

ELECTORAL CODE
Consolidated Version translated and edited by IFES

**Based on the Unofficial Version Drafted by the State Election Commission
Professional Service**

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*NOTE: The 2018 changes are highlighted in **turquoise**.*

I. BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Code shall regulate the manner, conditions and procedure for election of the President of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: "President of the Republic"), election of Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: "Members of Parliament"), election of Members of the Council of the Municipality and the Council of the City of Skopje (hereinafter: "Members of Council"), and election of Mayors of the municipalities and Mayor of the City of Skopje (hereinafter: "Mayor"), the manner of and procedure for registering the right to vote, maintaining the Voter List, determining the boundaries of the electoral districts and determining, changing and publishing the polling stations as well as the conditions for the functioning of polling stations.

1. Glossary

Article 2

The specific terms used in this Code shall have the following meaning:

1. "Right to vote" - Every citizen of the Republic of Macedonia who is at least 18 years of age and has capacity to contract shall have the right to vote;
2. "Voter Register" is a public document in which all citizens with the right to vote are registered;
3. "Election management bodies" are the bodies in charge of administering the elections regulated by this Code;
4. "Member of an election management body" is the president, the members, and their deputies; they compose the election management bodies and conduct election activities;
5. "List submitters" are registered political parties or coalitions of political parties registered at the State Election Commission, a group of voters and Members of Parliament;
6. "Candidate" is a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia confirmed by the competent election commission in accordance with this Code, for whom votes will be cast in the elections;
7. "Independent candidate" is a candidate running for President of the Republic, Member of Parliament, Mayor or Member of Council, supported by a "group of voters";
8. "Political party" is a political party registered in accordance with the Law;
9. "Ruling Parties" are political parties in power that won the majority of votes in the last election for Members of Parliament;
10. "Opposition parties" comprise political parties in opposition that won the majority of votes in the last election for Members of Parliament;
11. "Authorised representative" is a person authorised by a registered candidate, political party or coalition to represent their interests before the election management bodies;
12. "Coalition" is an alliance based on the agreement of two or more registered political parties for joint participation in the elections;
13. "Election campaign" is a public presentation of candidates confirmed by the relevant election management bodies and their programmes during the pre-election period before the respective elections;
14. "Election campaign participant" is a person authorised by a political party, coalition or a group of voters that organise the election campaign;
15. "Observers" are representatives of domestic or foreign registered associations of citizens accredited by the State Election Commission to observe the elections;
16. "Diplomatic – consular offices of the Republic of Macedonia" are the representations of the Republic of Macedonia in other states and international organizations, which perform tasks prescribed by Law;
17. "Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad", for the purpose of this Code, are citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who have registered their last residence in the Republic of Macedonia and who, on the Election Day, have been temporarily residing abroad for more than three months or have been

- temporarily employed or residing abroad for more than one year pursuant to the records of the relevant authority;
18. "Employees in public administration" refers to a category of persons employed in education, healthcare, culture, science and social protection, who perform tasks of public interest in accordance with the Law;
 19. "Employees in state administration, municipal administration and administration of the City of Skopje" refers to a category of persons with the status of civil servant in accordance with the Law;
 20. "Election administration" is composed of employees in the Professional Service of the State Election Commission, members of the election management bodies, secretaries of municipal election commissions, their deputies and other individuals temporarily hired by the supporting bodies of the State Election Commission for the purposes of the election process;
 21. "Election process" refers to the time between the adoption of the act for calling the elections and the announcement of the final results of the elections held at the level of a municipality, the City of Skopje or the electoral district where elections are held;
 22. "Forms of election media presentation" shall refer to: daily information shows, programmes that provide the participants in the election campaign with a direct access to voters, and special information shows;
 23. "Daily information shows" shall refer to all forms of radio and television news broadcasts and news bulletins;
 24. "Direct access to voters" shall refer to the free political presentation and paid political advertising used by the election campaign participants for free promotion of their programmes, viewpoints and candidates;
 25. "Free political presentation" refers to the election campaign participants' direct access to voters used for free presentation of election programmes, viewpoints and candidates without financial compensation.
 26. "Paid political advertising" refers to the election campaign participants' direct access to voters used for presentation of election programmes, viewpoints and candidates at a fee. Paid political advertising can assume the form of advertisements, announcements, political elections videos, music videos used as anthems of election campaign participants, live broadcasts or recordings of rallies, meetings and other appearances of election campaign participants;
 27. "Special information programmes" shall refer to programmes intended to inform citizens of the voting method and technique and the realization of voting rights, and informative political programmes in the form of interviews, debates or TV/radio hustings, topical information programmes, topical information programmes with a documentary approach and thematic specialized information programmes.
 28. "Electoral media presentation" shall refer to (direct or indirect) promotion of viewpoints, programmes, platforms, achievements, activities etc. of political parties, coalitions, groups of voters and their representatives.

2. Equal electoral right

Article 3

- (1) The President of the Republic, the Members of Parliament, the Members of Councils and the Mayor of the municipality shall be elected at general, direct, and free elections, in secret ballot.
- (2) No voter can be held accountable for their vote, nor required to say who he/she voted for or why he/she did not vote.

3. Electoral Model

Article 4

- (1) The election of the President of the Republic shall be conducted on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and in the diplomatic-consular offices (hereinafter: DCOs) of the Republic of Macedonia in Europe and Africa, North and South America and Australia and Asia, as a single electoral district, according to the majoritarian model.

- (2) In the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, 120 to 123 Members of Parliament (hereinafter: MPs) shall be elected, 120 of whom shall be elected under the proportional model, whereby the territory of the Republic of Macedonia shall be divided into six electoral districts that are determined with this Code and 20 MPs elected from each of these electoral districts, whereas 3 MPs shall be elected under the proportional model from the single electoral district covering Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia.
- (3) The first MP from the electoral district which covers Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia shall be considered elected if the MP list of candidates has won at least the same number of votes as the smallest number of votes with which an MP was elected in the electoral districts in the Republic of Macedonia in the last parliamentary elections in the Republic of Macedonia.
- (4) The second MP from the electoral district which covers Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia shall be considered elected if the MP list of candidates has won twice as many votes as the smallest number of votes with which an MP was elected in the electoral districts in the Republic of Macedonia, in the last parliamentary elections in Republic of Macedonia.
- (5) The third MP from the electoral district which covers Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia shall be considered elected if the MP list of candidates has won three times as many votes as the smallest number of votes with which an MP was elected in the electoral districts in the Republic of Macedonia, in the last parliamentary elections in Republic of Macedonia.
- (6) Should none of the lists of MPs from the electoral district which covers Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia obtain the required number of votes prescribed in paragraph (3) of this article, not a single MP shall be elected.
- (7) In the electoral districts in the Republic of Macedonia, the maximum deviation of the number of voters cannot be greater than -5% to +5% of the average number of voters per electoral district.
- (8) The election of members of councils shall be conducted on the territory of the municipality or the City of Skopje under the proportional representation system.
- (9) The election of Mayor shall be conducted on the territory of the municipality or the City of Skopje, under the majoritarian system.

4. Voter Register

Article 5

- (1) The Voter Register is a public document and it is maintained for the entire territory of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (2) The Voter Register shall serve as a basis for conducting the elections and referendum in the Republic of Macedonia, both at the national and local level.

5. The right to vote for and stand for election

Article 6

- (1) Every citizen of the Republic of Macedonia who is at least 18 years of age, has the capacity to contract and has a permanent residence in the electoral district, municipality or in the City of Skopje, where the election takes place, shall have the right to vote.
- (2) Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who on Election Day are temporarily employed or residing abroad and are registered in the Voter Register based on the records of the relevant authority and the application for voting, shall vote for the election of the President of the Republic and for the election of Members of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia in the Diplomatic-Consular Offices of the Republic of Macedonia abroad, or the consular offices, pursuant to the provisions of this Code.

Article 7

- (1) Any person who meets the requirements for the election of the President of the Republic prescribed in the Constitution may stand as candidate for President of the Republic.
- (2) A citizen of the Republic of Macedonia can stand as a candidate for the election of a Member of Parliament, Member of Council and Mayor if he/she:
 - Is 18 years of age, and
 - has the capacity to contract.
- (3) A person cannot stand as a candidate for the election of a Member of Parliament, Member of Council and Mayor if he/she:
 - has been issued a final court decision for unconditional imprisonment of more than six months and has still not started serving the sentence, and
 - is serving a sentence of imprisonment for committing a criminal offence.
- (4) In addition to the requirements stipulated in paragraph (2) of this article, a citizen can stand as a candidate for Member of Council and Mayor if he/she has permanent residence in the municipality and the City of Skopje, where the election takes place.

6. Incompatibility of the office of the President of the Republic, Member of Parliament, Mayor and Member of Council

Article 8

- (1) The office of a Member of Parliament, Member of Council and Mayor shall be incompatible with the office of the President of the Republic, President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Minister, Judge, Public Prosecutor, Public Attorney, Ombudsman and of other office holders elected or appointed by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: the Parliament) and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: the Government).
- (2) The office of a Member of Parliament shall be incompatible with the offices of Mayor and Member of Council of the municipality and of the City of Skopje.
- (3) The offices of a Member of Parliament and Mayor shall be incompatible with the:
 - performance of professional and administrative work in the state administration bodies;
 - performance of business or other for-profit activity; and
 - membership in management boards of public enterprises, public institutions, funds, agencies, bureaus and other legal entities, as well as with the appointment of a trustee of state- and publicly-owned capital in a commercial enterprise.
- (4) The office of Mayor of the City of Skopje and the office of Member of the Council of the City of Skopje shall be incompatible with the office of Mayor of Municipality and the office of Member of Council of the municipalities on the territory of the City of Skopje.
- (5) The term of office of office holders from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article be terminated as of the day of verification of their mandate as Member of Parliament, Member of Council and Mayor.
- (6) The employment of persons referred to in paragraph (3), indent (1) of this article shall cease temporarily as of the day of the verification of the mandate as Member of Parliament and Mayor.
- (7) The business or other for-profit activity of the persons referred to in paragraph (3), indent 2 and 3 of this article shall be temporarily suspended as of the day of verification of the mandate as Member of Parliament, whereas their membership in management boards of public enterprises, public institutions, funds, agencies, bureaus and other legal entities, as well as the appointment as a trustee of state- and publicly-owned capital in commercial enterprise shall be terminated.

- (8) The employment of the persons working in the municipal administration shall be temporarily terminated as of the day of the verification of the mandate as a Member of Council, pursuant to the Law.

Article 8-a

- (1) From the day of the adoption of the decision for the announcement of the elections until the completion of the election of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and election of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in accordance with the election results, as well as from the day of the adoption of the decision for announcement of the elections until the day of the completion of the election of Mayor or Members of the Council, i.e. until the establishment of the Council of the Municipalities and the City of Skopje, the following shall not be allowed:
- use of Budget funds or public funds or funds of public enterprises or other legal entities that have state capital at their disposal for the commencement of construction of new infrastructural facilities, such as roads, waterworks, transmission lines, sewage, sports fields and other facilities, or social activities' facilities - schools, kindergartens and other buildings, unless Budget funds have previously been allocated for that purpose, i.e. unless it is part of the implementation of the program adopted based on a law in the current year; and
 - payment of salaries, pensions, social welfare or other payments and financial compensations from budget funds or public funds that are not regular monthly payments, or all annual transfers and payments or single transfers from budget funds or public funds, as well as selling of public capital or signing collective agreements, and
 - initiating a procedure for employment of new persons or a procedure for termination of employment with state and public institutions, whereas the already initiated procedures shall be suspended, except in cases of urgent and immediate matters.
- (2) Within a period of 20 days prior to the commencement of the election campaign until the completion of the election of a President of the Republic of Macedonia, Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and the election of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in accordance with the election results, and until the completion of the elections for electing a Mayor or Members of the Councils, i.e. the establishment of the Council of the Municipalities and the City of Skopje, the following shall be forbidden:
- holding public events on the occasion of the commencement of construction or use of facilities with resources from the Budget or from public funds, or with resources from public enterprises or other legal entities that have state capital at their disposal that are infrastructural facilities, such as roads, waterworks, transmission lines, sewage, sports fields and other facilities, or social activities' facilities - schools, kindergartens and other buildings. Prohibition for holding public events shall particularly not refer to: giving a public statement by a public office holder or a candidate for a public office holder during a rally, an interview in the media, a debate in the media or an answer to a journalist's question.
- (3) From the day of the adoption of the decision for the announcement of the elections until the completion of the election of a President of the Republic of Macedonia, Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and election of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in accordance with the election results, as well as from the day of the adoption of the decision for the announcement of the elections until the day of the completion of the election of Mayors or Members of the Council, i.e. until the establishment of the Council of the Municipalities and the City of Skopje, the Ministry of Finance shall make public all budget payments, except the regular salaries, pensions and utilities, by publishing them on the website in a special data basis for budget costs in the election period.

- (4) Two weeks following the announcement of the elections, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia shall submit pre-election financial reports that shall contain an overview of all planned and realized incomes and expenditures from the Budget presented per item, in the period from the beginning of the fiscal year until the day of the publishing of the report on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

Article 8-b

- (1) For the purposes of the election campaign, use of office premises, office equipment and official vehicles of the state bodies shall be forbidden, except for the persons covered with special provisions on personal protection.
- (2) Any attempted or actual pressure and intimidation of voters or members of their families or their close persons shall be forbidden.

Article 8-c

- (1) As of the day of the adoption of the decision for the announcement of the elections, the political parties that participate in the electoral process shall sign a Code on Fair and Democratic Elections.
- (2) With the Code from paragraph (1), participants in the electoral process shall unambiguously pledge that they will neither exert nor attempt any pressure on the employees in the public and state administration, in other institutions or establishments financed by the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia or the budgets of the municipalities and City of Skopje, and in trade companies and enterprises with state-owned capital.
- (3) With the Code from paragraph (1), the participants in the electoral process shall also unambiguously pledge that no employee or citizen shall be subject to any kind of threat to their employment and social security as a result of their support to any political party or candidate, or lack thereof.

Article 9

- (1) The employment of the members of the armed forces of the Republic of Macedonia, the uniformed police officers, and the authorized officials in the Ministry of the Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and the Intelligence Agency shall cease temporarily as of the day when they get confirmed as candidates.
- (2) The employment of the persons from paragraph (1) of this article shall cease temporarily as of the day of the verification of their mandate.

