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ПАРЛАМЕНТАРНИ ИЗБОРИ
15 септември 2002

[BOOKLET]

**12 THINGS VOTERS NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002**

1. The Elections

Parliamentary Elections will be held on 15 September 2002.

120 members of Parliament will be elected.

The hours of voting are 7:00 to 19:00.

This brochure is intended to help you understand your rights and the way of voting.

2. Eligibility to Vote and Stand for Election

You have the right to vote if you are a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, are at least 18 years old, and have working capacity.

You have the right to stand for election to Parliament if you are a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, are at least 18 years old, have working capacity, and are not serving a prison sentence for a criminal offense.

3. Basic Election Principles

Elections are general, direct, and free, and are conducted by secret ballot. No one can force you to reveal whether or not you voted or for whom.

4. Anti-Fraud Measures

A number of anti-fraud measures are being introduced for this election that will help protect your voting rights and ensure the legitimacy of the election outcome.

One such measure is the use of invisible ink and ultra-violet lamps.

The invisible ink is not visible to the naked eye. It can only be detected with the use of an ultra-violet lamp. It is *not* harmful to you. The ink will *not* wear off until several days after the elections.

When you enter the polling station, your right thumbnail will be scanned to ensure that there is no trace of invisible ink and that you are voting for the first time.

If an invisible ink mark is detected on the right thumb nail of someone trying to vote in the polling station, this would suggest that he or she has already cast a ballot. In this case, the person will *not* be allowed to vote.

If there is no trace of invisible ink, you will be issued a ballot (only one ballot will be issued per voter). Your right thumbnail will then be sprayed with invisible ink.

This anti-fraud measure eliminates the possibility that any one person could vote more than once.

5. System of Representation and Electoral Districts

For this election, members of Parliament will be elected according to the proportional model. The country is divided into six electoral districts. Twenty (20) members of Parliament will be elected from each district. The ballot in each district will contain the names of the submitters of the lists of candidates standing for election in that district.

A list submitter is a registered political party, coalition, or group of voters that has nominated a list of candidates.

6. Identification Documents

In order to establish your identity on Election Day, you must present either a valid Personal ID Card or a valid Macedonian Passport.

7. Steps in the Voting Process

On Election Day, the voting process will work as follows . . .

- You must vote in person and in secret!
- Upon entering the polling station, approach the electoral board. A member of the electoral board, using an ultra-violet lamp, will check your right thumbnail to ensure there is no trace of invisible ink.
- If there is no trace of invisible ink, you will then be directed by an electoral board member to present either your Personal Identification Card or valid Macedonian Passport.
- Once your identity has been established, you will sign the Voters' List.¹
- You will then be issued a ballot.
- Your right thumbnail will then be sprayed with invisible ink.
- You will then need to go behind the first available voting screen. Mark your ballot alone and in secret.
- Mark your choice by circling the ordinal number of your preferred list submitter.
- Then fold the ballot so that no one can see for whom you voted.
- Insert the ballot into the ballot box.
- Once you have finished voting, you will need to exit the polling station.

8. The Ballot

The number of the election district (1 through 6) and the flag of Macedonia will appear at the top of the ballot. The ballot will contain the ordinal number, name, and symbol (if any) of the list submitter and name and surname of the carrier of the list.

The ballot will be in the Macedonian language and the Cyrillic alphabet. For other communities, the name and surname of the submitter and the carrier of the list will also appear in the language and alphabet of the community to which they belong.

¹ An illiterate voter will be told to place his or her right index finger print in the designated space.

You will need to mark your ballot by circling the ordinal number of the list submitter of your choice. You must select only one list submitter.

9. Special Voting Activities and Procedures

Assisted Voting

If, due to physical disability or illiteracy, you cannot mark your own ballot you can request assistance. If you do not have someone to assist you, another person can be appointed by the electoral board to perform this function. This person cannot be an electoral board member, a representative of a list submitter, or an observer. This person may not attempt to influence your choice.

Voting By the Special Mobile Ballot Box

If you are disabled or ill, and are not able to cast your vote at the polling station, you can request to vote at home or in the hospital. This request can be made through a proxy. The request must be received by your municipal election commission (MEC) at least 3 days prior to Election Day.

Arrangements will be made for you to cast your ballot *the day prior to Election Day*. Members of the electoral board will bring all necessary election materials, including a special mobile ballot box, to your home or hospital room.

Despite these special voting procedures, the secrecy of your vote must be preserved.

Voting by Internally Displaced Persons

If you are currently displaced within Macedonia, special arrangements will be made for you to vote. Voting will be carried out *one day prior to Election Day*.

Voting By Military Personnel

If you are not at your place of residence on Election Day due to military service or maneuvers, you will vote at your military unit. Voting will be carried out *one day prior to Election Day*.

Voting By Prisoners

If you are serving a prison sentence or are in custody, you will vote in the penitentiary institution. Voting will be carried out *one day prior to Election Day*.

10. Prohibited Activities

With respect to voting rights and the election process, there are a number of activities that are prohibited:

You cannot cast more than one ballot.

No one can vote on your behalf nor can you vote on behalf of someone else (Exception: See *Assisted Voting* under Section 9). You must cast your ballot in person.

Voting in the open, with another person, or with a group of people is not permitted. You must cast your ballot in secret.

