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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**LAW ON ELECTIONS
OF THE OLIY MAJLIS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN¹**

¹ Unofficial translation provided by OSCE/ODIHR (Version used during the Election Assessment Mission to 2009 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan).

I. ON ELECTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF THE OLIY MAJLIS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN²

Chapter 1. General provisions

Article 1. Basic principles of elections of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Legislative Chamber (lower chamber) of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter – Legislative Chamber) shall consist of one hundred and fifty deputies elected for a five-year term.

One hundred and thirty-five deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be elected on the basis of universal, equal, direct suffrage by secret ballot in single mandate territorial electoral districts on multiparty basis.

Fifteen deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be elected from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

Article 2. Universal suffrage

Election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be universal. Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter - citizens) who have reached the age of eighteen by Election Day shall have the right to elect.

Citizens who have reached the age of twenty five by Election Day and have permanently resided in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for not less than five years shall have the right to be elected to the Legislative Chamber.

Citizens ruled incapable by court or held in penitentiary facilities serving court sentences shall not be elected and shall not participate in elections.

Article 3. Equal suffrage

Each citizen voter shall have one vote.

Citizens regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, stance towards religion, social background, beliefs, personal and social status, education, nature and character of occupation shall enjoy equal suffrage.

Article 4. Direct suffrage

One hundred and thirty-five deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be elected by citizens directly.

Article 5. Secret ballot

Voting during elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be free and secret. Control over expression of will by voters shall not be permitted.

Article 6. Transparency in preparation and conduct of elections

Preparation and conduct of elections to the Legislative Chamber shall be undertaken by election commissions openly and transparently.

Election commissions shall inform citizens of their work, establishment of electoral districts, precincts, composition of election commissions, their location and working hours, familiarize with voter lists, the list of political parties participating in the elections, provide information about the candidates for deputy of the Legislative Chamber (hereinafter – candidate for deputy), and results of voting and elections.

² The current version includes changes introduced in 2003

The mass media of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall cover the course of preparation and conduct of elections.

One representative from each of the political parties that nominated their candidates for deputy, representatives of mass media, observers from other countries, international organizations and movements shall have the right to be present at all events related to preparation and conduct of elections, as well as at polling stations on voting day and during the vote count. Their powers must be certified by relevant documents.

Interested organizations shall inform district election commissions on elections to the Legislative Chamber (hereinafter – district election commissions) of their observers at elections of the Legislative Chamber (hereinafter – district election commissions) not later than fifteen days prior to elections.

District election commission within five days after receipt of applications of interested organizations shall issue mandates to observers, the sample whereof shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter – the Central Election Commission).

Observers shall have the right:

To attend meetings of district and precinct election commissions;

To be present at polling premises and observe the course of preparatory work, installation and sealing of ballot boxes and issuance of election ballots to citizens;

To be present during the vote count and compilation of the precinct election commission protocol;

To request and receive copies of documents on election results certified by the respective election commission;

To inform a superior election commission of his/her own observations, provided there are grounds to believe that violations of this Law occurred at the polling station.

Observers shall not:

Be present in the booth or room for secret voting, when voter is making marks on the election ballot;

Influence voters; distribute campaigning materials or literature;

Ask voters who they voted for or provide assistance to voters in marking the election ballot;

Interfere in the work of the precinct election commission, including during sealing and opening of ballot boxes, and the vote count.

Chapter 2. Electoral districts and electoral precincts

Article 7. Establishment of electoral districts

One hundred and thirty-five territorial electoral districts shall be formed for elections to the Legislative Chamber. One deputy shall be elected from each electoral district.

Electoral districts for election of deputies to the Legislative Chamber (hereinafter – electoral districts) shall be formed by the Central Election Commission upon proposals of Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khokimiyats of regions and the city of Tashkent. Borders of electoral districts shall be drawn with consideration of administrative and territorial composition of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and the city of Tashkent.

Electoral districts shall generally be formed with an equal number of voters throughout the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Limit of voters per each electoral district shall be set by the Central Election Commission for each election.

The list of the electoral districts with their borders and number of voters shall be published by the Central Election Commission not later than seventy five days prior to elections.

Article 8. Order and criteria of establishment of electoral precincts

Electoral precincts shall be formed considering the borders of districts, cities, urban districts with the purpose of creating the best conditions for voters. Electoral precincts shall also be formed in military units and included in electoral districts by the location of the unit. Borders of the electoral precincts shall not cross the borders of electoral districts.