7. Professionalism and irrevocability of office

Article 10

- (1) Members of Parliament cannot be recalled.
- (2) The office of Member of Parliament and Mayor shall be executed in a professional manner.

8. Tax, customs duty and fee exemption

Article 11

- (1) Any actions, acts, submissions and other documents related to the administration of the elections, procurement of goods, works and services for the purposes of the election process shall be exempted from customs duty and taxes.
- (2) All the actions and acts of the state bodies, all submissions and evidence related to the registration of the citizens in the Voter List shall be exempt from fees and taxes.

- (3) The Minister of Finance shall regulate the proceedings regarding the payment of Value Added Tax on the transactions concerning ballots and election materials needed for the administration of the elections, as well as the related custom proceedings.

II. ANNOUNCING AND ADMINISTERING THE ELECTIONS

1. Election announcement

Article 12

- (1) The Election Announcement Act shall be adopted by the President of the Parliament and it shall determine the day on which the deadlines for performing election activities begin and the Election Day.
- (2) The Election Announcement Act shall be submitted to the State Election Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice.
- (3) The Election Announcement Act shall be published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.
- (4) From the day of announcing the elections, until the day of holding the elections, a period of not more than 90 days, nor less than 70 days may pass.

2. Information on the administering of elections

Article 13

- (1) Citizens shall be informed about the elections through a public call and by displaying posters on visible places.
- (2) The informing from paragraph (1) of this article shall be made available by the competent election commission.

3. Administering the elections

Election of the President of the Republic

Article 14

- (1) Elections for President of the Republic shall be held in the last 60 days of the mandate of the outgoing President.
- (2) In case of cessation of the mandate of the President due to any reason, the election of the new President shall be conducted within 40 days from the day of the cessation of the mandate.

Election of Members of Parliament

Article 15

- (1) Elections for Members of Parliament shall be held each fourth year, in the last 90 days of the mandate of the outgoing Parliament, or within 60 days from the day of the dissolution of the Parliament.
- (2) Early elections for Members of Parliament shall be held in accordance with the provisions of this Code and all deadlines for election activities shall be shortened by five days, except for the deadline prescribed for conducting the election campaign.
- (3) The deadlines for performing the election activities from paragraph (2) of this article shall be determined by the State Election Commission with the deadline calendar.

- (4) The mandate of the Members of Parliament shall last from the day of its verification until the day of verification of the mandate of the newly elected Members of Parliament, but not longer than four years.

Election of Members of Council and Mayor

Article 16

- (1) The elections of Members of Council and Mayor shall be held each fourth year simultaneously in all municipalities, in the first half of the month of October.
- (2) Early elections of Members of Council and Mayor shall be announced and administered in accordance with the provisions of this Code, after the conditions for termination of the mandate determined by the Law on Local Self-Government have been met.
- (3) Early elections of Members of Council and Mayor shall not be held if there are less than six months left until the regular elections.

III. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE ELECTIONS

1. Types of election management bodies

Article 17

Bodies responsible for administering the elections are:

- The State Election Commission,
- Municipal Election Commissions and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje,
- Election Boards, and
- Election Boards for conducting the polling at the diplomatic – consular offices of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter “DCOs”), or the consular offices.

2. Members of an election management body

Article 18

- (1) A person cannot be nominated for a member of an election body if:
 - He/she does not fulfil the special requirements prescribed by this Code;
 - he/she has been convicted of an election-related offence;
 - he/she has previously participated in administering the elections and due to irregularities identified in his/her work as a member of an election management body the voting was annulled;
 - he/she does not meet the special requirements stipulated in this Law.
- (2) The following persons may not be members of a Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje and the Election Board:
 - elected or appointed officials of the Government, Parliament and persons employed in the state administration of the Ombudsman Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Secretariat for Legislation, State Statistical Office, Bureau for Protection and Rescue, Crisis Management Centre, the Professional Service of the Administrative Court, the Professional Service of the State Election Commission, the Professional Service of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and the staff from the Professional Service of the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services.
- (3) A person selected to be a member of an election management body may only decide to reject that duty for health or family reasons; the organ that selects the person decides whether to grant the exemption from duty based on the appropriate documentation submitted.

- (4) The work and working tasks of the employees in the state administration bodies shall be organised in shifts on the Election Day for the purpose of their fulfilment of their right to vote.

Article 19

- (1) The president and members of the election management bodies shall execute the duties of their office impartially, conscientiously and responsibly, in accordance with their competences determined in this Code.
- (2) The president and members of the election management bodies and the election administration shall have the right to compensation determined with an act of the State Election Commission.

3. Incompatibility of office of member of an election management body

Article 20

If a president, member of an election management body, secretary or a deputy accepts the candidacy for President of the Republic, Member of Parliament, Member of Council or Mayor, his/her function as president, member, secretary or deputy shall terminate.

4. Principle of adequate and equitable representation, as well as gender representation in election management bodies

Article 21

- (1) When selecting the members of the State Election Commission, the principle of adequate and equitable representation shall be applied.
- (2) When selecting the members of Municipal Election Commissions i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje and the Election Boards in municipalities in which at least 20% of the citizens are members of other communities, the principle of adequate and equitable representation of all communities shall be reflected.
- (3) Each gender shall be represented in the election management bodies with not less than 30%.
- (4) For the implementation of paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this article, the State Election Commission shall determine the composition of the members of the municipal election commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje and the election boards by means of an act.
- (5) The decisions on appointing the members of Municipal Election Commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia".

5. Nominating the representative of the list submitter

Article 22

- (1) Each submitter of a list of candidates for the election of the President of the Republic, Members of Parliament, Members of Council and Mayor shall have the right to appoint a representative and a deputy who will monitor the work of the election management bodies from the beginning of the elections until the establishment and announcement of the results.
- (2) Each submitter of a list of candidates for the election of the President of the Republic or Members of the Parliament for vote in the electoral districts in Europe and Africa, North and South America and Australia and Asia shall appoint an authorized representative and a deputy in the Republic of Macedonia who will monitor the work of the electoral management bodies from the beginning of the elections until the establishment and announcement of the results.
- (3) A person verified as a candidate cannot act as an authorised representative or deputy before the electoral management bodies from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article.

- (4) The list submitter shall issue an authorization to the representative and shall inform the election management bodies thereof, not later than two days before Election Day.
- (5) The representative of the list submitter at the session of the election management bodies may warn against any irregularities in their work and if this is not accepted, the representative may require that this be included in the protocol.
- (6) The official representative of the list submitter is required to wear a badge with a number of the polling station he/she is authorised to observe.
- (7) The authorized representative of the list submitter has the right to request and fully review the entire documentation of the election management body during the session of the election management body.

6. The manner of operation of election management bodies

Article 23

- (1) Election management bodies can work and make decisions if the sessions are attended by the majority of the members and the decisions shall be passed with a majority of votes of the total number of members, unless otherwise specified with this Code.
- (2) In case of absence of a member of the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje or member of the Election Board, their deputies shall participate in the work on the sessions.
- (3) When administering the elections, in municipalities where at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language, in addition to the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, the Municipal Election Commissions or Election Commission of the City of Skopje and the Election Boards shall also use the official language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in that municipality and its alphabet.

Article 24

The work of the election management bodies shall be public and the authorised representatives of the list submitters and accredited observers shall have the right to be present during the work of the election management bodies.

7. Supporting the operation of election management bodies

Article 25

- (1) The Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Statistical Office, the General Services Department of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and their regional offices, as well as the municipalities and the City of Skopje, shall be obliged to provide election management bodies with the technical, spatial and other conditions required for their operation.
- (2) For implementing the activities from paragraph (1) of this article, the bodies shall be provided with funds from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

8. State Election Commission

8.1 Composition and Financing of the State Election Commission

Article 26

- (1) The State Election Commission shall consist of a President, Vice-President and five members.
- (2) The President and the Vice-President shall be members of the State Election Commission.

- (3) The **President, the Vice President** and the members of the State Election Commission shall fulfil the responsibilities of their office professionally.
- (4) The **President, the Vice President and the members of the State Election Commission shall be elected within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Law for a period of 6 months.**
- (5) The State Election Commission shall have a Secretary-General and his/her deputy.
- (6) The State Election Commission shall have the capacity of a legal entity.
- (7) The **funds for the operation** of the State Election Commission shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (8) As a general rule, the sessions of the State Election Commission shall be convened and chaired by the President of the State Election Commission.
- (9) In case of absence or unavailability of the President of the State Election Commission, the session of the State Election Commission shall be convened and chaired by the Vice-President of the State Election Commission.
- (10) The State Election Commission shall also convene upon the proposal of a member of the State Election Commission if the proposal is endorsed by the majority of the total number of members of the State Election Commission.

Election of the Composition of the State Election Commission

Article 27

- (1) A person may be elected a **President, Vice President** or member of the State Election Commission if he/she fulfils the following requirements:
 - is a citizen of Republic of Macedonia and has a permanent residence in the Republic of Macedonia;
 - **has completed higher education**, with at least **eight** years of work experience;
 - is not a member of a body of a political party.
- (2) The Parliament shall publish a vacancy announcement for the election of the President, **Vice President** and the members of the State Election Commission in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" and in the daily press. The announcement shall remain open for 8 days from the day of its publication in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia".
- (3) The Parliamentary Committee on Election and Appointment Affairs shall prepare a draft-list of the applicants and shall submit it to the Parliament.
- (4) From the candidates on the draft list for members of the State Election Commission, the opposition political parties shall **propose the President and two members of the State Election Commission, whereas the ruling political parties shall propose the Vice President** and three members of the State Election Commission.
- (5) The **President, the Vice President and the** members of the State Election Commission shall be elected by the Parliament, with a two-thirds majority of the votes of the total number of MPs.
- (6) The **President, the Vice President and** the members of the State Election Commission shall have their previous employment suspended temporarily, as of the day of their election.

Cessation of term of office in the State Election Commission before the expiry of the mandate

Article 28

- (1) The term of office of the **President, the Vice President and** the members of the State Election Commission shall cease before the expiry of their mandate:
 - if any of the conditions stipulated in Article 27, paragraph (1) of this Code cease to apply;
 - **when enforced by law;**
 - upon their personal request;

- due to unprofessional and unconscientious discharge of responsibilities of their office;
 - due to meeting the conditions for old-age pension, as determined by Law;
 - due to death, and
 - if sentenced, with a final court decision, to at least six months of imprisonment;
- (2) The State Election Commission can submit a proposal to the Parliamentary Committee on Election and Appointment Affairs for dismissing a member due to unprofessional and **unconscientious performance** of their office with a two third majority vote from the total number of members.

Deadline for Nomination of **President, Vice President and Members of the State Election Commission**

Article 29

- (1) The President of Parliament shall notify the political parties **referred to in Article 27, paragraph (4) of this Code** to submit proposals for **President and two members, i.e. Vice President and three members** of the State Election Commission within three days of receipt of the notification.
- (2) Should the political parties fail to determine and submit the names of the **President, Vice President and** members of the State Election Commission within the deadline stipulated in paragraph (1) of this article, the **President, Vice President and the** members of the State Election Commission shall be proposed by the Parliamentary Committee on Election and Appointment Affairs.

8.2 Professional service of the State Election Commission

Article 30

- (1) The State Election Commission shall appoint a Secretary-General for a period of 5 years.
- (2) A person may be elected a Secretary-General if the person:
- is a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia with a permanent residence in the Republic of Macedonia;
 - has completed higher education in the field of management, public administration and other social sciences;
 - is not a member of a body of a political party;
 - has professional knowledge and experience in the field of public sector management.
 - is from among the administrative servants from category B, or from the managerial staff employed in compliance with the Law on Administrative Servants.
- (3) The Secretary-General shall be no member of the State Election Commission and shall have no right to vote.
- (4) The Secretary-General shall carry out his/her responsibilities professionally.
- (5) A Professional Service shall be established within the State Election Commission to perform the professional/administrative and organizational/technical responsibilities of the State Election Commission.
- (6) The Professional Service shall be managed by the Secretary-General of the State Election Commission.
- (7) The Secretary-General and the Professional Service staff of the State Election Commission shall have the status of civil servants.

8.3 Competencies of the State Election Commission

Article 31

- (1) The State Election Commission shall safeguard the legality of the preparation and administration of the elections in accordance with this Code and shall supervise the work of the election management bodies.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall:
 1. request data from the competent bodies regarding the employees in the state administration, municipal administration and the administration of the City of Skopje, as well as the public administration, and shall appoint the members of the Municipal Election Commissions and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje;
 2. give instructions, clarification and recommendations on the application of the provisions of this Code and other laws pertinent to election-related issues;
 3. dismiss any member of an election management body in case of unlawful activities;
 4. control the legality of the work of the election management bodies and take measures in case of violations related to the preparations, procedure for nomination, administration of the elections and establishing of the election results, as well as in case of violation of its instructions and recommendations;
 5. confirm and publish the lists of candidates for the election of President and Members of Parliament and determine their order on the ballot by drawing lots;
 - 5-a determine the order on the single list of candidates for members of council or for mayor by drawing lots.
 6. adopt a programme and establish standards for obligatory education of all election management bodies and coordinate them;
 7. provide obligatory education for the members of the Municipal Election Commissions i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje before all elections and issue certificates in the manner and within the deadline prescribed by the programme;
 8. prescribe the template for the attendance certificates for the education of the members of the election management bodies;
 9. establish common standards on the election material, manage its procurement and prescribe the means of marking and checking the persons who have voted (UV lamps, spray and graphite pad);
 10. prescribe the templates for administering the elections and templates for collecting signatures of voters and Members of Parliament for the proposal of candidates and publish them in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”;
 11. determine the manner of handling and securing the election material;
 12. determine the quality, form, size, colour and serial numbers of the ballots;
 13. organize the printing of ballots and lists of candidates and the procurement of the voter identification system;
 14. deliver the election materials to and retrieve them from the Municipal Election Commissions, i.e. and Election Commission of the City of Skopje and also keep the election materials;
 - 14-a keep the election materials from the elections for President of the Republic, Members of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and referendum at a national level.
 15. inform and educate the public about the manner of voting and the exercise of the right to vote;
 16. adopt a Code on the rules for observing the elections by domestic and foreign observers, in accordance with international standards, and provide them with identification documents;
 17. control the polling stations where irregularities are reported on Election Day;
 18. pass a decision to confirm the adopted lists of candidates or to reject them if they are not drawn up in accordance with the provisions of this Code;

