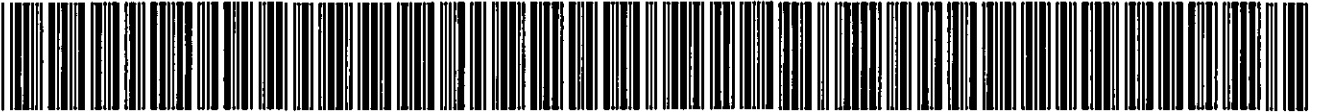


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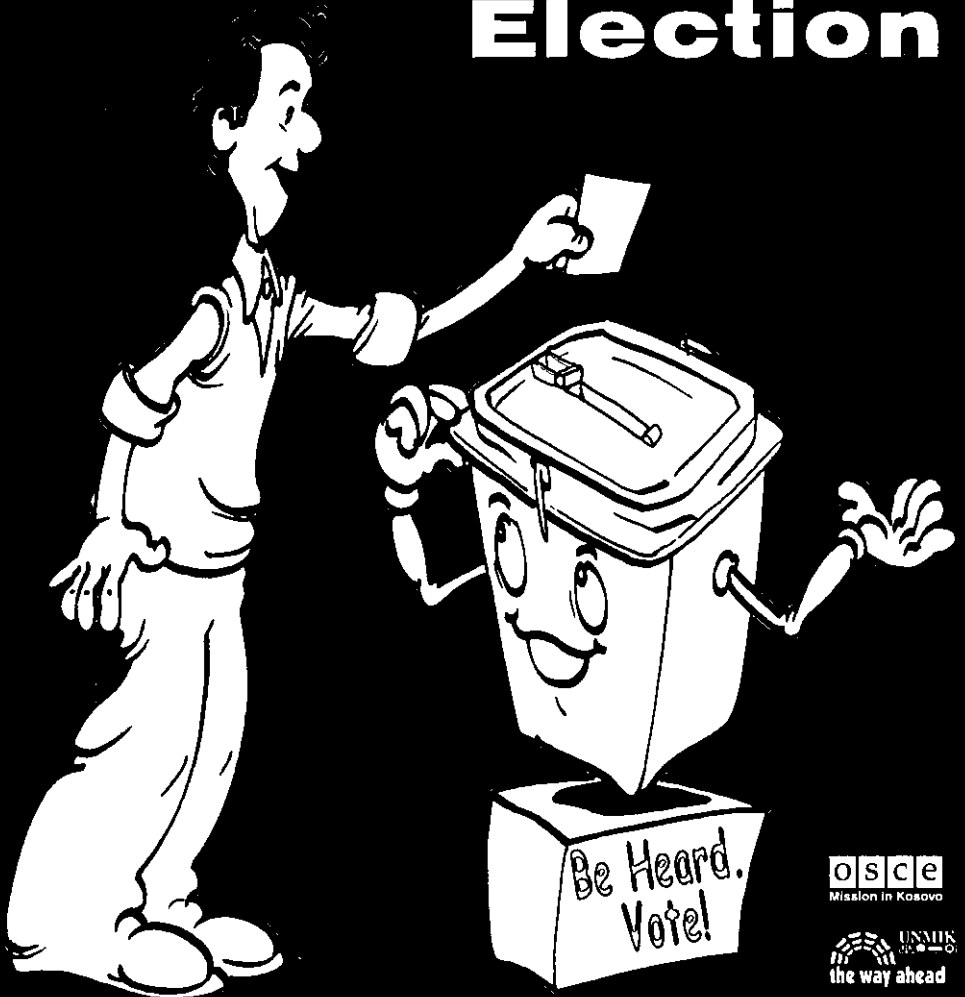