Electoral precincts may be established at the Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states, in sanatoriums and health resorts, hospitals, and other boarding treatment facilities, and places of citizens' stay located in remote and hardly accessible areas. These electoral precincts shall be included in the electoral districts of their location. The issue of inclusion of electoral precincts formed outside Uzbekistan into electoral districts shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

Electoral precincts shall be formed by district election commissions upon proposals of Khokimiyats of districts and cities. Electoral precincts in military units shall be formed by district election commissions upon the proposal of commanders of the regiments or military units. Electoral precincts at the Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states shall be formed by the Central Election Commission upon the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Electoral precincts shall be formed not later than sixty days prior to elections. Electoral precincts in military units, at Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states as well as in remote and hardly accessible areas shall be formed within the same timeframe, but in exceptional cases – not later than five days prior to elections.

Electoral precincts shall generally include not fewer than twenty voters and not more than three thousand voters.

Premises for organization of elections for each electoral precinct shall be allocated by the Khokimiyat of the district or city.

District election commission shall organize notification of voters of the borders of each electoral precinct indicating the location of the precinct election commission and voting premises.

Chapter 3. Election commissions

Article 9. System of election commissions

Elections to the Legislative Chamber shall be organized and conducted by:

The Central Election Commission;

District election commissions;

Precinct election commissions.

Article 10. Formation of the Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission shall be formed in conformity with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan".

Article 11. Powers of the Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission shall:

1. exercise control over implementation of this Law across the entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its uniform application, issue instructions and provide clarifications on the issues related to organization of elections within the limits of its powers;
2. form electoral districts, assign them names and numbers;
3. form district election commissions and publish the data of their location;
4. oversee the work of election commissions, determine the order of changing their membership, annul decisions of district election commissions independently or pursuant to a proposal of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan in cases when these decisions contravene this Law;
5. pass decisions on the issues of assignment of electoral precincts formed outside the Republic of Uzbekistan to electoral districts;
6. accept respective applications from political parties nominating candidates for deputy;
7. register candidates for deputy;
8. ensure equal conditions for participation in election campaign for candidates for deputy;
9. allocate funds to election commissions, exercise control over the provision of premises and means of communication and transportation to election commissions, address other issues of material and logistical maintenance of elections;
10. approve samples and forms of election ballots for election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber, of voter lists, signature lists, protocols of election commissions, other electoral documents, samples of ballot boxes and seals of election commissions, and procedure of storage of election documents;
11. hear reports of representatives of political parties, ministries, state committees and agencies, local authorities, other state authorities and public associations on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections;
12. tabulate election results for the entire Republic of Uzbekistan, register elected deputies, publish reports on the results of elections and lists of elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber in press;
13. issue identity cards and badges of a deputy of Legislative Chamber to deputies;

14. review petitions and complaints on decisions and actions of election commissions and pass respective decisions;
15. transfer materials on violations of this Law which envisage criminal liability to the Prosecutor's Office;
16. ensure transfer of documentation related to the conduct and organization of elections to archives;
17. Exercise other powers in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

Article 12. Formation of a district election commission

District election commissions shall be formed by the Central Election Commission not later than seventy days prior to elections, and shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson, a secretary, and not fewer than six other commission members. Personal membership of a district election commission shall be approved by a resolution of the Central Election Commission.

Article 13. Powers of a district election commission

A district election commission shall:

1. exercise control over implementation of this Law in the territory of the electoral district;
2. establish electoral precincts, assign them numbers of the electoral district, publish their lists with addresses;
3. coordinate the work of precinct election commissions;
4. allocate funds to precinct election commissions, exercise control over the provision of premises and means of communication and transportation to precinct election commissions, and address other issues of material and logistical maintenance of elections in the electoral district;
5. ensure equal conditions for participation in election campaign for candidates for deputy;
6. publish information about candidates for deputy registered at the Central Election Commission and issue them corresponding identity cards;
7. facilitate organization of meetings of candidates for deputy with voters;
8. register proxies of candidates for deputy and issue them corresponding identity cards;
9. hear reports of representatives of political parties, local authorities, other state authorities and public associations, heads of enterprises, institutions, and organizations on issues related to preparation and conduct of elections;
10. oversee compilation of voter lists and their presentation for public familiarization;
11. approve the text of election ballot of the electoral district in accordance with the sample approved by the Central Election Commission, provide for printing of ballots and their provision to precinct election commissions;
12. tabulate and transfer the results of elections in the electoral district to the Central Election Commission;

13. organize repeat voting and repeat elections as well as by-elections;
14. review petitions and complaints regarding decisions and actions of precinct election commissions and pass respective decisions;
15. Exercise other powers in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

Article 14. Establishment of a precinct election commission

Precinct election commissions shall be formed by the district election commission. A precinct election commission shall be formed not later than forty days prior to elections and consist of from five to nineteen members, including a chairperson, a deputy chairperson, and a secretary. Should commission have up to seven members, only a chairperson and a secretary shall be elected. Personal membership of a precinct election commission shall be approved by a decision of the district election commission.

In cases of necessity, the numerical composition of a precinct election commission may be increased or decreased.

At Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states, duties of the chairperson of a precinct election commission shall be performed by the Chief of the organization.

