of referendum campaigning in accordance with section 155 (1) of the Election Procedure Act.

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25. Content of the ballot paper

Section 71 (1) A ballot paper shall include not more than one question, unless the referendums have the same initiator or, in the case of a voters' initiative, the same organiser.

(2) The ballot paper for a national referendum shall contain

- a) the word "szavazólap" ("ballot paper"),
- b) a space marked for stamping in the top left corner of the ballot paper,
- c) a reference to the national referendum,
- d) the national referendum day,
- e) an indication that the vote will be valid only if it is cast for one answer for each question,
- f) the national referendum question; if there is more than one question, the questions shall follow in the order in which they were ordered, and the serial number of the questions shall be indicated,
- g) a for and an against answer for each question,
- h) circles to mark the vote for each question,
- i) information on the form-related requirements for a valid vote.

(3) The data content of the ballot paper shall be approved by the National Election Commission on the forty-fifth day before voting day at the latest.

26. Postal voting package

Section 72 Postal ballot papers shall be valid without a stamp.

27. Forwarding votes

Section 73 Unsealed envelopes found in a ballot box received from a foreign mission shall be considered votes not cast and shall be packed separately.

28. Voting process

Section 74 In the application of the provisions of section 186 of the Election Procedure Act, candidate shall be construed as reference to answer.

29. Vote counting

Section 75 (1) In the application of the provisions of section 193, section 195 and section 197 of the Election Procedure Act, candidate shall be construed as reference to answer.

(2) If a ballot paper contains more than one question then

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a) the provisions of section 193 (1) b) and c) of the Election Procedure Act shall not apply,

b) the validity of votes shall be verified for each question; a vote shall be invalid if for the question concerned the ballot paper contains no valid vote or the voter cast his vote for both answers.

Section 76 The votes cast at a foreign mission shall be counted by the National Election Office under the supervision of the National Election Commission. The counting shall not start before 19.00 on voting day.

Section 76/A Unsealed envelopes found in a ballot box received from a foreign mission shall be considered votes not cast and shall be packed separately.

30. Establishing the election result

Section 77 (1) The local election office shall transmit a copy of the polling district minutes on the result of the voting to the National Election Office.

(2) The National Election Commission shall, on the basis of

a) the polling district minutes,

b) the minutes establishing the result of voting at foreign mission, and

c) the minutes establishing the result of the count of postal votes

establish the result of the election.

Section 78 When establishing the result of the referendum, the examination of whether the validity requirement set out in Article 8 (4) of the Fundamental Law is met shall be based on the number of voters entitled to participate in the referendum as recorded in the central electoral register on voting day.

31. Legal remedy

Section 79 (1) The time limit for submitting and assessing applications for legal remedy shall be five days in a national referendum proceeding and three days in a joint proceeding. Except for joint proceedings, if the last day of the time limit falls on a day other than a working day, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.

(2) The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall decide on every objection relating to a violation of law that applies only to the territory of the single-member constituency.

(3) The National Election Commission shall decide on objections not covered by paragraph (2).

(4) The National Election Commission shall assess objections relating to the participation in election campaigns of media content providers, the press and movie theatres. The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission of the seat or domicile of the media service provider shall assess objections relating to a district, local or on-demand media service or a press

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product that is distributed in an area smaller than the whole country. This provision shall apply also to joint proceedings.

(5) In the application of section 233 of the Election Procedure Act, the time limit for the submission of a constitutional complaint and for the Constitutional Court to take a decision shall be five working days; for joint proceedings, the time limit for the submission of a constitutional complaint shall be three days and the time limit for the Constitutional Court to take a decision shall be three working days.

(6) Legal remedy against a decision establishing the partial results referred to in section 77 (2) b) and c) shall be available only in the context of a court review application challenging the decision by the National Election Commission establishing the result of a referendum.

Chapter VI

LOCAL REFERENDUM PROCEDURE

Section 80 (1) Subject to the derogating provisions laid down in this Chapter, the provisions of section 307/A and section 307/B of the Election Procedure Act shall apply also to local referendum proceedings.

(2) A voter shall be eligible to participate in a local referendum if he has domicile or, if he established a place of residence by the thirtieth day before the referendum date is set at the latest, a registered place of residence in the settlement concerned or, for a local referendum on the transfer of a populated area, in the populated area concerned.

(3) For voting and establishing the result and for a legal remedy, each local referendum question shall be considered separately.

32. Setting a local referendum date

Section 81 (1) The local election commission shall set the local referendum date within 15 days after the expiry without result of the time limit for legal remedy against the representative body resolution ordering the local referendum or, if legal remedy is sought, after the adjudication of the respective application.

(2) The local referendum date shall be set so that the voting day falls between the seventieth and the fiftieth day after the day when the date is set.

(3) The calendar dates for the time limits for a local referendum proceeding shall be determined by the local election commission in its conclusive decision setting the local referendum date.

(4) A conclusive decision setting the date for the local referendum shall be published in the official gazette of the local government or in accordance with established local practice.

33. Costs of a local referendum proceeding

Section 82 The costs for implementing the tasks regarding the preparation and conduct of a local referendum as well as other costs relating to the activities of election bodies shall be financed from the local government's budget.

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34. Election bodies

Section 83 (1) The following election commissions shall operate at a local referendum:

- a) polling station commissions,
- b) local election commissions,
- c) regional election commissions,
- d) for matters relating to the capital or counties also the National Election Commission.