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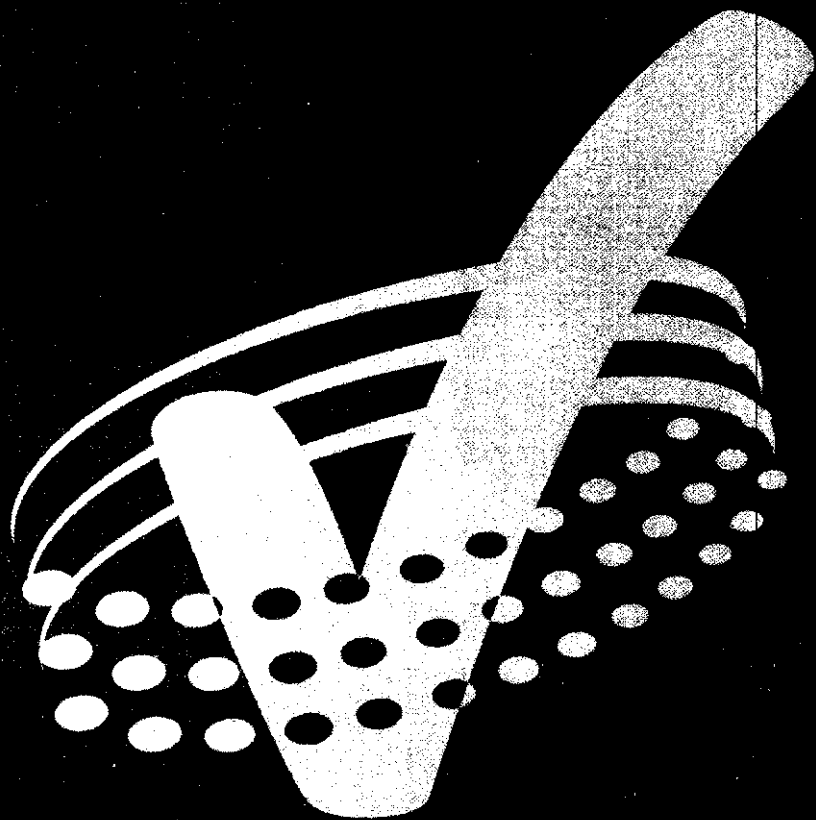
Election 2001

# Voter's Guide to the 2001 Kosovo Assembly Election



osce  
Mission in Kosovo

UNMIK  
the way ahead



**Election 2001**

Dear voter,

Participation in a true democracy is one of the most fundamental rights, and it starts with voting for your political representatives. On **17 November 2001**, every eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and select Kosovo's Assembly.

The electoral process and Election Day itself are supervised by the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the OSCE - but it is the responsibility of all the people of Kosovo to make the Election successful and democratic.

This booklet will give you the information that you will need to cast your vote. The topics covered in this booklet explain what you will need to do to play your part in this year's Election.