Article 15. Powers of a precinct election commission

A precinct election commission shall:

1. compile lists of voters for the precinct;
2. familiarize voters with the voter list, accept and review petitions about errors and inaccuracies in the list and decide on introducing appropriate changes;
3. accept electoral envelopes from the voters unable to be at their place of residence on the election day and participate in the elections;
4. notify the population of the election day and location of voting premises;
5. ensure preparation of premises for voting, provision of ballot boxes, and other election equipment;
6. organize voting at the polling station on election day;
7. count votes cast at the polling station;
8. review petitions and complaints on issues of preparation for the elections, organization of voting, and pass respective make decisions;
9. Exercise other powers in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

Article 16. Membership in election commissions

Candidacies for membership in a district election commission shall be discussed at sessions of the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of People's Deputies and recommended for approval by the Central Election Commission. Candidacies for membership in a precinct election commission shall be discussed at sessions of district and city Kengashes of People's Deputies and recommended for approval by the respective district election commission. Members of district and precinct election commissions shall be appointed out of reputed representatives of community.

A commission member may be relieved of performing responsibilities upon a personal request or in case of dismissal.

The right to dismiss a commission member shall belong to the body that formed the commission and exercised in case of violation of the requirements of this Law by the member or systematic negligence of his/her responsibilities.

In case of necessity, a new member of an election commission shall be appointed pursuant to the procedure established by this Law.

The chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and other members of election commissions may not be members of political parties. Candidates for deputy may not be members of election commissions.

One and the same person may be a member of only one election commission.

Article 17. Organization of work and term of powers of election commissions

A session of an election commission shall be considered legitimate provided not less than two-thirds of the commission's members as of the day of the session participate in it. A commission shall pass decisions by an open majority vote of the commission's total membership. Members of the commission, disagreeing with the decision, may express a dissenting opinion, which shall be attached to the protocol in writing. Should the number of votes evenly divide, the vote of the chairperson shall be decisive.

A decision of an election commission passed within the limits of its authority shall be mandatory for all lower election commissions, state authorities, political parties and other public associations, labor unions and military units, heads of enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

The chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary or other members of an election commission, may by a decision of the commission be relieved of occupational or service duties for the period of preparation and conduct of elections with their average salary reimbursed out of the funds allocated for elections.

State authorities and public association entities, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials shall be obliged to assist election commissions in the exercise of their powers and provide the information required for their work.

State authorities, enterprises, institutions, and organizations shall be obliged to provide the premises and equipment required for preparation and conduct of elections to the disposal of election commissions free of charge.

An election commission shall have the right to address state authorities and public association entities, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials on the issues of preparation and conduct of elections, which shall be obliged to review the issue raised and reply to the election commission not later than within three days.

Powers of the Central Election Commission may be annulled by the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Central Election Commission".

District and precinct election commissions shall cease their work after registration of deputies elected in their respective electoral districts by the Central Election Commission.

Article 17¹. An authorized representative of a political party

A political party which nominated candidates for deputy of the Legislative Chamber shall have the right to appoint out of its members an authorized representative to participate in the vote count at the polling station in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

Article 18. Review of complaints against decisions of election commissions

Decisions of election commissions may be appealed by bodies of political parties that nominated candidates for deputy, candidates for deputy, proxies, observers, and voters to a higher election commission or court within ten days after the decision is passed. Decisions of the Central Election Commission may be appealed at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within ten days after the decision is passed. The appeal shall be reviewed within three days after it was lodged, while if less than six days remain until Election Day – immediately. Persons lodging an appeal shall have the right for personal participation during its review.

Chapter 4. Announcement of the start of the election campaign. Nomination and registration of candidates for deputy

Article 19. Announcement of the start of the election campaign

The start of the election campaign shall be announced by the Central Election Commission through mass media not later than three months prior to expiration of the term of office of the deputies of the current Legislative Chamber.

Article 20. Right to nominate a candidate for deputy

The right to nominate candidates for deputy shall belong to political parties.

A political party may nominate candidates for deputy provided it was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan not later than four six months prior to the day when the start of the election campaign is announced and has collected not less than forty thousand signatures of voters in support of its participation in the elections.

The Central Election Commission shall distribute blank signature lists of an approved form after the start of the election campaign is announced.

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

The Central Election Commission shall deny participation in the elections to a political party in case of forgery of signatures on signature lists.

Article 21. Documents to be provided by political parties for participation in elections

In order to nominate candidates for deputy, political party shall no later than seventy days prior to elections submit to the Central Election Commission the following documents:

An application for participation in elections, signed by the chairperson of the party;

A notification from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan confirming the registration of the political party not later than four months prior to the start of the election campaign;

Signature lists.