19. adopt a Rulebook to determine the criteria for the manner and procedure of election and dismissal of the president, his/her deputy, the members and their deputies in the election management bodies;
20. tabulate and establish the results from the voting for the lists of candidates at the level of electoral districts;
21. publish the preliminary results of the elections for President of the Republic, Members of Parliament, Members of Council and Mayor based on the data from the protocols of the election management bodies;
22. publish the final results of the administered elections;
23. issue certificates to the candidate elected for President of the Republic and to the candidates elected as Members of Parliament;
24. adopt a Rulebook and Instruction for the reimbursement of members of the election management bodies and the election administration, based on the number of voters, type, complexity and the scope of activities and the time needed for their completion;
25. submit a report to the Parliament on the administered elections within 45 days of the date of the announcement of the final results of the elections at the level of the municipality, the City of Skopje or the electoral district where the elections are administered and a financial overview and shall publish it on its website;
26. allocate the compensation for the expenses of the elected candidates according to the submitted financial report and publish it on its website;
27. adopt the Organization and Systematization Act of the Professional Service of the State Election Commission in which a Legal Service shall be organized and systematized and supporting bodies shall be established;
28. publish the descriptions of the polling stations in the daily press;
- 28-a) establish electronic system for case and complaints management;
- 28-b) be solely responsible for maintenance of the Voter Register;
- 28-c) provide electronic access to the Voter Register in accordance with this Code and in the manner prescribed in the regulations passed based on this Code;
- 28-d) The State Election Commission shall publish the Voter Registry on its website, with data on the name, surname and address of voters. Every citizen has the right to submit a request to the State Election Commission to prevent the publication of his/her address in the Voter Register for security reasons.
- 28-e) The State Election Commission shall update the Voter Register once a month, based on citizens' notifications of change of data. Every 6 months, the State Election Commission shall publicly encourage citizens to check their data and, if necessary, request change of their data.
- 28-f) For the purposes of detecting inconsistencies or verifying the credibility of data in the Voter Register, each member of the State Election Commission has the right to request from the State Election Commission to authorize the Legal Department to check the archives of biometric documents at the Ministry of Interior, as well as other state bodies and institutions' data bases and archives, under a procedure prescribed by a law or a bylaw, and to receive a written notification from them on the conducted checks within 5 working days.
- 28-g) The State Election Commission shall adopt a Rulebook on the Methodology for Maintaining and Updating the Voter Register based on checks and statistical analyses, cross-checks of various data-bases and records, unlimited field checks and other appropriate acknowledged verification methods. The State Election Commission shall adopt the Rulebook from item 28-e upon previous approval of the four largest political parties in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.
- 28-h) The State Election Commission shall adopt a Rulebook on the Methodology on Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register, as well as a procedure for conducting field checks for the purposes of updating the Voter Register. The State Election Commission shall adopt the Rulebook from item 28-h upon previous approval of the four largest political parties in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

29. keep records on the electoral right and see to the protection of the personal data of the citizens listed in the Voter Register;
30. check the integrity of the Voter Register database;
31. sign the Voter Register, i.e. the Voter Lists used for voting, not later than 15 days prior to Election Day;
32. contact international associations and organizations authorized to observe the elections or the referendum at the national level on issues related to the Voter Register;
33. provide media with data on the number of voters registered in the Voter Register i.e. the Voter Lists that have been signed;
34. adopt a Rulebook to prescribe the manner of operation and decision-making of the members of the State Election Commission;
- 34-a) The State Election Commission shall hold sessions if the majority of the total number of members are present;
- 34-b) The State Election Commission shall adopt decisions with a majority of votes of the total number of members of the Commission. When adopting a decision, the members of the State Election Commission shall vote either “for” or “against“. The vote of “abstinence” shall not be permitted and in such a case, the vote shall be considered “against”.
- 34-c) A decision of the State Election Commission shall be considered adopted if the majority of the total number of members of the Commission have voted, with the exception of the cases specified in items 34–d and 34-f of this article.
- 34-d) In a case when the draft-decision refers to the interests of a non-majority community, prior to putting the draft-decision forward for vote, any member of the State Election Commission who belongs to the non-majority community has a right to request that the State Election Commission decide upon such draft-decision by consensus.
- 34-e) In the case prescribed in item 34-d of this article, the draft-decision shall be submitted for a repeat review at the Legal Department, which will then be asked to give an expert opinion and a recommendation.
- 34-f) The member of the State Election Commission from item 34-d of this article and the member or members of the State Election Commission with an opposing opinion shall consult the Legal Department within one working day as of submission of the request from item 34-d of this article. These members of the State Election Commission shall propose a supplemented and elaborated decision within 2 working days. In order for the decision to be considered adopted, the submitted draft-decision must be adopted by consensus by the State Election Commission.
- 34-g) If no consensus is reached regarding the draft-decision within 2 working days and the State Election Commission does not adopt the decision by consensus, the decision shall not be considered adopted and it can be appealed before the Administrative Court.
- 34-h) The decision of the Administrative Court can be appealed before the Higher Administrative Court only in the case of items 34–d), 34-f) and 34–g). The Higher Administrative Court shall decide upon the appeal within the deadlines for the decision-making of the Administrative Court prescribed in this Code.
- 34-i) The deadlines set in Articles 147 to 149 of this Code shall not apply to the manner and the decision-making procedure prescribed in item 34-f) of this article.
35. decide upon complaints based on the inspection of election materials and other evidence;
36. adopt Rulebook on the proceedings of the police during the elections in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior;
37. adopt an instruction for deciding on complaints and appeals;
38. monitor the beginning and the end of the election campaign and take measures as determined by this Code;

39. prescribe the template of the voter application used for voting at the DCOs or the consular offices;
 40. elect and establish the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or the consular offices and the Election Board for the voting of the members of the Election Boards at the DCOs or the consular offices;
 - 40-a adopt Guidelines on the manner of voting of the members of the Election Boards at the DCOs or the consular offices;
 41. deliver and retrieve the election material to and from the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or the consular offices, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 42. tabulate and determine the voting results for the list of candidates for the election of three Members of Parliament from the electoral district which covers Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia;
 43. complete and submit statistical data for the needs of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia;
 - 43-a publicly announce the price lists of broadcasting and printed media on its web site;
 - 43-b keep minutes of its sessions and publish the adopted minutes on its website within 48 hours from the date of their adoption;
 44. perform other duties prescribed by this Code.
- (3) The sessions of the State Election Commission shall be public.
 - (4) The State Election Commission shall initiate a disciplinary procedure, submit a request for initiating a misdemeanour procedure or file a criminal report to the competent authority upon probable cause that a violation of the provisions of this Code has been committed.
 - (5) In the municipalities where at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language, the templates and the entire election material shall be printed in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the official language and alphabet spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in that municipality.
 - (6) In the electoral districts 7, 8 and 9 from this Code, in which at least 20% of the voters registered in the Voter List speak an official language other than the Macedonian language, the templates and the entire election material shall be printed in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the official language and the alphabet used by at least 20% of the voters registered in the Voter List for that electoral district.
 - (7) The authorised representatives of the list submitters have the right to be present during the work and the decision making of the State Election Commission and decisions shall be passed on their complaints.

Article 32

- (1) Within three days from the day of the announcement of the elections, the State Election Commission shall submit a request to the state administrative body responsible for keeping records of state and public servants and other relevant bodies to be provided with data on the employees in the state and municipal administration, the administration of the City of Skopje as well as the public service, systematised by municipality, according to their address of residence.
- (2) The bodies from paragraph (1) of this article shall submit the data to the State Election Commission within five days from the day of the receipt of the request.

9. Municipal Election Commissions

9.1 Selection and composition of the Municipal Election Commission

Article 33

- (1) Municipal Election Commissions shall be established in:

Municipalities that have their seat in a town:	Municipalities that have their seat in a village:	Municipalities in the city of Skopje
1) Municipality of Berovo	34) Municipality of Aracinovo	71) Municipality of Aerodrom
2) Municipality of Bitola	35) Municipality of Bosilovo	72) Municipality of Butel
3) Municipality of Bogdanci	36) Municipality of Brvenica	73) Municipality of Gazi Baba
4) Municipality of Valandovo	37) Municipality of Vasilevo	74) Municipality of Gjorce
5) Municipality of Veles	38) Municipality of Vevcani	75) Municipality of Karpos
6) Municipality of Vinica	39) Municipality of Vrapciste	76) Municipality of Kisela Voda
7) Municipality of Gevgelija	40) Municipality of Gradsko	77) Municipality of Saraj
8) Municipality of Gostivar	41) Municipality of Debarca	78) Municipality of Centar
9) Municipality of Debar	42) Municipality of Dojran	79) Municipality of Cair
10) Municipality of Delcevo	43) Municipality of Dolneni	80) Municipality of Suto Orizari
11) Municipality of Demir Kapija	44) Municipality of Zelino	81) City of Skopje
12) Municipality of Demir Hisar	45) Municipality of Zelenikovo	(this commission shall be
13) Municipality of Kavadarci	46) Municipality of Zrnovci	only for the purpose of
14) Municipality of Kicevo	47) Municipality of Ilinden	administering elections for
15) Municipality of Kocani	48) Municipality of Jegunovce	and Members of Council of the
16) Municipality of Kratovo	49) Municipality of Bogovinje	City of Skopje.
17) Municipality of Kriva Palanka	50) Municipality of Karbinci	
18) Municipality of Kursevo	51) Municipality of Konce	
19) Municipality of Kumanovo	52) Municipality of Krivogastani	
20) Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica	53) Municipality of Lipkovo	
21) Municipality of Makedonski Brod	54) Municipality of Lozovo	
22) Municipality of Negotino	55) Municipality of Mavrovo and Rostusa	
23) Municipality of Ohrid	56) Municipality of Mogila	
24) Municipality of Pehcevo	57) Municipality of Novaci	
25) Municipality of Prilep	58) Municipality of Novo Selo	
26) Municipality of Probitip	59) Municipality of Petrovec	
27) Municipality of Radovis	60) Municipality of Plasnica	
28) Municipality of Resen	61) Municipality of Rankovce	
29) Municipality of Sveti Nikole	62) Municipality of Rosoman	
30) Municipality of Struga	63) Municipality of Sopiste	
31) Municipality of Strumica	64) Municipality of Staro	
32) Municipality of Tetovo	65) Municipality of Studenicani	
33) Municipality of Stip	66) Municipality of Tearce	
	67) Municipality of Centar Zupa	
	68) Municipality of Caska	
	69)Municipality of Cesinovo	
	70) Municipality of Cucur-Sandevo	

- (2) The Municipal Election Commissions shall have their seat in the municipalities determined in paragraph (1) of this article and shall be responsible for administering election activities in the electoral districts and at the polling stations determined by this Code.

Article 34

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall consist of a president and four members.
- (2) The president and members from paragraph (1) of this article have their deputies.

- (3) The Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall have a secretary and his/her deputy appointed by the president of the Municipal Election Commission, from among law graduates and for a period of 5 years.
- (4) The presidents of the Municipal Election Commissions i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje and their deputies, four members and their deputies shall be randomly selected from among the employees in the state administration, municipal administration and the administration of the City of Skopje who have completed higher education for a five-year period.
- (5) The secretary and his/her deputy from paragraph (2) of this article shall perform the professional, administrative and organizational-technical duties of the Municipal Election Commission.

Article 35

- (1) The State Election Commission shall establish the Municipal Election Commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje within 5 days from the day of receiving the data from Article 32 of this Code. The decisions for the establishing of the Municipal Election Commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall be published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.
- (2) The manner and the procedure for appointing the president, his/her deputy, the members of the Municipal Election Commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje and their deputies shall be determined with an act of the State Election Commission.
- (3) The manner and the procedure to determine responsibility in case of unlawful activities of the president, his/her deputy, the members or the deputies of the members of the Municipal Election Commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall be determined with the Law on Civil Servants.

Article 36

The president and members of the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje and their deputies, in principal, shall have residence on the territory of the municipality for which the Municipal Election Commission has been established.

9.2 Competencies of the Municipal Election Commission and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje

Article 37

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall safeguard the legality in the preparation and administration of the elections in accordance with this Code and shall supervise the work of the Election Boards.
- (2) The Municipal Election Commission and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall:
 1. appoint the composition of the Election Boards by passing a decision and it shall submit the decision with deposited signatures of the members to the State Election Commission;
 2. dismiss the members of the Election Board for any unlawful action prior to and on Election Day;
 3. provide an instruction on the work of the Election Boards;
 4. announce the verified lists of candidates;
 5. organize and provide the education for the Election Board members, according to the plan and programme of the State Election Commission before every election and shall provide them with certificates on the completed training;
 6. conduct technical preparations for administering the elections according to the guidelines and instructions provided by the State Election Commission;

7. control the legality of the work of the Election Boards and intervene in cases when a violation has been established regarding the preparations, candidacy and administration of the elections, the establishing of the election results and violation of the instructions and recommendations provided by the Commission;
 8. prepare a report and submit it to the State Election Commission;
 9. inform the citizens about the polling locations;
 10. register and confirm the authorised representatives for monitoring the work of the Municipal Election Commission and of the Election Boards and issue badges with numbers of the polling stations to the authorized representatives who will monitor the work of the Election Boards.
 11. hand over and collect the election materials to and from the Election Boards in a manner determined with this Code;
 12. tabulate the results from the voting for the list of candidates in the elections for President of the Republic, compile and submit the protocol, together with the entire election material, to the State Election Commission immediately, and not later than 12 hours after the voting has been concluded;
 13. fill in and submit statistical data for the needs of the State Statistical Office;
 14. after administering the elections for Members of Parliament, based on the protocols of the Election Boards, the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall tabulate the results per polling station of the electoral district for which it is responsible and in accordance with their belonging to the electoral district;
 15. tabulate the results of the voting for the list of candidates from the polling stations for which it is responsible, prepare records and submit them to the State Election Commission within five hours from collecting the entire election material from the Election Boards;
 16. decide upon complaints in accordance with this Code;
 17. provide evidence while deciding on the legal remedies.
- (3) When administering Local Elections, the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall perform the competences prescribed in paragraph (2) of this article, except for the competences prescribed in items 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, and 14.
- (4) When administering Local Elections, in addition to the competencies prescribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article, the Municipal Election Commission and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall:
1. determine whether the lists of candidates proposed for the election of Members of Council and for Mayor have been submitted in accordance with this Code.
 2. confirm the lists of nominated candidates;
 3. keep the election material from the local elections.
 4. establish the results from the voting in the municipality and the City of Skopje and shall issue an election certificate to the elected candidates for Members of Council or to the elected Mayor immediately after the results have become final; and
 5. perform other duties prescribed by this Code.