I hope this guide helps you to **Be Heard. Vote!**



**Ambassador Daan Everts**

*Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General*

*Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo*

*Chairperson of the Central Election Commission*



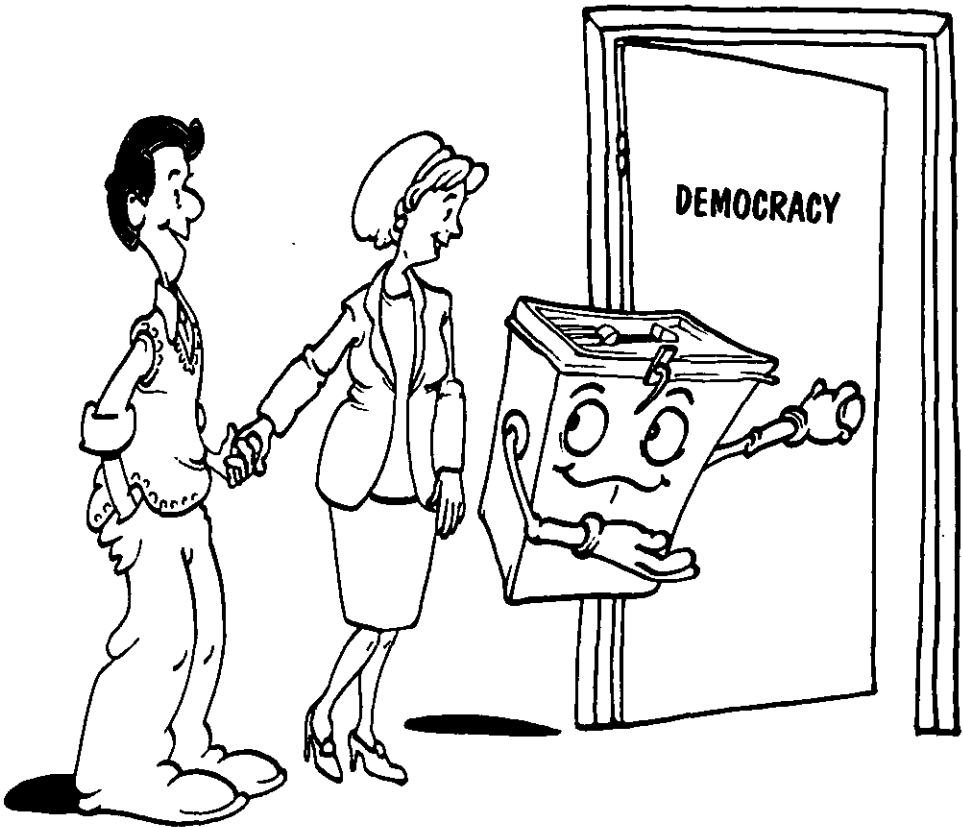
# Prepare for Election Day

Voting is more than just casting a ballot on Election Day. Now is the time to prepare yourself by becoming an informed voter.

In the days and weeks leading up to 17 November, political entities (parties, coalitions, citizens' initiatives, and independent candidates) will be competing for your vote through their election campaigns. It is your responsibility to listen to their messages and decide which of them has the best concrete and realistic plans to improve your life and the life of your community. The representatives you elect will serve three-year terms. Therefore, it is important that you use your vote wisely.

Although the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) will retain some areas of responsibility, many significant responsibilities and powers will pass from UNMIK to the elected Assembly members and the new government of Kosovo after the Election. The Assembly must function in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutional Framework and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. The Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo, issued by UNMIK in the summer of 2001 and Regulation 2001/19 'On the Executive Branch of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo', which was recently issued, explain all the details about the Assembly, the government and its responsibilities.

**Y**our responsibility as a voter will not end on Election Day. It is up to you to make sure that your elected representatives carry out what they have promised and are accountable to you.





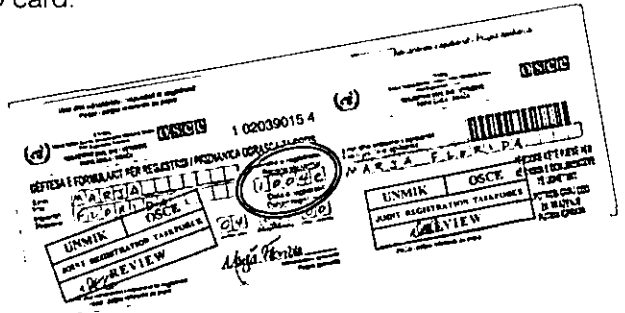
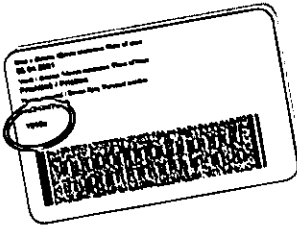
# Know Where to Vote.

**I**t is your responsibility to know where to vote. The only way to avoid long queues and confusion on Election Day is for the voters to know where to vote. Make Election Day more convenient for yourself and better for the future of Kosovo - take five minutes to find out where to vote. There are two steps to ensuring that you go to the correct Polling Centre:

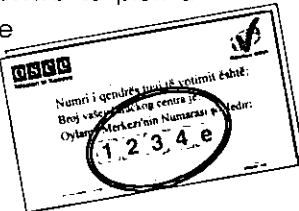
## Check your Registration Centre number

By knowing where you registered, you can find out where you will vote.

Look at the back of your **UNMIK ID card** or at your **registration receipt** for your Registration Centre number. It is the last number on the bottom of the UNMIK ID card.



If you went to a **Voter Service Centre** to pick a new Polling Centre, use the Polling Centre number on your **Allocation card** or print out.