Upon submission of the documents listed in the first part of this Article, the Central Election Commission shall issue a dated certificate to a representative of the political party. On the basis of documents submitted, the Central Election Commission shall within five days pass a

final decision on whether to permit the party to run in the elections. A list of parties participating in the election shall be published in the national press in the order of submission of applications.

Article 22. Nomination of candidates for deputy by political parties

Nomination of candidates for deputy shall start sixty five days prior to elections and end forty five days prior to elections.

Nomination of candidates for deputy shall be performed by the supreme bodies of political parties.

Political parties shall be authorized to nominate one hundred and thirty-five candidates for deputy – one candidate per electoral district. One and the same person shall be nominated as a candidate for deputy only in one electoral district. The procedure of selection of candidates for deputy shall be determined by the political parties themselves.

The number of women shall constitute not less than thirty percent of the total number of candidates for deputy nominated by a political party.

Political parties shall be authorized to nominate as candidates for deputy only the members of their party or non-partisan candidates. A protocol shall be drawn of the nomination of candidates for deputy.

Article 23¹. Verification of the accuracy of signature list compilation by the Central Election Commission

Accuracy of compilation of signature lists submitted by political parties shall be verified by the Central Election Commission.

In order to verify accuracy of signature list compilation, the Central Election Commission may refer to specialists from internal affairs and justice authorities, as well as institutions charged with population registration. Their findings may serve as grounds for the Central Election Commission to find signatures appearing on signature lists falsified.

The procedure of verification of accuracy of signature list compilation shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

Authorized representatives of political parties shall have the right to participate in the process of verification of accuracy of signature list compilation by the Central Election Commission.

Article 24. Documents to be submitted to the Central Election Commission for registration of candidates for deputy

The leader of a political party shall file an application to the Central Election Commission requesting registration of candidates for deputy. The application shall be supplemented by the following:

A decision of the supreme body of the political party on nomination of candidates for deputy;

A protocol of the session of the supreme body of the political party on nomination of candidates for deputy, including family name, first name, patronymic of the candidate for deputy, date of birth, profession, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party affiliation, as well as the name and number of the electoral district;

An application of the candidate for deputy expressing consent to run in the respective electoral district;

An application of the candidate for deputy requesting release from the current job (service) in case of his election as a deputy of the Legislative Chamber.

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

The Central Election Commission shall within seven days verify and determine the conformity of the documents submitted with the provisions of this Law.

The Central Election Commission shall in due order inform the leaders of the respective political parties of the inaccuracies and discrepancies in the documents submitted for registration with the provisions of this Law.

Article 25. Requirements to candidates for deputy

Registration as candidates for deputy shall be denied to:

Citizens with an unserved or unacquitted conviction for grave or particularly grave crimes committed;

Citizens who have not resided in the Republic of Uzbekistan permanently for the five years prior to the day of elections;

Servicemen of the Armed Forces, of the National Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and other militarized units;

Professional staff of the religious organizations and unions.

Article 26. Registration of candidates for deputy

The Central Election Commission shall cease acceptance of documents from political parties for registration of candidates for deputy seven days prior to expiration of registration period. A person nominated as candidate for deputy in accordance with this Law shall be issued a registration card.

Registration of candidates for deputy shall end thirty five days prior to elections.

Within five days after registration of candidates for deputy by the Central Election Commission, the respective district election commission shall publish in local press an announcement on registration indicating the family name, first name, patronymic, year of birth, party affiliation, position occupied, place of work and residence, as well as the political party that nominated the candidate for deputy.

Chapter 5. Pre-election campaigning. Guarantees for candidates while campaigning

Article 27. Pre-election campaigning

Pre-election campaigning shall commence as of the day of registration of candidates for deputy by the Central Election Commission.

Candidates for deputy, political parties, shall be provided equal rights to use mass media. The procedure of using mass media shall be determined by the Central Election Commission upon agreement with political parties. Meeting of voters shall be organized by political parties themselves. The venue and time of meetings of voters shall generally be agreed with precinct election commissions. Local authorities and public associations, and civil self-governance bodies shall provide candidates for deputy with equipped premises for meetings, assist them in organization of meetings with voters, and in receiving required reference and information materials. Voters shall be informed of time and venue of meetings in a timely manner.

Political parties shall have the right to promote the program of their future work.

Campaigning accompanied by provision free of charge or subsidized provision of goods and services (except information) to voters, as well as financial payments shall be prohibited. Campaigning on Election Day shall not be permitted.

Article 28. Proxies

A candidate for deputy may have up to ten proxies. Proxies shall campaign for the election of the candidate for deputy, represent his/her interests in interaction with state authorities and public association bodies as well as with election commissions.

A candidate for deputy upon registration shall select his/her proxies upon his/her discretion and shall name them to the district election commission. The district election commission shall register the proxies and issue them identity cards.

A candidate for deputy may dismiss his/her proxy and replace a proxy at any time before elections, informing the district election commission thereof. A proxy may resign at any time.