10. Election Board

10.1 Selection and composition of the Election Board

Article 38

- (1) An Election Board shall be established for each polling station.
- (2) Election Boards shall be composed of a president and four members.
- (3) The president and members shall have their deputies.
- (4) The president of the Election Board and his/her deputy shall be randomly selected from among the employees in the state, public, municipal administration or the administration of the City of Skopje who have completed higher education and two members and their deputies shall be randomly selected from among the employees in

the state, public, municipal administration and the administration of the City of Skopje who have completed a minimum of secondary education, for a period of 4 years.

- (5) One member of the Election Board and his/her deputy shall be selected upon nomination by the political parties in opposition that won the majority of votes in the last elections for Members of Parliament.
- (6) One member of the Election Board and his/her deputy shall be selected upon nomination by the ruling political parties that won the majority of votes in the last elections for Members of Parliament.
- (7) The political parties from paragraphs (4) and (5) of this article shall submit their proposals for members of the Election Board and their deputies to the Municipal Election Commission within five days from the day of receiving the notification from the Municipal Election Commission.
- (8) The political parties from paragraphs (5) and (6) of this article shall submit new proposals for members of the Election Boards and their deputies for each election.
- (9) Should the political parties fail to submit their proposals within the deadline prescribed in paragraph (7) of this article, the members will be appointed by the Municipal Election Commission in accordance with paragraph (4) of this article.

Article 38-a

- (1) Voting at the diplomatic - consular offices or the consular offices shall be conducted by an Election Board comprised of a president and four members.
- (2) The election of members of the Election Boards at the diplomatic-consular offices or the consular offices shall be made by the State Election Commission.
- (3) The president and the members shall have their deputies.
- (4) The president and the deputy-president shall be elected randomly from among the diplomats employed at the respective DCO or consular office, for a 4-year term of office.
- (5) If at the respective DCOs, or consular offices, the number of employees who can stand for the election of president and deputy-president is not sufficient, the deputy-president shall be determined upon a proposal made by the ruling and the opposition political parties, by drawing lots.
- (6) The members and their deputies shall be elected upon a proposal by the ruling and the opposition political parties from among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia with permanent residence in the country where the voting is conducted or from among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia with permanent residence in the Republic of Macedonia. The members and their deputies at the Election Board shall be elected from among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia with permanent residence in the Republic of Macedonia if the ruling or the opposition political party cannot propose within the deadlines determined with this Code members and their deputies from among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia with permanent residence in the country of voting, for a period of 4 years.
- (7) Two members of the Election Board and their deputies shall be appointed upon a proposal of the ruling political parties that had won the most votes in the last parliamentary elections.
- (8) Two members of the Election Board and their deputies shall be appointed upon a proposal of the opposition political parties that had won the most votes in the last parliamentary elections.

Article 38-b

For the voting of the members of the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or the consular offices, the composition of the Election Board for voting at the State Election Commission shall be identical to the composition of the Election Boards for voting in the Republic of Macedonia, which shall be established pursuant to Article 38 of this Code.

Article 39

- (1) For the purpose of establishing the Election Boards, the State Election Commission shall submit the data from Article 32 of this Code to the Municipal Election Commission within three days from the day of the establishing of the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje.
- (2) The Municipal Election Commission, i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall establish the Election Boards for the polling stations that are under its competence within five days from the day of receiving the data from paragraph (1) of this article.
- (3) The manner and the procedure for appointing the president, his/her deputy, the members of the Election Boards and their deputies shall be determined with an act of the State Election Commission.
- (4) The manner and the procedure to determine responsibility in case of unlawful activities of the president, his/her deputy, the members of the Election Boards and their deputies shall be regulated with the Law on Civil Servants and the Law on Labour Relations.

10.2 Competencies of the Election Boards

Article 40

- (1) The Election Board shall safeguard the legality in the administration of the elections.
- (2) The Election Board shall:
 1. directly administer the voting procedure at the polling station;
 2. provide regularity and secrecy in casting the ballot;
 3. provide free and peaceful voting process;
 4. determine and tabulate the election result at the polling station;
 5. announce the election results at the polling station;
 6. prepare a report and keep a log on its work and submit them to the Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje.
- (3) The Election Board shall prepare protocol about its work and the tabulation of the results on a unified template prescribed and confirmed with the seal of the State Election Commission and together with the election material submits it to the Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje.
- (4) In case of error in filling in the protocol, the Election Board shall proceed according to the instructions of the State Election Commission.
- (5) The Election Board shall perform its duties in accordance with this Code and the instructions of the State Election Commission.
- (6) The Election Boards for voting in DCO shall execute their duties in accordance with the competencies stipulated in this article.

IV. REGISTRATION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE

1. Maintaining the Voter List

Article 41

- (1) The Voter Register shall be maintained by the State Election Commission, which is the only body responsible for its update.
- (2) The Voter Register shall be maintained according to the Register of Citizens in the form of a Register of Electors, with automatic data processing on a magnetic medium. The State Election Commission shall have access to the databases of the state authorities that possess registers of citizens on various grounds.
- (3) The citizens' personal data shall be recorded in the Voter Register using the languages and alphabets in which the original records are kept, pursuant to the law.
- (4) All citizens who have turned 18 years of age, with residence on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and who possess a valid ID card or travel document shall be registered in the Voter Register.

- (5) All citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad, with residence on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and with a valid travel document shall also be registered in the Voter List. These persons shall be registered according to their last residence in the Republic of Macedonia prior to their departure abroad.
- (6) Citizens whose capacity to contract has been revoked with a final court decision shall not be registered in the Voter Register.
- (7) Citizens shall be registered in the Voter Register according to the municipality where they reside.
- (8) The Voter Register shall be used to prepare the Voter Lists for each electoral district, municipality and polling station.
- (9) When elections are administered simultaneously, each polling station shall be issued as many signed Voter Lists as there are types of elections i.e. election rounds.
- (10) The content of the Voter Register i.e. the Voter Lists cannot be changed on Election Day (first round) until the end of the elections.
- (11) The funds for the updating and compiling of the Voter Register shall be provided from the Budget of the State Election Commission, pursuant to Article 26, paragraphs (7), (8) and (9).

Article 42

- (1) The State Election Commission perform the entry, addition and deletion of data in the Voter Register ex officio, based on data from the registers of births, records on residence and citizenship of the Republic of Macedonia, other official records and through direct inspection.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall perform the entry, addition and deletion of data in the Voter Register upon citizens' request, based on the adopted Rulebook on the Methodology for Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall delete from the Voter Register any deceased person or a person who has been disenfranchised on any account, upon a request made by a political party by submitting data on the deceased person or other person who has been disenfranchised on any account, based on previous inspection of the data in the registers of births, records on residence and citizenship of the Republic of Macedonia, other official records and through direct inspection, pursuant to the adopted Rulebook on the Methodology for Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register.
- (4) Registration of citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad can also be performed based on an application submitted to the Diplomatic-Consular Offices or the Consular Offices.

2. Competencies of the bodies for submitting data to be recorded in the Voter Register

Article 43

- (1) The Ministry of Interior shall submit data to the State Election Commission on citizens who:
 - have turned 18 years of age by Election Day and possess a valid ID card or travel document;
 - have turned 18 years of age and have died;
 - have turned 18 years of age and have moved to or out of a given municipality, or have changed their address within the municipality;
 - have turned 18 years of age and have changed their first or last name;
 - have turned 18 years of age and have acquired or lost citizenship of the Republic of Macedonia;

- have turned 18 years of age and are temporarily employed or residing abroad.
- (2) The Basic Courts shall submit to the State Election Commission data on persons whose capacity to contract has been revoked with a final court decision and data on persons who have been placed under pre-trial house arrest.
- (3) The data referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article shall be submitted four times a year, from February 1 to February 10, from May 1 to May 10, from September 1 to September 10 and from December 1 to December 10. In cases when elections or a referendum are announced, the data shall be submitted on the day after the day of the announcement of the elections or referendum, on a magnetic medium and shall mandatorily contain the unique personal identification number of the citizen (EMBG).
- (4) Pursuant to paragraph (3) of this article, the Ministry of Interior shall also submit to the State Election Commission reports on the newly issued biometric personal IDs and travel documents four times a year, including the grounds for the issuance of the IDs and travel documents, systematized by name and surname and by municipalities.

Article 44

- (1) The authority in charge of executing sanctions shall submit data to the State Election Commission on persons who are in detention or serving prison sentence, based on the records kept by this authority, at the national level and not later than 30 days prior to Election Day or referendum.
- (2) The data from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article shall be submitted on a magnetic medium and shall mandatorily contain the unique personal identification number of the citizen (EMBG).

3. Content of the Voter Register and Voter Lists

Article 45

- (1) The Voter List shall contain the following data: the unique personal identification number of the citizen (EMBG), surname, name of one of the parents and personal name, sex, personal photograph (in the same format as the one of an ID card or a travel document), address of residence (municipality, settlement, street, house number, entrance and flat), date of entry and deletion and date and manner of completion of data.
- (2) The printed Voter Lists and the separate Voter Lists shall be kept in an alphabetical order of citizens' surnames and shall contain the following categories of data: ordinal number, surname, name, sex, date of birth, personal photograph (in the same format as the one for an ID card or a passport), and address of residence (settlement, street, house number, entrance and flat), signature or fingerprint of the voter.
- (3) Citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad during the elections and have submitted an application for an out-of-country voting at the DCOs or the consular offices shall not be included in the Voter Lists used for voting in the Republic of Macedonia.
- (4) Citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad during the elections and who have not submitted an application for out-of-country voting at the DCOs or the consular offices shall be registered on the separate Voter Lists for voting in the Republic of Macedonia.

4. Printing of separate Voter Lists

Article 46

Special Voter Lists shall be prepared for administering the elections at the DCOs or the consular offices, penitentiary institutions and at the State Election Commission for the voting of:

- citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad during the elections, based on a voting application.

- persons who are in detention or are serving a prison sentence during the elections.
- members of the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or the consular offices.

Article 47

The separate Voter Lists referred to in Article 46 of this Code shall be prepared in two copies, for:

- citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad during the elections - the first Voter List is systematized according to the polling station and the electoral district and in the remark section, the country in which the citizen has a temporary employment or residence abroad and the location of the DCO or the consular office is stipulated, and the second excerpt is systematized according to the country in which the citizens are temporarily employed or residing abroad, the location of the DCO or consular office and in the remark section, the number of the polling station and the electoral district are stipulated;
- citizens who are in detention or are serving prison sentence during the elections - one copy is systematized according to polling station or municipality, the remarks section contains the municipality in which the penitentiary institution is located, whereas the second copy is systematized according to the penitentiary institution and the municipality in which it is located; the remarks section contains the number of the polling station and the municipality where the polling station is located, and
- members of the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or the consular offices - one copy is systematized according to the polling station, municipality and electoral district and the word SEC is entered in the remarks section, whereas the second copy is systematized according to the SEC, and the remarks section contains the polling station, municipality and electoral district.

5. Inspection of data in the Voter Register

Article 48

- (1) A citizen may request to inspect the Voter Register in the regional offices of the State Election Commission, DCOs or consular offices and on the Internet throughout the whole year.
- (2) If during the inspection, it is established that either he/she or another citizen is not registered in the Voter Register or that some data should be entered, added or deleted, he/she shall have the right to submit a request to the regional office of the State Election Commission for entry, addition or deletion of data by also submitting the relevant documentation.
- (3) If during the inspection at the DCOs or the consular offices, a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia who is temporarily employed or residing abroad establishes that either he/she or some other citizen is not registered in the Voter Register or that some data should be entered, added or deleted, he/she shall have the right to submit a request for entry, addition or deletion of data by also submitting the relevant documentation by email through the DCOs or the consular offices to the State Election Commission, or directly to the State Election Commission.
- (4) The State Election Commission shall check the accuracy of the data and the documents submitted by the citizen within not later than three days from the day of receiving the request and if it is determined that the request is justified, it shall pass a decision for entry, addition or deletion of data in the Voter Register based on the submitted relevant documentation and pursuant to the “Rulebook on Methodology for Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register”, or it shall pass a decision to reject the request.
- (5) The citizen may appeal the decision of the State Election Commission and initiate an administrative dispute before the Administrative Court within three days following the day of receipt of the decision.
- (6) The Administrative Court shall decide upon the appeal referred to in paragraph (5) of this article, within 3 days from the day of receipt of the appeal.

- (7) The final decision of the Administrative Court upon the appeal shall be considered as ground for entry, amendment or deletion of data in the Voter Register;
- (8) Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad can appeal the decision of the State Election Commission by e-mail through the DCOs or the consular offices to the Administrative Court, or directly to the Administrative Court.

6. Public inspection of the Voter Register

Article 49

- (1) The State Election Commission shall, not later than 15 days after the announcement of the elections, display the Voter Register for public inspection in its regional units and local offices, including the following data:
 - citizens who have turned 18 years of age by Election Day (first round of voting);
 - deceased persons, 30 days before the day of the announcement of the elections, and
 - other information from the Voter Register as of the day of the announcement of the elections.
- (2) Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Election Commission shall submit to the DCOs or consular offices the separate Voter Lists for the persons temporarily employed or residing abroad based on the records from the competent authority, for the purposes of public inspection.
- (3) Upon displaying the Voter Lists for public inspection, the State Election Commission shall use the media to inform the citizens of the place of inspection, the manners of conducting the inspection, the duration of the inspection and the possibility for entry, addition or deletion of data in the Voter Register.
- (4) The public inspection shall last for 20 days.
- (5) During the public inspection period, political parties can perform inspection of data in the Voter Register until the closing and signing of the Voter Register.

Article 49-a

- (1) The State Election Commission shall submit the Voter Register to the political parties within five days from the day of the conclusion of the public inspection.
- (2) The political parties shall submit a request to the State Election Commission for entry, addition or deletion of data within five days from the day of the receipt of the Voter Register.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall decide upon the submitted request within three days from the day of the receipt of the request, pursuant to the Rulebook on the Methodology for Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register.
- (4) The decision from paragraph (3) of this article can be appealed before the Administrative Court within 24 hours from the receipt of the decision.
- (5) The Administrative Court shall decide within 24 hours from the day of the receipt of the appeal.