(2) To the local election commission and, for matters relating to the capital or counties, to the regional election commission, the organisers of the initiative may jointly delegate a member per election commission, and organisations with a group of representatives in the representative body that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative may delegate one member each.

(3) The organisers of the initiative may jointly delegate two members, and organisations with a group of representatives in the representative body that are not involved in the organisation of the initiative may delegate two members each to the polling station commission and, in a settlement with a single polling district, to the local election commission.

35. Informing voters

Section 84 (1) The National Election Office shall notify voters who are on the thirtieth day before voting day at the latest recorded in the polling district electoral register of their registration in the polling district electoral register by sending them a poll card.

(2) The poll cards shall be sent by the twentieth day before voting day.

36. Content of the ballot paper

Section 85 (1) A ballot paper shall include a single question.

(2) The ballot paper for a local referendum shall contain

- a) the word "szavazólap" ("ballot paper"),
- b) a space marked for stamping in the top left corner of the ballot paper,
- c) a reference to the national referendum,
- d) the local referendum day,
- e) the specification of the settlement, county or the capital.
- f) an indication that the vote will be valid only if it is cast for one answer,
- g) the local referendum question,

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h) a for and an against answer,

i) a circle to mark the vote,

j) information on the form-related requirements for a valid vote.

(3) The data content of the ballot paper shall be approved by the local election commission on the thirtieth day before voting day at the latest.

37. Voting process

Section 86 In the application of the provisions of section 186 of the Election Procedure Act, candidate shall be construed as reference to answer.

38. Vote counting

Section 87 In the application of the provisions of section 193, section 195 and section 197 of the Election Procedure Act, candidate shall be construed as reference to answer.

39. Establishing the result

Section 88 The local election commission shall establish the result of the local referendum on the basis of minutes of the polling station commissions.

40. Legal remedy

Section 89 (1) The time limit for submitting and assessing applications for legal remedy shall be five days in a local referendum proceeding. If the last day of the time limit falls on a day other than a working day, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.

(2) The local election commission shall decide on objections relating to the local referendum. The regional election commission shall decide on appeals challenging a decision by the local election commission.

41. Regional-level local referendum procedure

Section 90 (1) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to county-level and capital-level local referendums.

(2) From the powers established in this Chapter, those established for the local election commission shall be exercised by the regional election commission, those established for the regional election commission shall be exercised by the National Election Commission, and those established for the local election office and its head shall be exercised by the regional election office and its head.

(3)

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Chapter VII

FINAL PROVISIONS

42. Authorising provisions

Section 91 Authorisation shall be given to the Minister responsible for regulating elections and referendums to determine in a decree

- a) the detailed rules for the performance of tasks falling within the competence of election offices,
- b) the forms to be used for initiating national and local referendums and in national and local referendum proceedings,
- c) the calendar dates for the time limits for national referendum proceedings,
- d) the scope of data in national referendum result summaries,
- e) allocations, items and accounting and internal audit procedures for national and local referendum procedural costs,
- f) the amount of honorarium for election commission members, with the exception of the National Election Commission, and of remuneration for election office members in a national referendum proceeding,
- g) documents accepted as proof of the capacity of a person to act as the representative of a media content provider,
- h) detailed rules for the payment of fines,
- i) the settlements and foreign missions where voters with no address in Hungary may collect the postal voting package in person if they request to do so,
- j) the detailed rules for carrying out the IT tasks relating to referendums of capital and county government offices,
- k) the range, and the rules for reimbursement, of justified and certified expenses relating to the operation of the National Election Commission incurred by the elected members of the National Election Commission.

Section 92 Authorisation shall be given to local government representative bodies to determine in a decree the number of voters required for initiating a local referendum.

43. Provisions on entry into force

Section 93 (1) With the exception specified in paragraph (2), this Act shall enter into force on the day of setting the date for the 2014 general election of Members of the National Assembly.

(2) Chapter VI shall enter into force on 1 October 2014.

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(3) The fulfilment of the condition under paragraph (1) shall be established in a decision published by the Minister responsible for regulating suffrage and referendums.

44. Transitional provisions

Section 94 (1) The provisions of this Act as introduced by Act XLVIII of 2016 amending Act CCXXXVIII of 2013 on initiating referendums, the European Citizens' Initiative and referendum procedure (hereinafter the "Amending Act") shall not apply with respect to the submission of a referendum initiative that covers the same matters as a pending question that was already approved with final and binding effect at the time of entry into force of the Amending Act.

45. Compliance with the requirement regarding cardinality in the Fundamental Law

Section 95 The following provisions of this Act qualify as cardinal:

- a) section 69 on the basis of Article IX (3) of the Fundamental Law,
- b) section 30 (5), section 57 (4), section 79 (5), section 98 and section 101 (3) on the basis of 24 (9) of the Fundamental Law,
- c) section 99 on the basis of Article XXIX (3) of the Fundamental Law,
- d) section 102 f) on the basis of Article 2 (1) and Article 35 (1) of the Fundamental Law.

46. Reference to EU requirements concerning legislation

Section 96 Chapter IV contains provisions for the implementation of Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the European citizens' initiative.

47. Amending provisions

Section 97

Section 98

Section 99

Section 100

Section 101

48. Repealing provisions

Section 102