Article 29. Relieving candidates for deputy of their occupational or service duties for participation in pre-election events

A person registered as a candidate for deputy shall have the right to be relieved of his/her occupational or service duties for the period of holding meetings with voters, making appearances at pre-election assemblies, on television and radio, retaining his/her average salary reimbursed out of funds allocated for holding elections.

Article 30. Right of a candidate for deputy for free public transport

A candidate for deputy after registration shall have the right for free pass in all types of state passenger transport (except city passenger transport, taxi, and chartered trips of other types of transport) within the borders of the respective electoral district. A candidate for deputy residing outside the limits of the district shall have the right for free transportation to the electoral district and a return trip home.

Article 31. Deprivation of the status of candidate for deputy. Withdrawal of the candidacy by the candidate

A political party shall have the right to cancel its decision to nominate a particular candidate for deputy not later than five days prior to elections, who may be deprived of his/her candidate status by the Central Election Commission. A political party, until expiration of the term for nominating candidates for deputy, may propose the Central Election Commission to register a new candidate.

Should the political party cease to exist, the candidate for deputy shall be deprived of the right to participate in elections on behalf of this party.

A candidate for deputy may at any time prior to elections withdraw his/her candidacy. To that effect he/she shall approach the Central Election Commission with the request.

Chapter 6. Voter list. Election ballot

Article 32. Compilation of voter lists

A voter list shall include family names of citizens, who have reached the age of eighteen before or on the day of elections and are permanently or temporarily residing within the territory of the given electoral precinct as of the moment of the voter list compilation.

Each voter may be included in only one voter list.

A voter list shall be compiled in every electoral precinct by the precinct election commission and shall be signed by its chairperson and secretary. A precinct election commission may invite representatives of community to participate in the work to compile the list.

Khokimiyats of districts and cities shall ensure registration of voters and transfer on voters residing within the respective territory required for compilation of voter list to precinct election commissions.

List of military servicemen voters stationed in military units as well as members of families of servicemen and other voters, in case they reside in the areas where military units are located, shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by commanders of military units. Military servicemen residing outside of military units shall be included in the regular voter list at their place of residence.

Voter lists of the electoral precincts formed at Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states, at sanatoriums and health resorts, hospitals and other boarding medical facilities shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by heads of the above-mentioned institutions (offices).

Family names of the voters shall be indicated in the voter list in the order convenient for organization of voting.

A voter list shall include a family name, first name, patronymic, date of birth, and address of the place of residence of each voter.

Article 33. Familiarization of voters with voter lists

Voter lists shall be made available for public familiarization fifteen days prior to elections, while at electoral precincts formed at Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states, sanatoriums and health centers, hospitals and other boarding medical facilities, in remote and hardly accessible areas – seven days prior to elections. Precinct election commissions shall notify voters of the place and time of familiarization with voter lists.

Citizens shall be provided with the opportunity to familiarize with the voter list at the premises of the precinct election commission.

Article 34. Challenging of voter list

Every citizen shall have the right to report to the precinct election commission an error or inaccuracy in the voter list. The precinct election commission shall be obliged to review the report within 24 hours and either correct the error or inaccuracy or to give the appellant an answer with grounds for dismissal of such report.

Actions and decisions of the election commission may be appealed in court in the manner prescribed by law.

Article 35. Election ballot

Family name, first name, patronymic, year of birth, position occupied (profession) and nominating political party of a candidate for deputy shall be indicated in the election ballot in the alphabetical order.

The election ballot shall contain a clarification on the procedure of filling it in.

Ballots shall be printed in the state language as well as in the languages used by the majority of population of the electoral district by decision of the district election commission.

Article 36. Delivery of election ballots

Precinct election commissions shall receive ballots from district commissions not later than three day prior to elections. The chairperson or deputy chairperson, or secretary shall endorse the delivery and receipt of ballots with their signature.

The number of election ballots received by a precinct election commission may not exceed the number of voters included in the voter list of the electoral precinct by more than a half percent. Two members of the precinct election commission shall put their signatures on the right top corner of the election ballot, which shall be endorsed with the stamp of the precinct election commission. Election ballots not endorsed by the commission shall not be considered during the vote count.

Chapter 7. Voting and determination election results

Article 37. Voting premises

Voting shall be conducted in specially designated premises equipped with the sufficient number of booths or rooms for secret vote, with allocated ballot distribution points and installed ballot boxes. The positioning of ballot boxes shall ensure that voters pass through the booths or rooms for secret voting before approaching them. No other political events shall be held at the voting premises. The precinct election commission shall be responsible for equipment of premises and maintenance of due order in them.

Article 38. Time and place of voting

Voting shall be conducted from 6.00 to 20.00 on the day of elections. The precinct election commission shall inform voters of the time and place of voting not later than ten days prior to elections. At polling stations formed at Missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign States, in military units, sanatoriums and health resorts, hospitals and other boarding medical centers as well as in populated remote and hardly accessible areas the precinct election commission may declare voting closed at any time in case all voters included in the voter list have voted.