7. Change of data from the Voter Register displayed for public inspection

Article 50

- (1) A request for entry, addition or deletion of data in the Voter Lists that are placed for public inspection may be submitted by any citizen, within the deadline referred to in Article 49 paragraph (4) of this Code, if:
 - he/she or another citizen is not registered in the Voter Registry;
 - a person is registered and does not have the right to vote, does not have residence on the territory of the municipality, or who has died;

- his/her personal name and address, or the personal name and address of another person are not entered correctly.
- (2) The request for entry, addition or deletion of data referred to in paragraph (1) of this article shall be submitted in written to the regional unit of the State Election Commission or to the local office on the territory of residence.
- (3) The necessary evidence shall be attached to the request.

7-a. Registration and inspection of Voter Lists for out-of-country voting

Article 50-a

- (1) The State Election Commission shall submit a notification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on publishing a public call for announcing the elections, immediately or not later than two days after the announcement of the elections. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall publish the public call on its website within one day.
- (2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required to submit the notification to the DCOs or the consular offices immediately, or not later than three days upon the receipt of the notification from paragraph (1) of this article, for the purpose of its publication on their website within a period not longer than three days.
- (3) The notification from paragraph (1) of this article shall be published on the website of the DCO or the consular offices in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, in the languages and alphabets of the communities listed in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and in the official language of the corresponding country.
- (4) The notification from paragraph (1) of this article shall contain data on the type of elections announced, a call for a public inspection of the Voter Register and submitting a voting application, the date of the commencement and termination of the voting application period, the necessary documents, as well as clarification on who is entitled to vote and where the voting will take place.
- (5) The public call shall also be published on the State Election Commission website within the deadline stipulated in paragraph 1 of this article.
- (6) During the public inspection, the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad shall submit the request for entry, addition or deletion of data in the separate Voter Lists to the State Election Commission via email.
- (7) The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad, who registered their last residence in the Republic of Macedonia and who have submitted a voting application to the State Election Commission for the coming elections shall be registered in the separate Voter Lists.
- (8) As of the day of the announcement of the elections until the end of the public inspection, the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia from paragraph (7) of this article may submit a hand-signed or emailed voting application by which they register for voting in the forthcoming elections.
- (9) The citizens of Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad, who have submitted a voting application and are registered in the separate Voter Lists shall be entitled to vote in the presidential and parliamentary elections.
- (10) The DCOs or the consular offices shall email the applications from paragraph (8) of this article to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately, or not later than two days after the expiry of the public inspection period, whereas the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall submit them to the State Election Commission immediately, or not later than 24 hours of their receipt.

Article 51

- (1) The State Election Commission is required to pass a decision upon citizens' requests and applications from Article 50 and Article 50-a of this Code within 24 hours from the day of their receipt and if it establishes that a request is valid, pursuant to the

- Rulebook on Methodology for Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register, it shall pass a decision for entry, addition or deletion of data in the Voter Register and shall email this decision to the citizen. If not, it shall adopt a decision by which it shall reject the request and shall email this decision to the citizen.
- (2) The citizen may appeal the decision to reject the request referred to in paragraph (1) of this article before the Administrative Court electronically, within 24 hours of its receipt.
 - (3) The Administrative Court shall decide upon the appeal referred to in paragraph (2) of this article within 24 hours of its receipt, and shall immediately email the decision to the complainant.
 - (4) The final decision upon the appeal for entry, addition or deletion of data, passed by the Administrative Court of the Republic of Macedonia, shall become an integral part of the Voter Register signed by the State Election Commission.

8. Closing and signing of the Voter Register

Article 52

The Voter Register that includes all the changes resulting from the public inspection shall be printed as Voter Lists and closed by the State Election Commission, not later than 15 days after the ending of the public inspection.

Article 53

- (1) The Voter Register i.e. the Voter Lists shall be closed by noting the following: the number of pages of the Voter Register i.e. Voter List, number of registered voters (marked with a number and letters), the critical moment for the data determined in Article 49, paragraph (1) of this Code, closing date, signature of the authorized person and a stamp.
- (2) The closed Voter Register shall also contain data on citizens whose requests for deletion, entry or change of data in the Voter Register have been positively resolved by the State Election Commission and the Administrative Court of the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 54 (DELETED)

9. Protection of Voter Register data

Article 55

- (1) The personal data contained in the Voter Register shall be protected in accordance with the Law and cannot be used for any purpose other than exercising the citizens' right to vote, in accordance with this Code.
- (2) The registered political parties and the independent candidates participating in the elections shall receive from the State Election Commission, upon previous request, the data from the signed or previously prepared Voter Lists for each polling station, including the data referred to in Article 45, paragraph (2) of this Code, as well as the Voter Lists for the voting at the DCOs or consular offices, within ten days, either in hard copy or electronically, on a CD.
- (3) The expenses for the preparation of the Voter List data in hard copy or an electronic form shall be covered by the submitters of the request.
- (4) The registered political parties, coalitions and the independent candidates, i.e. the authorized representatives of the list submitters and their deputies, cannot use the Voter Lists to track the persons who voted on Election Day.

Article 56

The authorized officer or any other person, body or authority acquainted with the personal data contained in the Voter Register is required to secure and protect the data in accordance with Article 55 of this Code.

V. NOMINATION

1. Nominating candidates

Article 57

- (1) The nomination of candidates for the election of President of the Republic, candidates for Members of Parliament and candidates for Members of Council and for Mayor shall be done by submitting a list of a candidate for President of the Republic, a list of candidates for Members of Parliament and a list of candidates for Members of Council i.e. list of a candidate for Mayor.
- (2) A candidate for President of the Republic, Member of Parliament, candidates for Members of Council and for Mayor can be nominated in only one list.

2. List Submitter

Article 58

- (1) The list submitter may submit only one list of a candidate for President of the Republic, candidates for Members of Parliament, candidates for Members of Council as well as only one list of a candidate for Mayor.
- (2) During the administration of local elections, in the units of local self-government where at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than Macedonian, the list submitter from paragraph (1) of this article shall submit the lists of candidates, i.e. the list of a candidate for Mayor in the official language and alphabet used by citizens in that unit of local self-government.
- (3) During the administration of the elections for Members of Parliament, in the electoral districts where at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than Macedonian, the list submitter from paragraph (1) of this article, in addition to the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, may also submit the lists of candidates in the official language and alphabet used by citizens in that unit of local self-government.

List submitter submitting the list of a candidate for President of the Republic

Article 59

- (1) A list of a candidate for President of the Republic may be submitted by at least 10,000 voters or at least 30 Members of Parliament.
- (2) In cases when a group of voters appears as a list submitter for a candidate for the election of President of the Republic, a minimum of 10,000 signatures of voters registered in the Voter Register need to be collected.
- (3) In cases when a group of Members of Parliament appears as a list submitter for a candidate for the election of President of the Republic, a minimum of 30 signatures of Members of Parliament need to be collected.

Submitter of a list of candidate/s for Members of Parliament, Members of Council and Mayor

Article 60

- (1) Registered political parties, coalitions, as well as groups of voters (hereinafter: "list submitter") shall have the right to submit a list of candidates for Members of Parliament, Members of Council, i.e. list of candidate for Mayor.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall determine the legal subjectivity of the submitter of a list of candidates for election of Members of Parliament based on the agreement of the political parties that are participating in the elections as a coalition.

- (3) The Municipal Election Commission and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall determine the legal subjectivity of the submitter of the candidate list for election of Members of the Council and Mayors, based on the agreement of the political parties that act as coalition for the elections of the Members of the Council and Mayors.
- (4) The coalition agreement from paragraphs (2) and (3) of this article shall be concluded by the representatives of the political parties that are participating in the elections together and it shall contain the name of the coalition, the symbol, the municipality/-ties i.e. the electoral district/s in which they participate together.
- (5) The list of candidates shall be signed personally by the authorised representative of the list submitter.
- (6) The title of the list shall be marked according to the name of the list submitter.
- (7) If the submitter of a list of candidates is a group of voters, the name of the list shall be marked with "group of voters" and the name and surname of the candidate.

Submitter of a list of candidates for Members of Parliament with collected signatures

Article 61

- (1) In cases when the submitter of a list of candidates for Members of Parliament is a group of voters, at least 1,000 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List of the relevant electoral district have to be collected.
- (2) When the list submitter is a group of voters from the electoral districts for out-of-country voting, at least 1,000 signatures need to be collected from the voters registered in the Voter Lists for these elections districts, in front of the officials at the DCOs or consular offices, using a template prescribed by the State Elections Commission.

Submitter of a list of candidate/s for Members of Council and Mayor with collected signatures

Article 62

In cases when a list of candidates for Members of Council, or a candidate list for Mayor is submitted by a group of voters:

- in a municipality that has no more than 10,000 inhabitants, it shall be required to collect at least 100 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List of the municipality;
- in a municipality that has between 10,001 and 30,000 inhabitants, it shall be required to collect at least 150 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List of the municipality;
- in a municipality that has between 30,001 and 50,000 inhabitants, it shall be required to collect at least 250 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List of the municipality;
- in a municipality that has between 50,001 and 100,000 inhabitants, it shall be required to collect at least 350 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List of the municipality;
- in a municipality with more than 100,001 inhabitants, it shall be required to collect at least 450 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List of the municipality; and
- in the City of Skopje it shall be required to collect at least 1,000 signatures of the voters registered in the Voter List for the territory of the City of Skopje.

3. Procedure of the collection of signatures for the nomination of candidates

Article 63

- (1) The signatures of the voters in the nomination procedure shall be collected in front of officials from the State Election Commission on a template that shall contain the name

and surname, permanent residence and unique personal identification number of the candidates nominated, as well as the name and surname and the unique personal identification number of the voter signing the nomination.

- (2) The collecting of signatures before the State Elections Commission shall commence on the 15th day from the day of the announcement of the elections and shall last for 15 days.
- (3) Each voter may give his/her signature for more than one candidate list for President of the Republic, candidates for Members of Parliament, Members of Council and candidate for Mayor.
- (4) Voters submitting the list are required to be eligible to vote and to have permanent residence on the territory of the electoral district, the municipality, or the City of Skopje.

4. Contents of the submitted list

Article 64

- (1) The submitted list of candidate for President of the Republic shall contain the following: list title, name and symbol if the list submitter has one, name and surname of the candidate nominated for President along with his/her permanent residence and unique personal identification number of the citizen.
- (2) The submitted list of candidates for Members of Parliament shall contain the number of the electoral district, list title, name and symbol if the list submitter has one, name and surname of the head of the list, name and surname of each candidate for Member of Parliament and it shall contain as many candidates as there are candidates elected in the electoral district, along with their permanent residence and unique personal identification number of the citizen and a statement to declare the belonging to a community.
- (3) The submitted list of candidates for Members of Council, i.e. list of candidate for Mayor shall contain the council of the municipality, i.e. the City of Skopje for which the elections are being administered, list title, name and symbol if the list submitter has one, name and surname of the head of the list, name and surname of each candidate for Member of Council and it shall contain as many candidates as there are members elected in the electoral district, along with their permanent residence and unique personal identification number of the citizen.
- (4) The submitted list of candidate for Mayor shall contain the name of the municipality i.e. the City of Skopje for which the candidate is nominated, list title, name and symbol if the list submitter has one, name and surname of the candidate nominated for Mayor along with his/her permanent residence and the unique personal identification number of the citizen.
- (5) At least 40% of the candidates from the submitted list of candidates for Members of Parliament referred to in paragraph (2) of this article and for Members of Council of the municipality and the City of Skopje referred to in paragraph (3) of this article shall belong to the underrepresented sex, as follows: at least one out of every three places shall be reserved for the underrepresented sex, with at least one additional place out of every ten places.
- (6) The coalition agreement, the certificate from the Central Registry and the decision of the competent court for registration of the political party, which are attached to the submitted list of candidates, shall be submitted as originals or copies certified by a notary public.
- (7) As an exception to paragraph (6) of this article, the coalition agreement, the certificate from the Central Registry and the decision of the competent court for registration of the political party, which are attached to the submitted list of candidates for the election of Members of Council or Mayor, shall be submitted either as originals or as copies. If copies are submitted, the originals of the coalition agreement, the certificate

from the Central Registry and the decision of the competent court for registration of the political party shall be deposited in the State Election Commission.

5. Procedure for submitting a list

Article 65

- (1) The list of candidate, i.e. candidates shall be submitted on a template prescribed by the State Election Commission.
- (2) When a political party acts as a submitter of a list of candidate or candidates, its registration certificate from the competent court must be attached.
- (3) When a coalition acts as a submitter of a list of candidate or candidates, the agreement from Article 60, paragraph (4) of this Code must be submitted.
- (4) When a group of voters act as a submitter of a list of candidate or candidates, the required number of signatures prescribed in Article 61 i.e. Article 62 of this Code must be submitted as well.
- (5) For each nomination, the candidate needs to submit a written, irrevocable consent (statement).
- (6) The order of the candidates on the list shall be determined by the list submitter in accordance with Article 64 of this Code.

Article 66

- (1) The authorised representatives of the list submitters shall submit the list of candidate for President of the Republic to the State Election Commission.
- (2) The authorised representatives of the list submitters shall submit the list of candidates for Members of Parliament to the State Election Commission.
- (3) The authorised representatives of the list submitters shall submit the list of candidates for Members of Council, i.e. the list of candidate for Mayor both to the Municipal Election Commission and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje.
- (4) The lists of candidates from paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) shall be submitted to the competent election commission not later than 30 days before Election Day.

Article 67

- (1) The State i.e. Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje from Article 66 of this Code, shall, upon the receipt of the lists of candidate i.e. candidates, examine whether they have been submitted within the prescribed deadline and whether the lists have been compiled in accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- (2) Should the State i.e. Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje establish irregularities in the list, it shall call upon the authorised representative of the list submitter, i.e., the first signed candidate for Member of Parliament, to eliminate the irregularities within 48 hours from the receipt of the lists.
- (3) Should the State i.e. Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje establish that the lists have been submitted within the prescribed deadline and have been compiled in accordance with the provisions of this Code, i.e. the irregularities and the omissions have been eliminated by the lists submitters within the deadline prescribed in paragraph (2) of this article, it shall confirm the submitted lists by passing a decision.
- (4) Should the State i.e. Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje establish that the lists have not been duly submitted, i.e. the irregularities and the omissions have not been eliminated by the list submitters within the deadline prescribed in paragraph (2) of this article, the submitted lists shall be rejected by passing a decision within 24 hours from the receipt of the lists.
- (5) The decision of the Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje referred to in paragraph (4) of this article can be appealed to the Administrative Court within 24 hours upon the receipt of the decision.