OSCE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE  
 OSCE ORGANIZACIJA ZA BEZBEDNOST I SADRUBNOST U EVROPI

Prishtinë/  
 Priština



**Mësoni se ku do të votoni**

**Saznajte gde ćete glasati!**

Prishtinë, 1991

Prishtinë, 1991

Prishtinë, 1991

Prishtinë, 1991

**Find the location of your Polling Centre**

Now, find your Polling Centre location by checking this number against the list of locations in the "Where to Vote" newspaper published by OSCE in the weeks before the Election. Carefully follow the instructions in the "Where to Vote" newspaper.

If you need more help, you can also go to an OSCE Voter Information Centre, (open until November 16).







# At the Polling Centre

**P**olling Centres are the buildings, often schools, where you will vote. Polling Centres may contain one or several Polling Stations.

Once you arrive, signs outside the Polling Centre will indicate the Polling Centre number. Some larger Polling Centres will be in two buildings - you will be in one or the other depending on your family name, and there will be clear signs outside the Polling Centre to tell you where to vote.

**Make sure you are at the right Polling Centre, or ask a Polling Centre assistant for help.**

Inside the Polling Centre, **your Polling Station will be determined by the first letter(s) of your family name.** It is easy to find the way to your Polling Station.

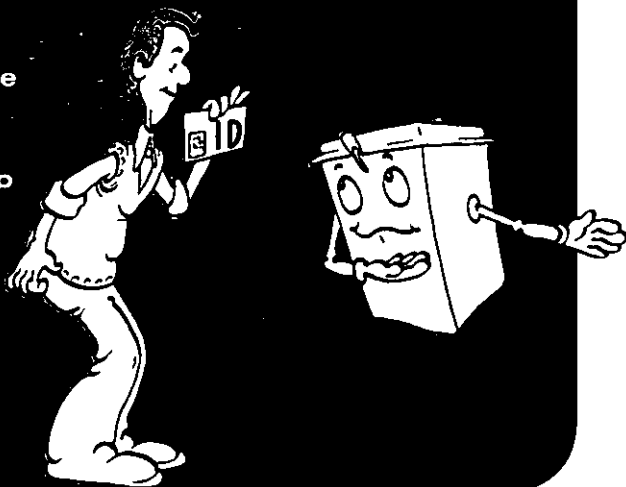
Polling Centre assistants and signs on and inside the Polling Centre will instruct you where to go. In larger Polling Centres, there will also be a helpdesk where you can go to if you need further assistance.



Polling centres are open  
from 7.00 until 19.00.  
If you are not in the queue by 19.00 —  
you will not be able to vote.  
Don't come at the last minute.

## Practical tips

- Don't forget to bring your UNMIK ID card or your registration receipt AND another form of photo identification
- Before you go, make sure you are going to the correct location.
- There will be very limited parking space. If you don't have to travel by car, leave your car at home. Otherwise, travel with other people in the car.
- Follow the instructions on the signs and provided by the Polling Centre officials.
- Don't show up at the last moment.

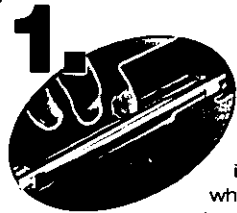


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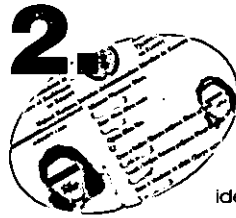
## In the Polling Station

The Polling Station is where you cast your ballot. Voting is a simple procedure:

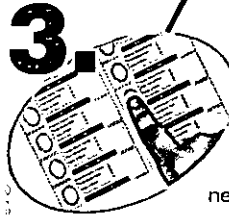
To ensure the voting and counting process is transparent, you will find **observers from the international community**. Accredited representatives of domestic organisations, political parties, coalitions, citizen's initiatives and independent candidates will also observe the process. The media may also be present.



**1.** Before you present your photo ID card, your finger will be checked for indelible ink to see whether you have already voted.



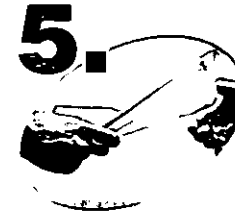
**2.** Present your UNMIK ID card or your registration receipt AND another form of photo identification.