Article 39. Beginning of voting

Voting premises shall be opened on the day of elections in the presence of not less than two thirds of the members of the precinct election commission. The chairperson shall seal the ballot box in the presence of the members of the election commission, distribute election ballots and voter lists among the members of the election commission, and announce the beginning of elections. The total number of the ballots shall be documented separately.

Article 40. Identification of voters

Upon arrival at the voting premises, a voter shall produce document to prove his identity to a member of the precinct election commission, and sign in the voter list. Then he/she shall be given an election ballot.

Family names for any reasons not included in the voter list shall be included to the addendum to the voter list on the basis of a document proving the identity, citizenship, and place of residence of the voter.

Article 41. Voting procedure

Election ballot shall be filled in by the voter in the booth or room for secret voting. Presence of persons other than the voter at the time of filling in the ballot shall be prohibited. A voter who is unable to fill in the ballot personally may invite at his/her discretion another person to the booth or room except the members of the election commission, observers and proxies. In order to vote, a voter shall mark with a cross an empty box located to the right from the name of the candidate for deputy the voter is voting for.

The voter shall then drop the filled-in election ballot into the ballot box.

A spoiled election ballot may be replaced at the request of the voter. Spoiled election ballots shall be registered, cancelled, and stored separately.

A voter who is unable to be at the place of residence on the day of elections may request an electoral list at the precinct election commission of the place of his/her residence, make a decision and leave the filled-in electoral list in a sealed envelope with the precinct commission. The voter shall sign the voter list to confirm receipt of the electoral list. The Central Election Commission shall approve the form of such electoral list, procedure of its printing, and timeframe for delivery of electoral lists to polling stations.

In cases when individual voters due to poor health condition or other reasons are unable to arrive at the polling premises, the precinct election commission, at their request, shall instruct members of the commission to organize voting at the place of stay of these voters.

Article 42. Vote count at the polling station

At the end of voting and prior to opening of ballot boxes in the presence of the members of the precinct election commission, sealed envelopes with electoral lists shall be dropped into the boxes. All unused election ballots shall be counted and cancelled by the precinct election commission.

Ballot boxes shall be opened by the precinct election commission after the end of voting has been announced by the chairperson of the commission. Opening of ballot boxes before the end of voting shall be strictly prohibited.

The precinct election commission shall determine the total number of the voters in the precinct, and the number of voters who received election ballots.

The precinct election commission shall count the votes for each candidate for deputy separately.

Based on the election ballots and electoral lists found in the ballot boxes, the precinct election commission shall determine:

The total number of voters who participated in the elections;

The total number of votes cast for each candidate for deputy;

The total number of invalidated ballots and electoral lists.

Votes cast for the family names of citizens additionally entered by the voters in the election ballots and lists shall not be counted.

Election ballots and list not corresponding to the approved samples as well as election ballots and lists where the cross sign is marked more than in one box or is not marked in any of them during voting shall be invalidated. Should doubt arise regarding authenticity of an election ballot or list, the issue shall be resolved by the precinct election commission by means of voting.

An authorized representative of the political party that nominated a candidate for deputy may be present at the polling station during the vote count.

Results of the vote count shall be reviewed at a session of the precinct election commission and recorded in the protocol which is shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and other members of the election commission. Thereafter, the protocol shall be read out loud by the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the precinct election commission, and a copy of this protocol shall be displayed at the premises of the precinct election commission for public familiarization for at least 48 hours. The protocol of the precinct election commission shall be submitted to the respective district election commission in due manner.

The authorized representative of a political party who participates in the vote counting process shall have the right to familiarize him/herself with the protocol of the precinct election commission.

Article 43. Determination of election results for the district

Results of the elections for an electoral district shall be determined solely on the basis of the protocols submitted by precinct election commissions. The district election commission shall determine:

- The total number of the voters in the district;
- The number of voters who received election ballots and lists;
- The number of voters who participated in the elections;
- The number of votes cast for each candidate for deputy;
- The number of invalidated election ballots and lists.

Results of elections for the district shall be determined at a session of the election commission and recorded in the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and other members of the commission and submitted to the Central Election Commission in due manner.

Article 44. Determination of the results of the election of deputies to the Legislative Chamber

The Central Election Commission based on the protocols of the district election commissions submitted shall determine:

- The total number of the voters in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- The number of voters who received electoral ballots and lists;
- The number of voters who participated in the elections;
- The number of votes cast for each candidate for deputy;
- The number of invalidated election ballots and lists.

A candidate for deputy who received more than half of the votes of the voters who participated in voting shall be considered elected.

Elections shall be considered void if less than thirty percent of voters included into voter lists participated in the elections.