- (6) The decision of the State Election Commission from paragraph (4) of this article can be appealed to the Administrative Court through the State Election Commission within 24 hours upon receipt of the decision.
- (7) The Administrative Court is obliged to pass a decision within 24 hours upon the receipt of the appeal.
- (8) Submission of complaints and appeals by post shall not be permitted.
- (9) Complaints and appeals on the out-of-country voting can only be submitted via email, in person or through an authorized representative. The time when the citizen sent the email to the State Election Commission shall be considered as time when the complaint was submitted.

6. Procedure in case of death of a candidate on the confirmed list of candidates for a Member of Council of the municipality and the City of Skopje

Article 67-a

- (1) If one of the candidates from the confirmed list of candidates passes away on the day of the confirmation of the lists of candidates, the political party or coalition that has proposed the candidate can propose another candidate instead, and if the candidate has been nominated by a group of voters, they can nominate another candidate instead, without collecting signatures in the candidacy procedure prescribed by this Code, in the period up until 10 days before Election Day.
- (2) The deceased candidate shall be erased from the list of candidates and the candidate added to the list of candidates shall be introduced under the ordinal number of the nominated deceased candidate or shall be introduced as last on the list of candidates, in which case the order of the remaining candidates listed below the deceased candidate shall be moved one position higher on the list.
- (3) If the deceased candidate is the head of the list, the list shall be amended in the manner prescribed in paragraph (2) of this article, and the candidate from the candidate list nominated by the list submitter shall be the head of the list.
- (4) The candidate list to which the new candidate has been added in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this article shall be published in the manner prescribed by this Code pertinent to the publishing of the single list, not later than 24 hours from the day of the amendment of the candidate list.
- (5) If one of the confirmed candidates from the candidate lists passes away in the period shorter than 10 days before the holding of the elections, the candidate list shall remain effective.

7. Procedure in the case of death of a candidate from the confirmed candidate list for the election of Mayor

Article 67-b

- (1) If a candidate from the confirmed candidate list for the election of Mayor passes away on the day of the confirmation of the lists of candidates, the political party, i.e. coalition, which has nominated the candidate can nominate another candidate instead, and if the candidate has been nominated by a group of voters, they can nominate another candidate instead, without collecting signatures in the procedure for nominations prescribed by this Code, in the period up until ten days before Election Day.
- (2) The candidate list to which the new candidate has been added in accordance with paragraph (1) of this article shall be published in the manner prescribed by this Code pertinent to the publishing of the single list, not later than 24 hours from the day of the amendment of the candidate list.
- (3) If one of the confirmed candidates from the candidate lists passes away in the period shorter than 10 days before the holding of the elections, the replacement of the candidate in the candidate list shall be done in the procedure prescribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article, and the competent election commission, in collaboration

with the SEC, shall postpone the date for the holding of the elections for that municipality for 14 days.

8. Procedure in the case of death of a candidate from the confirmed list of candidates for the election of Members of Parliament

Article 67-c

- (1) If a candidate from the confirmed candidate list for the election of Members of Parliament passes away on the day of the confirmation of the lists of candidates, the political party, i.e. coalition, which has nominated the candidate can nominate another candidate instead, and if the candidate has been nominated by a group of voters, they can nominate another candidate instead, without collecting signatures in the procedure for nominations prescribed by this Code, in the period up until ten days before Election Day.
- (2) The candidate list to which the new candidate has been added in accordance with paragraph (1) of this article shall be published in the manner prescribed by this Code pertinent to the publishing of the single list, not later than 24 hours from the day of the amendment of the candidate list.
- (3) If one of the confirmed candidates from the candidate lists passes away in the period shorter than 10 days before the holding of the elections, the deceased candidate who has been elected as Member of Parliament shall be replaced by the first candidate in line who has not been elected, and has been nominated by the political party which has nominated the candidate list, i.e. one of the candidates who have not been elected, and who has been nominated by the coalition leader. The candidate who has passed away and has been elected from an independent list in the electoral district shall be replaced by the first candidate in line who has not been elected from that list.

Article 68

- (1) The order of the candidates in the list of candidates i.e. the order of the lists of candidates shall be determined by the State Election Commission by drawing lots and it shall be the same in all electoral districts or municipalities, and in the electoral district or municipality where the list submitter does not have a representative, the respective number of the list submitter shall be left out and instead, the ordinal number of the following head of the list shall be written without leaving an empty space.
- (2) The lists of candidates for Members of the Council and for Mayor that have been submitted by the same list submitter shall receive the same ordinal number in all municipalities (or just in the respective municipality).
- (3) Lists of candidates proposed by a coalition led by the same political party shall have the same ordinal number in all municipalities or in all electoral districts, regardless of the number of political parties in the coalition in the different municipalities or electoral districts.
- (4) Having confirmed the list of candidates for Members of Council and the list of candidates for Mayor, the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall submit the lists to the State Election Commission for the purpose of determining the order of candidates in the single list of candidates, based on paragraph (1) and (2) of this article.
- (5) The State Election Commission shall previously notify the authorised representatives of the list submitters about the activities it will undertake in line with the paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article.

9. Publishing the lists

Article 69

- (1) The State Election Commission shall publish the confirmed single list of candidates for the Election of President of the Republic in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", not later than 25 days prior to Election Day.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall publish the confirmed single lists of candidates for Members of Parliament in the electoral districts in the daily newspapers and one of them shall be in the community language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, not later than 23 days prior to Election Day.
- (3) State Election Commission, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shall deliver the confirmed single lists to the DCOs or consular offices for their publication within 48 hours.
- (4) The Municipal Election Commission or Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall announce the confirmed single lists of candidates for Members of Council i.e. lists of candidates for Mayor, by displaying them in all inhabited places and in the polling stations in the municipality, not later than 23 days prior to Election Day.
- (5) The Municipal Election Commissions i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall post the confirmed single lists of candidates for Members of Parliament in the polling stations in the municipalities for which they are competent.
- (6) In the municipalities where at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian, in addition to the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, the confirmed lists of candidates shall also be published in the official language and alphabet used by citizens in that municipality.

VI. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

1. Election campaign participants

Article 69-a

- (1) An election campaign is understood as a public gathering and other public events organised by the election campaign participant, public display of posters, video presentations in public places, electoral media and internet presentation, dissemination of printed materials and public presentation of confirmed candidates and their programmes by the relevant election management bodies.
- (2) The election campaign shall begin 20 days before Election Day and in the first and the second round of elections, it cannot continue over the last 24 hours before Election Day and on Election Day.
- (3) In case a complaint is filed about a violation of the provisions from paragraphs (1) and (2) from this article, the State Election Commission is required to look into the allegations and address the filed complaint in a period not longer than 7 days from the date of the filing of the complaint.

Article 70

- (1) The submitter of a list of candidates whose list of candidates for the election of President of the Republic, Members of Parliament, Members of Council or candidates for Mayor have been confirmed by the competent election commission shall have the right to organise election campaigns (hereinafter: " election campaign participants").
- (2) The election campaign participants shall have the right to equal access to, and the right to use, under the same conditions, all forms of political propaganda, reporting and other forms of propaganda aimed at influencing the voters' decision on the voting.
- (3) Foreign legal entities and natural persons cannot organise election campaigns.

Article 71

- (1) For the purpose of collecting funds for election campaign financing, the political party, coalition, the head of the independent list of a group of voters or the persons who plan to run for candidates are all obliged to obtain from the competent authority

- a unique tax number designated “for election campaign” and to open a bank account designated “for election campaign”, which may not be used for any other purpose.
- (2) The entities referred to in paragraph (1) of this article are required to obtain the unique tax number and to open the bank account from paragraph (1) of this article not later than 48 hours after the confirmation of the lists of candidates, and not earlier than 48 hours after the announcement the elections. During the 48-hours deadline, proof of the registered unique tax number and the opened bank account shall be submitted to the competent election commission.
 - (3) The registering of a unique tax number and the opening of the bank account from paragraph (1) of this article for a coalition, political party, group of voters or persons who are planning to run for candidates shall be regulated by a coalition agreement or a statement of intent made by the political party, group of voters, i.e. persons who are planning to run for candidates, certified by a notary public.
 - (4) Should the political party, coalition, the head of the independent list of a group of voters or the persons who plan to run for candidates fail to register a unique tax number and open a bank account within the time period specified in paragraph (2) of this article, the list of candidates shall be rejected upon a decision of the competent Election Commission, and the confirmed list shall be annulled by a decision of the competent Election Commission.
 - (5) When the bank account is opened by the submitter of an independent list of a group of voters, i.e. persons planning to run as candidates, authorized signatory of the bank account shall be the head of the independent list or a person authorized by the head of the list.
 - (6) All funds transferred by legal entities or private persons for financing the election campaign shall be deposited on the bank account from paragraph (1) of this article. The donations for financing the election campaigns may only be transferred to the bank account from paragraph (1) of this article, not later than the deadline determined for submitting the financial report for financing the election campaign prescribed in Article 85, paragraph (1) of this Code.
 - (7) Funds from the main bank account of the political party and from the separate bank accounts for funds procured via loans can also be deposited on the bank account referred to in paragraph (1) of this article. The political party can execute transfers from the bank account referred to in paragraph (1) of this article to the main bank account of the political party.
 - (8) In case of failure to submit or confirm the list of candidates, the entities from paragraph (1) of this article who have registered a unique tax number and have opened a bank account are required to return the unspent donations to the donors proportionally to the donated amount of funds, within a time period of 60 days.
 - (9) In case a coalition agreement is made between the entities from paragraph (1) of this article, the entities from paragraph (1) of this article, who had previously registered a unique tax number and had opened a bank account shall be required to delete the registered unique tax number from the respective registry and to close the bank account by transferring the funds, the rights and obligations to the bank account opened in accordance with the coalition agreement and the registered unique tax number, within the deadlines from paragraph (2) of this article.
 - (10) All funds for the purposes of election campaign financing shall be transferred onto the bank account from paragraph (1) of this article and all costs for the purposes of the election campaign shall solely be covered from this bank account.
 - (11) The bank account referred to in paragraph (1) of this article shall be closed within three months from the day of announcement of the final election results from the elections for President of the Republic of Macedonia and elections for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.
 - (12) The bank account referred to in paragraph (1) of this article shall be closed within nine months from the day of announcement of the final election results from the elections for Members of Councils of the municipalities and Members of the Council

Article 72

- (1) The election campaign participant shall be responsible for the legality of the election campaign.
- (2) The election campaign participant shall also be responsible for the election campaign activities of other persons that are authorised by the election campaign participant.

Article 73

- (1) If during the election campaign or during the appearances or advertising activities the electoral rights of certain candidates are violated (by preventing and hindering the opponents' campaign), the candidates have the right to immediately initiate a procedure before the competent Basic Court for the protection of their rights.
- (2) The Basic Court shall decide upon the request for protection of the electoral rights within 48 hours from the day of the submission of the request.
- (3) The decision of the Basic Court may be appealed to the competent Court of Appeals within 48 hours from the day of the receipt of the decision.
- (4) The competent Court of Appeals shall decide within 48 hours from the day of the submission of the appeal.
- (5) The final decision shall immediately be announced in the media.

Article 74

- (1) In case when a complaint is filed for violation of the provisions from Article 8–a and Article 8–b of this Code, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption shall be required to examine the allegations at a public session and to act upon the complaint within a period not longer than five days from the day when the complaint was filed.
- (2) The State Commission for Prevention of Corruption shall decide upon the complaints from paragraph (1) of this article at a public session and shall publish its decisions on its website, within 24 hours. The complainant is also entitled to attend the session.
- (3) The complainant has the right to appeal the decision of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption from paragraph (2) of this article to the Administrative Court within 24 hours of receipt of the decision.
- (4) The Administrative Court shall pass a decision within 48 hours of receipt of the appeal.

Article 74-a

- (1) In case of a complaint filed for violation of campaign financing provisions of this Code, the State Audit Office shall examine the allegations and decide upon the filed complaint within five days of the filing of the complaint.
- (2) For each of the complaints filed, pursuant to paragraph (1) of this article, the State Audit Office shall notify the State Election Commission and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption within 24 hours.
- (3) The complainant has the right to appeal the decision of the State Audit Office from paragraph (1) of this article to the Administrative Court within 24 hours of the receipt of the complaint.
- (4) The Administrative Court shall pass a decision within 48 hours of the receipt of the appeal.

2. Media Presentation

Article 75

- (1) Broadcasters, i.e. the Public broadcasting service, the commercial broadcasting companies and electronic media (internet portals) that decided to cover the elections

are obligated to do that in a fair, balanced and unbiased manner in their overall program.

- (2) Regardless of the language in which they broadcast the program, during the election campaign, broadcasters are required to provide the election campaign participants with equal conditions for access to all forms of electoral media presentation – news, special informative programs (interviews, debates, TV/radio hustings, topical information programs, topical information programs with documentary approach and thematic specialized informative programs), free political presentation and paid political advertising.
- (3) Programs aimed for juvenile audience must not be used for electoral media presentation.
- (4) Broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals), as well as their related persons must not, in any way, finance or give donations to political parties. Related persons shall be understood as defined in Article 36 of the Law on Audio and Audio Visual Media Services.

Article 75-a

- (1) Broadcasters shall ensure balanced coverage of the elections in all forms of electoral presentation in the media in the following manner:
 - a) For the elections for President of the Republic, in accordance with the principle of equality for all presidential candidates both in the first and the second round of elections;
 - b) For the elections for Members of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia, in accordance with the principle of proportionality based on the number of confirmed lists of candidates for Members of Parliament; and
 - c) For the local elections:
 - For the election of Mayor of municipality, i.e. Mayor of the City of Skopje, in accordance with the principle of equality for all candidates for Mayors both in the first and second round of elections;
 - For the election of Members of Councils of the municipalities, i.e. Members of the Council of the City of Skopje, for broadcasters at the national and regional level in accordance with the principle of proportionality, based on the number of confirmed lists of candidates for Members of Councils of the municipalities or Members of the Council of the City of Skopje, whereas for broadcasters at the local level - in accordance with the principle of equality.
- (2) When establishing whether the media coverage of the elections was balanced, the intensity of the activities in the framework of the campaigns of the organizers of the election campaign shall be taken into consideration.
- (3) Paid political advertising shall be exempted from the principle of proportionality, i.e. equality.