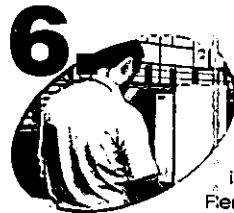
**3.** Your ID will be checked against the Final Voters' List. If you are on the list you will be asked to sign next to your name.



**4.** The Polling Station staff will spray indelible ink on your finger.



**5.** Then they will issue you with a ballot paper.



**6.** You will then go behind the polling screen alone and mark your ballot paper in secrecy - Remember, choose only one political entity from the list and mark your choice in the box next to it. You must not make any other mark or write anything else on the ballot paper.

**Writing anything else on the ballot may invalidate your ballot.**

**No one in any part of the Polling Centre is allowed to try to influence your voting decision or watch how you vote.**

If you are in the wrong Polling Station, your name will not be on the Final Voters' List. But if you have a **photo ID**, your name, date-of-birth, and registration number will be written on a special **Conditional Ballot Envelope**.

You will mark your ballot and place it in a secrecy envelope and then into a Conditional Ballot Envelope, which you will then have to put into the ballot box.

**Your conditional ballot will be counted if you are a registered voter and have not already voted in this Election. Your conditional ballot is as secret and valid as anyone else's ballot.**

The Polling Station will be managed by a **Polling Station Committee** made up of people from your neighbourhood trained by the OSCE. An OSCE International Polling Station Supervisor will make sure that all of the rules are followed.



# The Ballot.

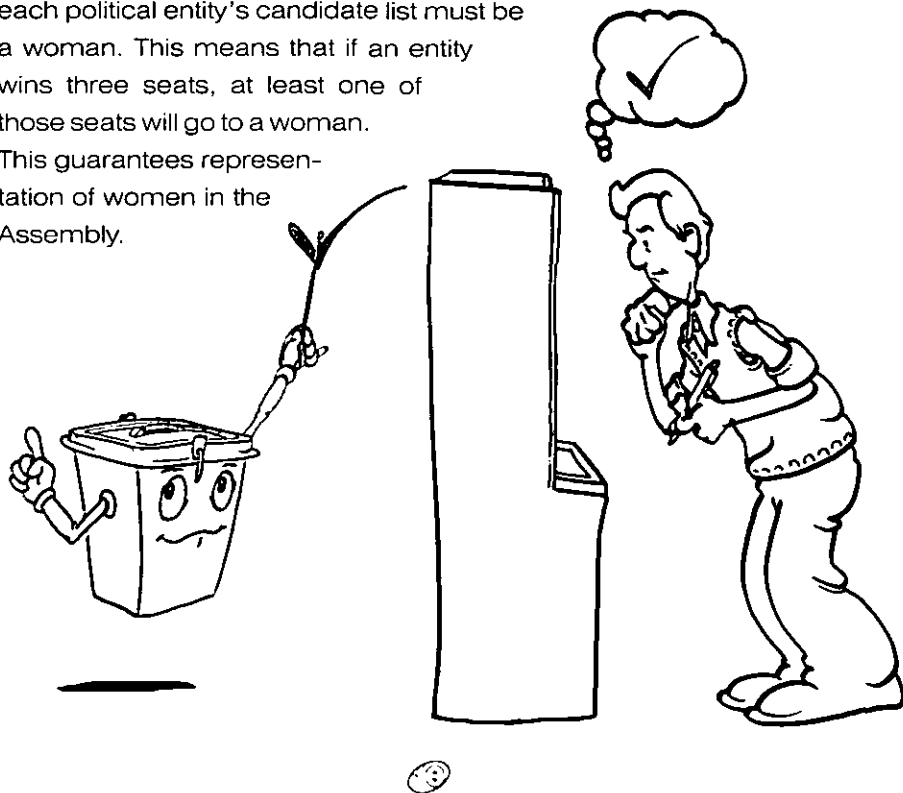
## The Candidates

You vote for a political entity, not for a particular candidate. The political entities have submitted lists of their candidates in the order that they will be elected. You will know who those candidates are. The OSCE will publish the Candidate List and there will be posters in the Polling Stations with those lists of names. If a political entity wins 16 seats, the first 16 candidates on their list will be elected to the new Assembly.