Elections in general or in individual districts or in individual electoral precincts may be declared invalid due to the violations committed in the elections that affected the outcome of the vote. The decision to pronounce elections invalid shall be passed by the Central Election Commission and may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within ten days after announcement of the outcome of the elections.

Should elections in electoral precincts be invalidated, results of the elections in these precincts shall be excluded from the general election results by the decision of the Central Election Commission, provided elections in general may be declared valid without them.

The Central Election Commission shall record the results of election in protocol and pass a decision.

Article 45. Repeat voting

In case more than two candidates for deputy ran in an electoral district and none of them was elected, the district election commission shall pass a decision to hold repeat voting between the two candidates for deputy who received most votes, and inform the Central Election Commission and district voters thereof. Repeat voting shall be held within two weeks in conformity with the provisions of this Law.

The candidate for deputy who received more votes during repeat voting as compared to the other candidate shall be considered elected.

During repeat voting the turnout requirement does not apply.

Article 46. Repeat elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber

Repeat elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber shall be held in the following cases:

- a. if elections in electoral district are declared void or invalid;
- b. if repeat voting has failed to determine the elected deputy of the Legislative Chamber;
- c. If no more than two candidates ran in the electoral district and neither of them was elected.

Repeat elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber shall be conducted by the district election commission upon instruction of the Central Election Commission. The Central Election Commission may decide on necessity to conduct repeat elections with the new membership of district and precinct election commissions. Voting shall be conducted in the same electoral precincts and by the voter lists compiled for the original election.

Repeat elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber shall be conducted within one month after the original election. Appointment of election commissions, registration of candidates for deputy and other preparations shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by this Law.

Article 47. By-Elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber

Should the Central Election Commission annul the powers of particular deputies, or in case of a recall or premature cessation of deputy powers for other reasons, new elections shall be held in the respective electoral districts. The Central Election Commission shall call the elections not later than one month prior to their holding and organize them in accordance with the provisions of this Law. District election commission shall be formed twenty five days in advance of and precinct election commissions – fifteen days prior to elections. Registration of the candidates for deputy shall end fifteen days prior to elections.

In case of resignation of the deputy of Legislative Chamber less than six months prior to expiration of the authority of Legislative Chamber, elections of a new deputy in place of the resigned may not be held.

Chapter 7¹. Procedure of election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Article 47¹. Election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Fifteen deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall be elected by the supreme body of the Movement (Conference) within the timeframe determined by the Central Election Commission.

The procedure of nominating candidates for deputy of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and their election shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

The preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall be undertaken openly and transparently.

Article 47². Requirements to persons elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Persons elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall be subject to requirements set forth in clauses two and three of Article 2 as well as in Article 25 of this Law.

Article 47³. Documents to be submitted to the Central Election Commission

A representative of the supreme body of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall submit to the Central Election Commission a list of elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan. This list shall be supplemented by the following:

A decision of the supreme body of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan on election of deputies from the Movement to the Legislative Chamber;

an extract from the protocol of the session of the supreme body of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan indicating the family name, first name, patronymic, date of birth, profession, position (occupation), place of work and residence of each person elected deputy of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan;

An application of the elected deputy requesting release from the current job (service) in case of his election as a deputy.

The Central Election Commission shall issue to the representative of the supreme body of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan a certificate with the date and time of receipt of the documents.

The Central Election Commission shall within seven days verify and determine the conformity of the documents submitted with the provisions of this Law. The Central Election Commission shall duly inform the representative of the supreme body of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan of the inaccuracies and discrepancies in the documents submitted for registration with the provisions of this Law.

Article 47⁴. Repeat elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Repeat elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall be held if elections of deputies from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan have been declared void or invalid.

The procedure of repeat elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

Article 47⁵. By-Elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Should the Central Election Commission annul the powers of particular deputies elected to the Legislative Chamber from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan or in case of a deputy recall or premature cessation of deputy powers for other reasons new elections shall be held.

Chapter 8. Registration of deputies and publication of election results

Article 48. Registration of deputies of the Legislative Chamber

The Central Election Commission on the basis of the protocols submitted by the district election commissions and the relevant decision of the supreme body of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan shall register elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber and inform the deputies thereof.

Persons elected as deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall inform the Central Election Commission in writing of resignation of their duties incompatible with the status of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber.

Persons elected as deputies, including those from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, shall acquire the status of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber as of the moment of their registration by the Central Election Commission.

Article 49. Publication of results of elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber

The Central Election Commission shall within ten days publish in press an announcement on election results and a list of elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber indicating their family names, first names, patronymics, years of birth, party affiliation, positions occupied (professions), places of work and residence, numbers and names of electoral districts.

II. PROCEDURE OF FORMATION OF THE SENATE OF THE OLIY MAJLIS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Article 50. Formation of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Senate (upper chamber) of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter - Senate) shall be the chamber of territorial representation and consist of the members of the Senate (Senators).