Article 75-b

In the period from the day of the announcement of the elections until their closing, reporting on the regular activities of the state bodies, bodies of the municipalities and the City of Skopje, state institutions and organizations and on the activities of legal and other entities legally entrusted to perform public authorizations, as part of the programmes of the broadcasters and of the Programme Service intended for the broadcasting of the activities of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, cannot be done for the purpose of election media presentation of any political entity.

Article 75-c

- (1) Editors, journalists, program hosts and presenters who are engaged in the preparation of the broadcasters' programs must not participate in the pre-election activities of the political parties, coalitions, groups of voters and their representatives, i.e. participants in the election campaign.

- (2) If they decide to participate in such activities, their engagement in the broadcasters' programs shall be suspended from the day of the announcement of the elections until the completion of elections.

Article 75-d

- (1) Broadcasters are obligated to record the output signal of their program from the day of the announcement of the elections until their completion, and the recordings of the overall program should be kept for at least 30 days after the end of elections.
- (2) Upon a request by the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services, broadcasters are obligated to submit the recordings of the requested program, as well as other data related to the media coverage of elections to the Agency within 48 hours from the receipt of the request.

Article 75-e

- (1) From the day of the announcement of the elections until the beginning of the election campaign, broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (portals) shall not broadcast, i.e. publish paid political advertisements, except for advertisements and announcements for collecting signatures for supporting a candidature of a group of voters.
- (2) The advertisements and announcements for collecting signatures for supporting a candidature of a group of voters should be broadcasted by the commercial broadcasting companies only within marked advertising blocks, within the allowed time for advertisements per one real hour of broadcasted programme (total of 6 minutes), out of which one participant in the election campaign cannot be given more than 2 minutes, and the purchaser must be clearly marked.
- (3) The advertisements and announcements from paragraph (2) of this article should only contain basic data – who the signatures are being collected for, where citizens can deposit their signatures and at what time of the day. They must not contain additional information about the candidates.
- (4) From the day of the announcement of the elections until the day of their completion, the broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) must not broadcast, i.e. publish advertisements financed by the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, the budgets of the municipalities and the City of Skopje and by other persons who have been entrusted with performing public authorities by law.

Article 75-f

- (1) During the election campaign and in the first and second round of voting, the broadcasters that cover the elections may broadcast a total of 9 minutes of additional advertising air time per every hour of real-time broadcasted programme, solely for the purpose of paid political advertising, as follows: the ruling political parties may be allocated a maximum of 4 minutes, the political parties in opposition may be allocated a maximum of 4 minutes, the political parties represented in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia that do not have a parliamentary group and the political parties that are not represented in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia may be allocated one minute of air time.
- (2) When distributing the additional advertising air time per one hour of real-time broadcasted programme for the purpose of paid political advertising, and when there is interest to merge the slots of one political party in two consecutive real-time hours, the media outlet is required to ensure that the merging of slots in two subsequent hours, twice in a row, shall not be done for the same political party and shall ensure an alternation in the representation of the ruling and the opposition political parties.
- (3) Broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) shall establish pricelists for paid political advertising of the participants in the electoral process within 5 days of the day of the announcement of the elections.
- (4) In the period from the establishing of the pricelists until the start of the election campaign, broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) shall publicize the pricelists from paragraph (3) of this article at least twice in their programmes, printed editions or websites.

- (5) Printed media and electronic media (internet portals) shall submit the pricelists from paragraph (3) of this article to the State Election Commission, State Audit Office and State Commission for Prevention of Corruption within 5 days of the day of the announcement of the elections, whereas the broadcasters shall submit them to the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services, the State Election Commission, the State Audit Office and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, within 5 days of the day of the announcement of the elections.
- (6) Electronic media (internet portals) that provide paid political advertising for the participants in the election campaign are required to register with the State Election Commission within 3 days from the day of the announcement of the elections. Electronic media (internet portals) that fail to register with the State Election Commission shall not be entitled to use funds for paid political advertising provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (7) Registry of electronic media (internet portals) shall be kept based on the registration applications submitted to the State Election Commission, with a current balance sheet attached, issued by the Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia and not older than 6 months.
- (8) The pricelists cannot be changed during the election campaign.
- (9) Broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) shall also apply the regular pricelists for paid political advertising during the election campaign, whereby the rate for paid political advertising per second shall not exceed the average advertising rate as calculated in the 3 months preceding the day of the announcement of the elections, and for electronic media (internet portals) the price for space used on the internet portal for paid political advertising shall not exceed the average price for advertising calculated over the last three months prior to the announcement of the elections.
- (10) Broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) in the Republic of Macedonia are required to provide equal access to paid political advertising to all participants in the electoral process.
- (11) The election campaign participant-purchaser of paid political advertising from broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) is required to submit a media plan for paid political advertising.

Article 76

- (1) Paid political advertising must be properly and visibly marked as “paid political advertising” and clearly separated from other media contents.
- (2) The client ordering the advertising must be clearly indicated in all forms of paid political advertising.
- (3) Participation of minors in paid political advertising shall be prohibited.
- (4) Broadcasters cannot broadcast paid political advertising during news, special informative programmes, educational and children’s programmes and during live broadcast from religious, sports, cultural, entertainment and other type of events.
- (5) The public broadcasting service shall not broadcast paid political advertising.
- (6) For the purpose of providing objective information to the voters about the course of the election campaign and for the purpose of protecting the profession of journalism from any political influence during the electoral media presentation, special information programs must not be used as a form of paid political advertising.
- (7) The campaigns of the State Election Commission aimed at educating the voters about exercising their right to vote and about fair and democratic elections shall not be considered as paid political advertising. They should be separated from the rest of the program and the purchaser must be clearly indicated.
- (8) Broadcasters cannot broadcast free political presentation in their programmes from the day of the announcement of the elections until their closing.

Article 76-a

- (1) The Public Broadcasting Service, in cooperation with the State Election Commission, shall inform the citizens about the manner and the technique of voting and shall broadcast other information related to the electoral process, without compensation.
- (2) During the election campaign, the Public Broadcasting Service shall provide equitable access to newscasts by allocating 30% of the time to broadcast information on national and global daily events, 30% of the time on the campaign activities of the ruling political parties, 30% of the time on the campaign activities of the opposition political parties and 10% of the time on the campaign activities of the political parties not represented in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (3) The time for informing about political parties' campaign activities shall be distributed in line with the principles of balanced reporting.
- (4) The Public Broadcasting Service shall also provide regular reporting on the election process for the persons with hearing impairment.
- (5) During the election campaign, in the first and the second round of voting, the Public Broadcasting Service shall broadcast free political presentation of the participants in the election process, pursuant to the principles for balanced coverage of elections prescribed in Article 75-a of this Code.
- (6) The date and the order of the broadcast of free political presentation of the participants in the election campaign shall be determined by drawing lots.
- (7) The free political presentation of the TV programme services of the Public Broadcasting Service shall be broadcasted in the period from 16:00 to 23:00 hours.
- (8) The programme service aimed at broadcasting the activities of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia shall provide free political presentation of the campaigns of the political parties represented in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia in the duration of 3 hours, as well as one hour of free political presentation of the campaigns of the list submitters who are not represented in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. As regards the use of the three hours i.e. the one hour, campaign participants may decide to submit recorded material from the activities for the implementation of the electoral campaign, or use their time for direct address from the studio.
- (9) The free political presentation must be appropriately and visibly marked as "free political presentation" throughout the entire duration of the broadcast.
- (10) The Public Broadcasting Service shall adopt Rules for Equitable Political Media Presentation within 60 days from the day of the adoption of this Code, in consultation with the participants in the election process and the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services and shall publish them on its website.
- (11) As of the day of calling the elections until the election silence, the Public Broadcasting Service is required to organize debates or hustings of the main ruling and opposition political parties, as well as of the other participants in the election process.
- (12) In the period from the day of calling the elections until their closing, the reporting on the regular activities of the state bodies, bodies of the municipalities and the City of Skopje, state institutions and organizations and on the activities of legal and other entities legally entrusted to perform public authorizations, as part of the programmes of the broadcasters, cannot be done for the purpose of election media presentation of any political entity.

Article 76-b

- (1) During the election silence, all forms of electoral media presentation of election campaign participants shall stop.
- (2) Broadcasters shall continue to report on the election process during the election silence and on Election Day.
- (3) During the reporting on the days of election silence, media shall violate the election silence if they broadcast or publish any information, photographs, audio and audio-visual materials that are related to or feature election participants; any forms of media reporting that are openly or covertly in favour of someone's electoral campaign and can impact the voters' decision; data that reveal the identity of the political entities and/or individuals involved in incidents or other irregularities on Election Day, as well as statements made by

candidates in the election process, election campaign participants, political parties' representatives and public office holders.

Article 76-c

- (1) The Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services is obligated to monitor the electoral media presentation and program service of broadcasters, and the State Election Commission of electronic media (internet portals) in the Republic of Macedonia from the day of the announcement of elections until the end of the voting on Election Day.
- (2) As of the day of the announcement of the elections, the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall submit weekly reports to the State Election Commission, and during the election campaign, it shall submit daily reports and publish them on the Agency's website.
- (3) As of the day of the announcement of the elections, the State Election Commission shall prepare weekly reports on electronic media (internet portals) which meet the requirements pertinent to paid political advertising laid out in this Code, and during the election campaign, it shall prepare daily reports and publish them on the Commission website.
- (4) The Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall initiate a misdemeanour procedure in front of a competent court against the broadcaster that has violated the provisions of this Code within 48 hours from the establishment of the violation of provisions.
- (5) The State Election Commission shall initiate a misdemeanour procedure in front of a competent court against the electronic media outlet (internet portal) that has violated the provisions of this Code within 48 hours from the establishment of the violation of provisions.
- (6) The competent court is required to decide upon the request for a misdemeanour procedure from paragraph (4) of this article within 48 hours from the day of the receipt of the request.
- (7) The decision of the competent court can be appealed within 24 hours from the receipt of the decision.
- (8) The second instance court is required to decide upon the appeal within 48 hours from the day of the receipt of the appeal.
- (9) If the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services establishes a violation of the provisions for balanced media coverage by the public broadcasting service, it shall submit a proposal for instituting proceedings for the dismissal of the Director of the public broadcasting service.
- (10) The Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall adopt a Methodology for monitoring of the election media presentation via radio and TV programme services within 60 days from the day of the adoption of this Code, whereas the State Election Commission shall adopt a Methodology for monitoring of media presentation via electronic media (internet portals) during the election processes within 60 days from the day of the adoption of this Code and they shall also be published on their websites.

Article 76-d

- (1) The funds for the implementation of the legal obligations of the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and shall be paid on the special account of the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services.
- (2) These funds are solely for the purpose of financing the activities of the Agency during the election process.
- (3) If the approved funds exceed the real costs incurred for the implementation of the activities of the Agency that are related to the election process, the Agency is required to return the rest of the funds on the account of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 76-e

- (1) For the fulfilment of the legal obligations of broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (portals) in the sphere of paid political advertising, funds shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and shall be paid on a separate account of the Ministry of Finance.
- (2) These funds shall be earmarked solely for the purpose of funding broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (portals) in the sphere of paid political advertising of participants in the election process.
- (3) If the funds approved exceed the real expenses incurred in the sense of paragraph (2) of this article, the Ministry of Finance is required to return the remaining funds on the bank account of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (4) The Ministry of Finance shall reimburse the expenditures for the paid political advertising based on an invoice submitted by broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (portals). A Media Plan and a Report on Services Procured shall be attached to the invoice and in addition to broadcasters, printed media and electronic media, they shall also be confirmed by the election campaign participant.
- (5) The Ministry of Finance shall pay for the expenses for paid political advertising to the broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (portals) on the twelfth day from the day of the election campaign and 10 days after the end of the election campaign.

4. Opinion polls

Article 77

- (1) Opinion polls related to the participants in the election process shall be published not later than five days before Election Day for the first and the second round of voting.
- (2) When publishing the opinion polls related to participants in the election process, the media and electronic media (internet portals) are required to provide information on the client who ordered and financed the poll, the institution that conducted the poll, the methodology applied, the size and structure of the sample and the period when the poll was conducted.
- (3) The results of the opinion polls carried out on Election Day must not be announced before 19:00 hours, i.e. before the closure of polling stations.

5. Election posters

Article 78

- (1) Displaying election posters free of charge shall be allowed only at locations determined by the municipality, i.e. the City of Skopje.
- (2) The municipality and the City of Skopje have an obligation to mark the locations from paragraph (1) of this article separately for each list submitter.
- (3) The municipality and the City of Skopje may determine additional places where posters can be displayed at a fee.
- (4) Municipalities and the City of Skopje are required to use part of the funds referred to in paragraph (3) of this article immediately after the completion of the elections in order to dispose any waste made during the election campaign.
- (5) The municipality and the City of Skopje are required to announce the conditions for obtaining the right to use the locations for displaying posters not later than 50 days prior to the administration of the elections.
- (6) The municipality and the City of Skopje are required to provide equal conditions for all election campaign participants when displaying posters at the designated locations.
- (7) Election posters can also be displayed on residential buildings and other private buildings, with prior consent of the owner of the building.
- (8) Election posters cannot be displayed on buildings where the polling station or the voting room is located.