With the sole exception of the police, who may be invited into the polling station by the electoral board to restore order, weapon(s) cannot be brought into the polling station.

No one is allowed to violate your freedom of choice, whether by force, serious threat, deceit, or some other manner.

It is illegal for anyone to influence whether or not, or for whom, you cast your ballot on Election Day by offering, presenting, or promising a bribe. It is also illegal for a voter to solicit a bribe in return for his or her vote.

The bodies responsible for maintaining the Voters' List or preparing and carrying out the election cannot unlawfully deprive you of your right to vote or stand for election.

11. Filing an Objection or Complaint

If you notice irregularities in the election procedure, you submit an objection to the Regional Election Commission (REC). This must be done within 48 hours of the irregularity. The REC is obliged to render a decision within 48 hours of receiving the objection.

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the REC, you can file a complaint with the competent Court of Appeals through the REC. It must rule within 48 hours of receiving the complaint.

12. Election Results

The State Election Commission will announce the preliminary results of the Election for Members of Parliament within 24 hours of the completion of the elections. Final results must be announced within 3 days of the election.

[Logo] *YOUR VOTE IS YOUR RIGHT.*

[Macedonian flag]

**A project of the State Election Commission
With support from IFES and USAID**

[LEAFLET]

**VOTING RIGHTS
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002**

Elections in the Republic of Macedonia are general, direct, and free, and are conducted by secret ballot.

You have the right to vote if you are a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, are at least 18 years old, and have working capacity .

You also have the right to . . .

- Cast your ballot in person.
- Make your own choice about whom to vote.
- Make your choice in secret.

The law requires that you do these things.

No one can vote on your behalf nor can you vote on behalf of someone else. You must cast your vote in person.

It is illegal for anyone to influence whether or not or for whom you cast your ballot on Election Day.

No one is allowed to violate your freedom of choice, whether by force, serious threat, deceit, or some other manner.

Voting in the open, with another person, or with a group of people is not permitted. You must cast your ballot in secret.

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[Macedonian flag]

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VOTING RIGHTS
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002

Elections in the Republic of Macedonia are conducted on the basis of general, direct, and free elections, and by secret ballot.

You have the right to vote if you are a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, are at least 18 years old, and have working capacity.

You also have the right to . . .

→ Cast your ballot in person.

No one can vote on your behalf nor can you vote on behalf of someone else.

→ Make your own choice about whom to vote.

It is illegal for anyone to influence whether or not, or for whom, you cast your ballot on Election Day.

No one is allowed to violate your freedom of choice, whether by force, serious threat, deceit, or some other manner.

→ Make your choice in secret.

Voting in the open, with another person, or with a group of people is not permitted.

The law requires that you vote in person and in secret. The Law also protects your freedom of choice.

[Logo] *YOUR VOTE IS YOUR RIGHT.*

[Macedonian flag]

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**ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002**

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One such measure is the use of invisible ink and ultra-violet lamps.

When you enter the polling station, your right thumbnail will be scanned to ensure that there is no trace of invisible ink.

The invisible ink is not visible to the naked eye. It can only be detected with the use of an ultra-violet lamp. It is *not* harmful to you. In time, the ink will wear off.

If an invisible ink mark is detected on the right thumbnail of someone trying to enter the polling station, this would suggest that he or she has already cast a ballot. In this case, the person will *not* be allowed to vote.

If there is no trace of invisible ink, you will be issued a ballot (only one ballot will be issued per voter). Your right thumbnail will be sprayed with invisible ink.

This anti-fraud measure eliminates the possibility that any one person could vote more than once.

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**ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002**

Invisible ink and ultra-violet lamps are being introduced for this election as a means of protecting your voting rights and ensuring the legitimacy of the election outcome.

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STEPS IN THE VOTING PROCESS
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002

Remember, you must vote in person!

Before leaving home, make sure you have the necessary identification document. You will need to bring either a Personal ID Card or a valid Macedonian Passport.

Once you reach your polling station, the voting process will work as follows . . .

1. Upon entering the polling station, approach the electoral board. A member of the electoral board, using an ultra-violet lamp, will check your right thumbnail to ensure there is no trace of invisible ink.
2. If there is no trace of invisible ink, you will then be directed by an electoral board member to present either your valid Personal Identification Card or a valid Macedonian Passport.
3. Once your identity has been established, sign the Voters' List.²
4. You will then be issued a ballot.

The number of the election district (1 through 6) and the flag of Macedonia will appear at the top of the ballot. The ballot will contain the ordinal number, name, and symbol (if any) of the list submitter and the name and surname of the carrier of the list.

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5. Your right thumbnail will then be sprayed with invisible ink.
6. You will then need to go behind the first available voting screen, alone, and mark your ballot in secret.
7. You should mark your choice by circling the ordinal number of your preferred list submitter. You must select only one list submitter.
8. Then fold the ballot in half so that no one can see for whom you voted.
9. Insert the ballot into the ballot box.
10. Once you have finished voting, you will need to exit the polling station.

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² If the voter is illiterate, he or she will be directed to put his or her right index finger print in the designated space in the excerpt of the Voters' List.

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**STEPS IN THE VOTING PROCESS
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002**

1. Approach the electoral board. A member of the electoral board, using an ultra-violet lamp, will check your right thumbnail for a trace of invisible ink.
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**NON-VIOLENCE ON ELECTION DAY
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
15 SEPTEMBER 2002**

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