Members of the Senate shall be elected in an equal number of six persons each from the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and city of Tashkent. Elections to the Senate shall be conducted by secret voting at the respective joint sessions of deputies of the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, representative bodies of government of the regions, districts, and cities from these deputies.

Sixteen members of the Senate shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan among the most highly reputed citizens with substantial experience and outstanding achievements in science, art, literature, manufacturing, and other spheres of state and public work.

The term of the Senate shall be five years.

Article 51. Elections to representative bodies of government of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, districts, and cities

Elections to representative bodies of government of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, districts, and cities shall be held in compliance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Elections to Regional, District, and City Kengashes of People's Deputies" and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Article 52. Timeframe for elections to the Senate

Elections to the Senate shall be held not later than one month after the elections of the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and local representative bodies of government.

Article 53. Requirements to candidates elected as members of the Senate

A deputy of the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan or a representative body of government of a region, district, or city who has reached the age of twenty five by the day of elections and has permanently resided in the Republic of Uzbekistan for not less than five years may become a candidate for election as member of the Senate.

Article 54. Legitimacy of a joint session of representative bodies of government

A joint session of representative bodies of government shall be legitimate provided not less than two-thirds of the total number of deputies are present.

Article 55. Convocation of a joint session of representative bodies of government, nomination of candidates for members of the Senate, conduct of voting

A joint session of representative bodies of government shall be convoked, candidates for members of the Senate nominated, and voting conducted in the manner prescribed by law.

The regulation on the procedure of election of Senate members at the respective joint sessions of deputies of the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, representative bodies of government of regions, districts, and cities shall be drafted and approved by the Central Election Commission.

Article 56. Determination of voting results for election of Senate members

Candidates for Senate members who according to the vote results received more votes as compared to other candidates shall be considered elected provided more than fifty percent of the deputies of the representative bodies of government present at the session voted for them.

Article 57. Repeat voting

In case the required number of Senate members has not been elected in the course of voting, repeat voting shall be held at the same joint session of the representative bodies of the government to fill the unelected membership of the Senate with respect to the candidates lacking the sufficient number of votes.

Article 58. Results of the election of Senate members

The Central Election Commission based on the protocols of joint sessions of representative bodies of government the authorities received by it shall register members of the Senate within five days after they have been submitted.

The Central Election Commission may invalidate election of Senate members if violations of the provisions of this Law occurred in the course of the election, during the vote count and determination of the results of secret voting that affected the results of the election.

Article 59. Appealing the results of the election of Senate members

Decisions of joint sessions of representative bodies of government on election of Senate members as well as those of the Central Election Commission may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within ten days after their adoption.

Article 60. Repeat elections of Senate members

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

- a. if the elections have been invalidated;
- b. If the sufficient number of Senate members has not been elected after repeat voting.

In the cases provided for by clause "b" of the first part of this Article, repeat elections shall be held to elect the lacking number of Senate members.

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

Nomination of candidates for the lacking number of members of the Senate and conduct of repeat elections shall be undertaken in the manner prescribed by this Law.

Article 61. By-Elections of Senate members

By-Elections of Senate members shall be held at the respective joint sessions of the deputies of the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, representative bodies of government of regions, districts and cities in conformity with the provisions of this Law.

In case of cessation of membership of a Senate member less than six months prior to the expiration of the Senate term, the election of a new member of the Senate to replace the former may not be held.

Article 62. Publication of Senate formation results

The Central Election Commission shall within ten days publish in press an announcement on the Senate formation results along with a list of Senate members indicating their family names, first names, patronymics, years of birth, positions occupied (professions), places of work and residence.

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 63. The identification card and badge of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber and a Senate member

The Central Election Commission shall issue a deputy of the Legislative Chamber and a Senate member an identification card and badge of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber and of a Senate member, respectively.

Samples of the identification card and badge of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber and a Senate member shall be approved by legislation.

Article 64. Financing of elections

Expenditures related to the preparation and conduct of elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be covered by public funds. Financing or other material support to candidates for deputy of the Legislative Chamber and Senate membership by other means shall be prohibited.

Political parties and other public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and citizens may voluntarily donate their funds for holding elections. These funds shall be accepted by the Central Election Commission for use in the course of the election campaign.

Article 65. Liability for violation of this Law

Persons employing violence, deception, threats and other means to hinder the exercise by citizens of their rights to elect and be elected to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and undertake pre-election campaigning as well as members of election commissions, other officials, representatives of political parties who have committed forgery of election documents, deliberately miscounted votes, broken the secrecy of vote or committed other violations of this Law, shall be held liable in accordance with the Law. Persons who have published or in other ways distributed false information about the candidate for deputy of the Legislative Chamber or Senate member shall also be held liable.