## Women in government

One of every three candidates on the first 2/3 of each political entity's candidate list must be a woman. This means that if an entity wins three seats, at least one of those seats will go to a woman.

This guarantees representation of women in the Assembly.





# 6

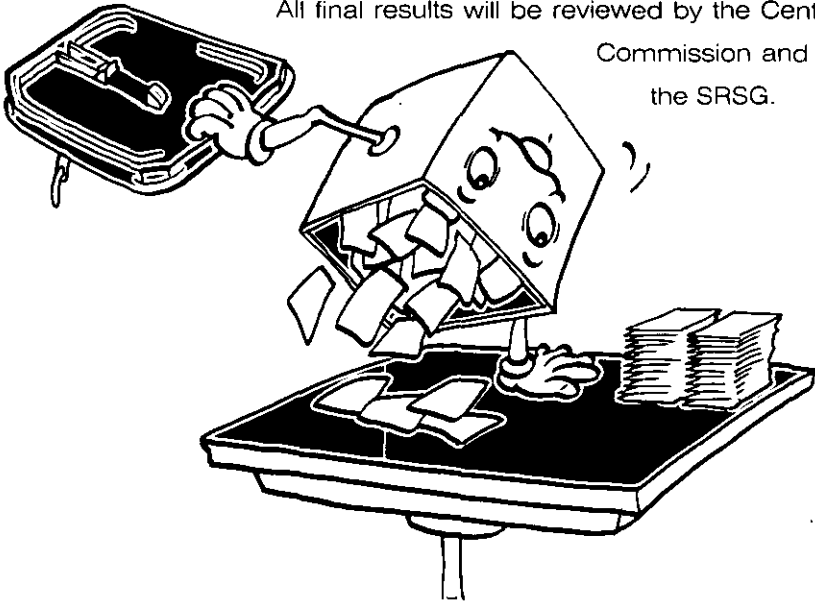
## The Count.

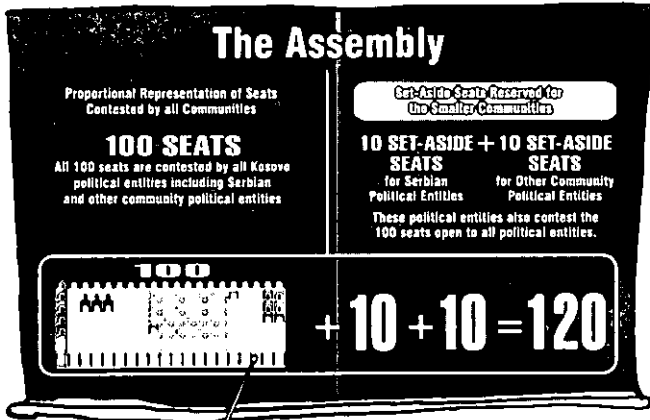
All regular ballots will be counted at the Polling Station, by your Polling Station Committee, immediately after polling closes. Each Polling Station Committee will sort and count valid ballots by political entity. When the count at the Polling Station has been completed, the ballots and the results will be transported to the Counting and Results Centre.

All other ballots—such as Out-of-Kosovo and conditional ballots—will be sorted and counted at the Counting and Results Centre in Kosovo.

Final results will be obtained by first adding all of the valid ballots cast then the allocation of the seats in the Assembly will be determined.

All final results will be reviewed by the Central Election Commission and certified by the SRSG.





### Turning votes into seats

The system used to allocate seats according to the election result is called "proportional representation." This means that the percentage of votes each political party, coalition, citizens' initiative or independent candidate wins determines the number of seats in the Assembly that entity will receive.

**There are 120 seats in the Assembly. All political entities running in the Election are contesting 100 of those seats. The other 20 seats are called set-aside seats and are being reserved for Kosovo's smaller communities.**

The set-aside seats will be added to whatever seats the smaller communities win out of the 100 seats being contested by all political entities.

The Kosovo Serb community will get 10 set-aside seats. The Kosovo Gorani community will have one set-aside seat, the Kosovo Turk community will have two, three will go to the Kosovo Bosniac community and four to the Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. This guarantees all of Kosovo's smaller communities a voice in the Assembly.



