

## Elections are the Highest form of Democracy

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**Abstract:** This article is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan", "On Guarantees of Citizens' Voting Rights", "On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and other election legal literature. It briefly describes the concept of suffrage and the electoral system, the constitutional basis, organizational and legal aspects of the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the guarantees of the right of citizens to vote. This article is intended for voters, election participants, and the general public.

**Key words:** suffrage, free elections, electoral principles, equal suffrage, direct suffrage, secret ballot, voting.

### Introduction

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, citizens have the right to participate in the management of public and state affairs directly and through their representatives. Such participation is achieved through self-government, referendums and the democratic organization of state bodies.

The participation of citizens in the democratic organization of state bodies is mainly reflected in elections. Therefore, elections are an important condition and an integral sign of democracy. Through free and direct elections, citizens elect those they deem worthy, express their views on them, and participate in the conduct of public administration. Elections are an important criterion of democracy, through which not only public bodies but also the head of state, the President, are elected.

### Main part

The establishment of the presidency was aimed at applying the experience of democratic countries in Uzbekistan and restoring the traditions of Uzbek national statehood. With the establishment of the presidency, our electoral system has changed significantly. To regulate these elections, the Law "On Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted on November 18, 1991, on the basis of which on December 29, 1991, the first alternative presidential elections were held in the country and the people elected the head of state.

During the years of independence, our country has ensured the free exercise of voting rights of citizens and guaranteed the right to vote in full compliance with the universally recognized rules and principles of international law. In order to effectively exercise the rights established and guaranteed by law, it is important that citizens are well aware of these rights.

The electoral legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan is in full compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the norms of international law, with a democratic approach to the independent system of conducting and organizing elections, guarantees of citizens' suffrage and suffrage, universal, equal and direct suffrage.

The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 8, 1992 laid the foundation for the creation of our national electoral system. In particular, Article 7 states that "the

people are the sole source of state power", "state power in the Republic of Uzbekistan is exercised in the interests of the people and only by the bodies authorized by the Constitution and laws adopted on its basis." the establishment of rules was strengthened as the basic principles of the constitutional system. The right of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan to vote is also enshrined in Article 32 of the Constitution. According to him, "Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to participate in the management of public and state affairs directly and through their representatives. Such participation is achieved through self-government, referendums and the democratic organization of state bodies. "Another right to suffrage, Article 60, states that "Political parties represent the political will of various classes and groups and participate in the formation of state power through their democratically elected representatives." Article 77 of the Constitution also provides for multi-party elections in Uzbekistan.

Most importantly, the existence of a special chapter in the Constitution on the principles of the electoral system was an important step in shaping the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan. Chapter XXIII is entitled "Electoral System" and Article 117 states that "Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to elect and be elected to representative bodies of state power. Each voter has one vote. The right to vote, equality and freedom of expression are guaranteed by law."

In order to establish a democratic state governed by the rule of law and the foundations of civil society in Uzbekistan, the Constitution should include a separate Chapter XXIII, entitled "Electoral System", on the one hand, the constitutional consolidation of the basic principles of the electoral system, on the other. On the other hand, these constitutional provisions will serve as a basis for the creation of electoral legislation.

During the period of independence, Uzbekistan has created a system of national electoral legislation based on the standards and requirements of international law, advanced foreign legal experience and national-historical traditions, as well as constitutional principles. Its main provisions are contained in Special Chapter XXIII of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the law "On Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan" of November 18, 1991 (which has been amended many times), The Law "On Elections to the Majlis" adopted in 2003 (in the new edition), the Law "On Elections to Regional, District and City Councils of People's Deputies" of May 5, 1994, "Guarantees of Citizens' Voting Rights The law of May 5, 1994 and the law of April 30, 1998 "About the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan" are reflected. National electoral legislation and practice are an integral part of democratic reforms in Uzbekistan, a step towards building a democratic state governed by the rule of law and a just civil society from a totalitarian regime based on command and control.

The most important feature of a democratic state governed by the rule of law is the formation of representative bodies of state power through popular elections. The importance of elections in democracies is that they determine what political forces make up a country's parliament.

The principles and standards in the field of suffrage are enshrined in a number of international universal instruments of the United Nations. In particular, Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations, states that "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely elected representatives. The will of the people must be the basis of power; this will must be reflected in elections held by periodic and non-rigid, universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot or by other equal forms of voting. " Another document adopted by the United Nations, Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, states that every citizen shall be free from discrimination and unreasonable restrictions: to participate in the management of public affairs directly and freely through elected representatives; to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections on the basis of universal

and equal suffrage, by secret ballot and ensuring the free will of the electorate; in their own country, they are entitled to equal access to public service under general conditions.

Today, at a time of rapid development and renewal of all spheres of state and society, it is necessary to increase the results of reforms, create conditions for the comprehensive and rapid development of state and society, modernize our state and liberalize all spheres of society. The Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev dated February 7, 2017 and the role of parliament and political parties in modernizing the state.

On June 26, 2019, Chapter 18 of the Electoral Code, consisting of 103 articles, was adopted. This Code regulates the relations related to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, members of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deputies of regional, district and city Kengashes of People's Deputies and establishes guarantees for citizens' freedom.

The Electoral Code also removes restrictions on the participation of persons detained in places of imprisonment for less serious crimes and less serious crimes.

The procedure for nominating candidates to district (city) Councils of People's Deputies by citizens' self-government bodies has been abolished.

The procedure for electing members of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis is determined by law.

Also, in Article 96 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the words "Law" on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were replaced by the words "law";

The fourth part of Article 117 is replaced by the fourth and fifth parts as follows:

“Citizens who have been declared incompetent by a court, as well as persons detained in places of deprivation of liberty by a court decision, may not be elected.

Persons who have been declared incompetent by a court, as well as those detained by a court for serious and very serious crimes, shall not participate in elections. In any other case, direct or indirect restriction of citizens' suffrage shall not be allowed”;

The fifth to tenth parts were considered to be the sixth to eleventh parts respectively;

In the eighth part, the words "the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan on elections and referenda" are deleted.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a law on February 8, 2021 "On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of electoral legislation" to further guarantee the suffrage of citizens, their participation in government and society. will be an important factor in the pursuit of noble goals such as broader provision.

This year will be an important political event in the life of our state and people - the presidential election. In his Address to the Oliy Majlis on December 29, 2020, the President said: "The Central Election Commission should pay special attention to the organization of future elections at a high level, based on our national legislation and universally recognized international democratic principles." had passed away.

According to the amendments to the electoral legislation under the new law signed by the President on February 8, 2021, elections to the Presidential elections, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional, district and city authorities will be held on October 3, 2021. scheduled to be held on the first Sunday.

In Article 117 of our Constitution, one word - "December" was changed to "October". The signing by the head of state of the law "On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of electoral legislation" was one of the major steps in the process of large-scale reforms in the interests of our people.

### **Conclusion**

In short, the innovations introduced in the electoral legislation over the past years are aimed at ensuring the political rights of citizens in the conduct of elections in a fair, lawful, in accordance with international norms, the formation of representative bodies of state power in our country on democratic principles. As a result of changes in the law, measures to ensure the transparency of elections have been strengthened, and the activities of observers have been expanded.

If every citizen participates in political life with a good knowledge of his rights, it means that he is active.

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