# Other Aspects.

## Reaching Out to All Voters

One of the most progressive and democratic elements of the Assembly Election is the effort to allow all eligible voters to cast a ballot, no matter where they are. Voters who cannot come to Polling Stations will have a degree of access unusual in young democracies and post-conflict societies.

## Out-of-Kosovo

People who are eligible for Civil Registration and who lived in Kosovo on or after 1 January 1998 may also register and vote. In the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, in-person Voter Registration Centres and Polling Centres are established with the help of the Commissariats for Refugees. Elsewhere in the world, people can register and vote by mail, and in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, special help is provided for those who wish to register and vote.

The International Organization for Migration is the OSCE's implementing partner for Out-of-Kosovo registration and voting. For more information, visit [www.okvoting.org](http://www.okvoting.org) or call +43 1 503 1509 / +43 1 503 1511.

## Special Needs Voting

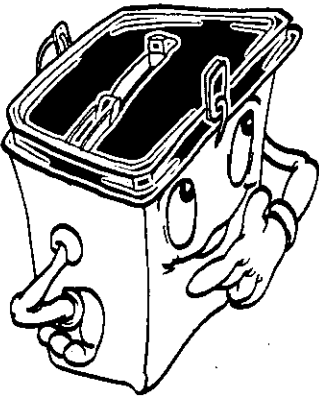
Some people will find it difficult or impossible to visit a Polling Centre. Voters who cannot leave their homes and voters who are in institutions such as old-age homes will be visited by OSCE teams and allowed to vote before Election Day. Those who could not go to Civil Registration Centres will be allowed to register and vote at the same time. Special



arrangements have also been made for voters who will be in hospitals or working on Election Day, such as doctors, nurses, police officers, or some election officials.

### **Transparency**

A transparent electoral process is crucial to public confidence. To ensure this, the SRSB has asked the Council of Europe to co-ordinate an election observation mission on behalf of the international community. The CEC has also accredited domestic observers for this purpose, including representatives of local organisations, political parties, coalitions, citizen's initiatives and independent candidates. Observers have monitored all aspects of the electoral process, including the establishment of the Voters' List and the campaigning activities of political entities. They will also observe polling and counting during the Election.



**Effective monitoring will minimise the possibility of mistakes and fraud, and will ensure that the results of the Election are a true reflection of the choices, views and concerns of all eligible voters.**

## **The Central Election Commission**

The Central Election Commission (CEC) is the principal body responsible for the conduct of the electoral process in Kosovo. The CEC was established by an UNMIK regulation to prepare electoral rules that govern the conduct of the 2001 Assembly Election in Kosovo.

The CEC is composed of both national and international members. Its members are not allowed to be candidates in the Election and cannot hold any high party office. Its nine local members come from political parties, civil society, the academic world, and the media; there are three international members. Ambassador Daan Everts, Deputy Representative of the Secretary General for Institution Building and Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, is the chairperson.

The CEC has prepared all of the electoral rules needed for the Election. This includes a Code of Conduct, requirements for the certification of political entities, the conduct of the media during the electoral campaign, as well as rules on polling and counting. It also certifies political entities and approves candidate registration. **The electoral rules are implemented by the OSCE Department of Election Operations.**

## **The Election Complaints and Appeals sub-Commission (ECAC)**

ECAC is the body to which you can turn if you believe that the rules are being violated. The ECAC is composed of one international chief commissioner and between three and five deputy commissioners from Kosovo.

Any person who claims that his/her rights concerning the electoral process have been violated by a breach of any of the applicable rules and regulations may file a complaint. Complaints can be filed directly at the central offices of the ECAC in Pristina (by mail, by fax, or in person), or with any OSCE Regional Centre or Field Office, where you can also ask for assistance if needed.

Elections Complaints and Appeals Commission  
OSCE Elections Building  
Beograd Street 32  
Pristina  
ecac@omik.org  
Phone: 038 590 720 ext. 575

**For further information,  
please speak with OSCE Staff.**



Be Heard. Vote!