6. Advertising Panels and Billboards

Article 78-a

- (1) Political advertising on advertising panels and billboards shall be permitted.
- (2) The maximum number of advertising panels and billboards from paragraph (1) of this article that may be used for political advertising amounts to 50% of their total number on the territory of a particular municipality, City of Skopje, or on the territory where they are managed by a particular legal entity.
- (3) The political parties have the right to rent advertising panels and billboards for political advertising in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, in line with the following criteria:
 - 40% of the total number shall be available to the ruling parties;
 - 40% of the total number shall be available to the opposition parties;
 - 10% of the total number shall be available to the parliamentary parties that have no parliamentary groups in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia; and
 - 10% of the total number shall be available to the non-parliamentary parties in the Republic of Macedonia.
- (4) Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia, the City of Skopje and the legal entities that manage the advertising panels and billboards shall publicly announce the location and the rental prices for the advertising panels and billboards within five days of the day of the announcement of the elections. The price cannot be changed during the election process and it cannot exceed the average rental price calculated in the three months preceding the day of the announcement of the elections.
- (5) The municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia, the City of Skopje and the legal entities that manage the advertising panels and billboards shall distribute the locations available for political advertising according to the criteria from paragraph (3) of this article, by drawing of lots.
- (6) The lot drawing from paragraph (5) of this article shall be conducted by the State Election Commission of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (7) If a political party or a coalition fails to make use of the total percentage of advertising panels and billboards available for rent or the locations distributed by drawing of lots, the remaining political parties have the right to rent them.

Article 79

- (1) Destroying election posters or pasting posters on top of posters of other election campaign participants shall be forbidden.
- (2) The participant of the election campaign is required to clean up the paper waste left from the posters within 30 days after the completion of the elections.

7. Pre-election rallies

Article 80

- (1) Pre-election rallies shall be public.
- (2) The body in charge of internal affairs shall be in charge of keeping the order during the pre-election rallies.

Article 81

The election campaign participant shall inform the competent body for internal affairs about the organisation of a pre-election rally in public places and in places where public transport is provided, in writing, through the regional office, not later than 48 hours before the day of the rally.

Article 82

- (1) Pre-election rallies may not be held in military buildings, religious buildings, hospitals, old people's homes, schools, kindergartens and other public institutions.
- (2) As an exception, election campaign participants may be allowed to hold pre-election rallies in schools or cultural centres if there is no other appropriate building in the municipality for the rally to be held.

- (3) The permission for holding a pre-election rally shall be issued by the authorised person in charge of the institution, under equal conditions for all election campaign participants.
- (4) The facilities, equipment or other property of the state bodies and bodies of local self-government and the City of Skopje cannot be used for election campaign purposes.
- (5) As an exception, the facilities of the bodies from paragraph (4) of this article may be used if there are no other appropriate facilities in the place that can be used for election campaign purposes.
- (6) The permission shall be issued by the authorized person in charge of the institution, under equal conditions for all election campaign participants.

8. Financing of the elections

Article 83

- (1) The election campaign may not be financed from:
 - funds from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, except the funds defined in Article 86, paragraph (2) of this Code;
 - funds from the budget of municipalities and the City of Skopje, except the funds defined in Article 86, paragraph (2) of this Code;
 - funds from public enterprises and public institutions;
 - funds from citizens' associations, religious communities, religious groups, and foundations;
 - funds from foreign governments, international institutions, bodies and organisations of foreign states and other foreign entities;
 - funds from joint ventures with dominant foreign capital; and
 - funds from unidentified sources.
- (2) The election campaign may be financed from:
 - the membership fee of the political party;
 - private persons in the amount of up to 3,000 Euro in MKD equivalent; and
 - legal entities in the amount of up to 30,000 Euro in MKD equivalent.
- (3) The election campaign may also be financed from donations of private persons and legal entities in the form of money and goods and services whose value that may not exceed the amount determined in paragraph (2), indents 2 and 3 of this article.
- (4) If the amount of the donation is higher than the amount determined in paragraph (2), indents 2 and 3 of this article, the election campaign participant shall be required to transfer the difference in the permitted and donated amount to the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, within five days of receiving the donation.
- (5) If the origin of the donation cannot be determined, the election campaign participant is required to transfer the donated value to the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia within five days from the receipt of the donation.

Article 83-a

- (1) The donation from Article 83 of this Code shall also be understood as:
 - providing services free of charge to the election campaign participant;
 - providing services to the election campaign participant which are paid for by a third party;
 - selling of goods and providing services to the election campaign participant at a price lower than the market price.
- (2) The seller of the goods or the service provider shall be required to inform the election campaign participant of the market price of the goods sold or the services provided and shall be required to submit an invoice.
- (3) The difference between the market price and the invoiced value shall be considered as donation.

- (4) The public enterprises shall be required to offer equal prices for their services to all election campaign participants through their official price lists.

Article 83-b

- (1) During the campaign, the election campaign participant shall keep a registry of donations with the following data:
 - the name, i.e. title of each of the donors individually;
 - the type and the value of the donation;
 - the date of receipt of the donation
- (2) The registry of donations shall also contain data on donation paid to entities which are directly or indirectly related to the political party or are under its control.
- (3) The registry of donations is kept on a template prescribed by a rulebook adopted by the Minister of Finance, which establishes the form, the content and the manner of keeping the registry of donations.

Article 84

When financing the election campaign, the election campaign participant may spend no more than 110 Denars per voter registered in the electoral district or the municipality for which the list of candidate/s has been submitted, both for the first and the second round of voting.

Article 84-a

From the day of the adoption of the decision for announcement of the elections until the completion of the election, the state bodies and the bodies of the local self-government and of the City of Skopje shall not publish advertisements financed by the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, i.e. the budgets of the municipalities and of the City of Skopje.

Article 84-b

- (1) On the eleventh day of the election campaign, the election campaign participant is required to submit a financial report with a specification of costs on the incomes and expenditures on the election campaign bank account from the day when it was opened, until the end of the tenth day of the election campaign.
- (2) The election campaign participant is required to submit a financial report with a specification of costs on the incomes and expenditures on the election campaign bank account for the second round of voting, one day prior to the administering of the second round of voting.
- (3) The election campaign participant is required to submit a financial report with a specification of costs on the incomes and expenditures on the election campaign bank account for the second half of the election campaign one day after the end of the election campaign.
- (4) The reports from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article shall be submitted on a template adopted by the Minister of Finance, which includes information on the name or title of the donor, type and value of the donations, dates when donations were received and expenditures for each donation as well as incomes and expenditures throughout the election campaign, as well as data on third party donations.
- (5) The Guidelines on the manner of filling out the template of the report shall be an integral part of the template from paragraph (4) of this article.
- (6) Reports shall be submitted to the State Election Commission, State Audit Office and the State Commission for Preventing Corruption and they shall publish them on their websites.
- (7) The reports that the political entities submit pursuant to paragraph (6) shall also be published on their websites.

9. Financial Report

Article 85

- (1) The election campaign participant shall submit a complete financial report on the election campaign immediately, or not later than 30 days from the day of closure of the bank account from Article 71, paragraph (10).
- (2) The financial report on the election campaign shall be submitted in the template prescribed in Article 84-b, paragraph (3).
- (3) The financial report shall be submitted to the State Election Commission, State Audit Office, State Commission for Preventing Corruption and the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, and for the local elections also to the Municipal Council and the Council of the City of Skopje.
- (4) The financial report from paragraph (3) of this article shall be published by State Election Commission, State Audit Office and the State Commission for Preventing Corruption on their websites.
- (5) When the election campaign participant is a group of voters, the excess of collected funds shall be donated to charity.
- (6) The State Audit Office shall, within 60 days of the submission of the report from paragraph (1) of this article, conduct audit. The audit shall include all transactions conducted as of the day of the opening of the election account until its closure.
- (7) Should the State Audit Office detect irregularities in the financial report of the election campaign participant, which are contrary to the provisions of this Code, the State Audit Office shall initiate a misdemeanour procedure or it shall report the irregularities to the respective public prosecutor within 30 days of the day of its detection.
- (8) During the audit of the financial report of the participant in the election campaign, the State Audit Office is entitled to ask for further clarification and data for the purpose of thorough detection of possible irregularities.
- (9) The State Election Commission, the State Audit Office and the State Commission on Prevention of Corruption shall sign a Memorandum of Cooperation. This Memorandum shall govern the implementation of the provisions on election campaign financing for exchange of information on detected irregularities in the submitted financial reports and the respective measures taken against the party which is subject of oversight.

Article 85-a

- (1) Broadcasters, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) in the Republic of Macedonia shall be required to submit a report on the advertising space that has been used by each election campaign participant and on the amounts that have been paid or have fallen due for payment on those grounds.
- (2) The report from paragraph (1) of this article shall be submitted not later than 15 days after the end of the election campaign.
- (3) The report from paragraph (1) of this article shall be submitted to the Ministry of Finance, the State Election Commission, the State Audit Office and State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and they shall publish it on their web sites.
- (4) The report from paragraph (1) of this article shall be submitted in the template prescribed by the Minister of Finance.

Article 85-b

The audit reports on the conducted audit of the financial reports of the election campaign participant shall be published by the State Audit Office on their website within the legally prescribed deadline.

10. Reimbursement of election expenses

Article 86 DELETED

Article 87

- (1) Based on the decision from Article 86, paragraph (4) of this Code, the competent body shall pass a decision for non-reimbursement of the expenses to the election campaign participants in accordance with Article 85, paragraph (7) of this Code.

VII. ADMINISTERING THE ELECTIONS

1. Funds for administering the elections

Article 88

- (1) The funds for administering elections shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and they shall be at the disposal of the State Election Commission.
- (2) Two thirds of the funds intended for the elections shall be used to cover the expenses related to the election activities of the bodies in charge of administering the elections.
- (3) One third of the funds intended for administering the elections shall be used to cover part of the expenses incurred by the election campaign participants whose candidates have been elected.
- (4) The funds for administering local elections shall be provided for from the budget of the municipality and the City of Skopje and they shall be at the disposal of the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje; the funds for the election material shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and they shall be at disposal of the State Election Commission.
- (5) As an exception to paragraph (4) of this article, in case of failure to provide the funds for administering the local elections as a result of a blocked bank account of the municipality and the City of Skopje, the funds for administering the local elections shall be provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and they shall be at the disposal of the municipal election commission, i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje.

2. Election material

Article 89

The election material for administering the elections shall consist of:

- ballot boxes and polling booths;
- protocol templates and a logbook for the work of the Election Boards;
- ballot booklet, in accordance with the Voter Lists;
- lists of candidates;
- signed Voter Lists;
- devices for marking of persons who have voted (spray and UV lamp);
- graphite pad;
- seals;
- voting guidelines; and
- other materials necessary for voting.

Article 90

- (1) The voting instruction shall be displayed on a visible place on the polling booths and other visible places at the polling stations in accordance with the instruction issued by the State Election Commission. The instruction shall be printed in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the languages and alphabets of the other communities listed in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia.
- (2) The list of candidates shall be displayed in the polling station.

3. Handover of the election material

Article 91

- (1) The State Election Commission shall hand over the election material to the Municipal Election Commissions, not later than 72 hours prior to Election Day.
- (2) The State Elections Commission shall hand over the election material for voting at the DCOs or consular offices to the authorised person from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, not later than 5 days prior to Election Day.
- (3) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall hand over the election material to the DCOs or consular offices immediately, or not later than 24 hours after the receipt of the material.
- (4) For the handover of the election material, protocol shall be filled out, in which the total number of ballots with the respective serial numbers and the required number of lists of candidates to be displayed in the voting facilities shall be separately indicated.

Article 92

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission is required to hand over the election material to the Election Boards on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia one day prior to Election Day.
- (2) For the handover of the election material from the Municipal Election Commission to the Election Boards a protocol shall be filled out, in which the total number of ballots with the respective serial numbers and other election material shall be indicated.
- (3) The president and the members of the Election Board and the member of the municipal election commission who is handing over the material shall all sign the protocol.
- (4) Should the present representatives of the lists submitters have objections to the handover of the election materials, they shall have the right to record them in the protocol and they may be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote.
- (5) If the objections of the authorised representatives from paragraph (4) of this article are not recorded in the protocol, they shall have the right to submit them to the Municipal Election Commission within 5 hours of the signing of the protocol.
- (6) Accredited observers shall have the right to be present at the handover of election material.

4. Ballot

Article 93

- (1) The ballot shall be printed in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet.
- (2) The name of the list submitter, the name and the surname of the candidate or the head of the list shall be written in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet.
- (3) For the members of other communities, the name of the list submitter and the name and surname of the candidate or the head of the list shall be written in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the language and the alphabet of the community to which they belong.
- (4) In the municipalities where at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than Macedonian, in addition to the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, the ballots for the elections shall also be printed in the official language and alphabet used by citizens in that municipality.

Article 94

- (1) If there are list submitters or heads of lists with the same name and surname, then the initial letter of their middle name shall also be written.
- (2) On the ballot, the candidates or list submitters shall be presented in the same order as in the single list of candidates.
- (3) The ballot shall consist of a part used for voting and a part that shall remain on the ballot stub.

Article 95

- (1) The part of the ballot used for voting in the election for President of the Republic shall contain:
 - headline of the ballot, municipality and number of the polling station for voting in the Republic of Macedonia;
 - headline of the ballot, the location of the DCO or consular offices for the out-of-country voting;
 - ordinal number, name and symbol of the list submitter (if any); and
 - name and surname of the candidates, according to data from the public registry.
- (2) The part of the ballot that remains on the ballot stub shall contain the serial number of the ballot, the municipality or the seat of the DCO or consular offices and the number of the polling station.
- (3) The headline of the ballot shall contain the flag of the Republic of Macedonia.

For Members of Parliament

Article 96

- (1) The part of the ballot used for voting in the election of Members of Parliament shall contain:
 - headline of the ballot, number of electoral district, municipality and number of the polling station, ordinal number, name and symbol of the list submitter (if any); and
 - name and surname of the head of list, according to data from the public registry.
- (2) The part of the ballot that remains on the ballot stub shall contain the serial number of the ballot, the number of the electoral district, the municipality and the number of the polling station.
- (3) The headline of the ballot shall contain the number of the electoral district and the flag of the Republic of Macedonia.

For Members of Council

Article 97

- (1) The part of the ballot used for voting in the election of Members of Council shall contain:
 - headline of the ballot, number of polling station, and municipality;
 - ordinal number, name and symbol of the list submitter (if any); and
 - name and surname of the head of list, according to data from the public registry.
- (2) The part of the ballot that remains on the ballot stub shall contain the serial number of the ballot, the municipality, and the number of the polling station.
- (3) The headline of the ballot for election of Members of Council shall contain the name of the municipality, i.e. the City of Skopje, for which the election is being administered.

For Mayor

Article 98

- (1) The part of the ballot used for voting in the elections of Mayor shall contain:
 - heading of the ballot, number of the polling station, and municipality;
 - name and symbol of the list submitter (if any); and
 - ordinal number, name and surname of the candidates, according to data from the public registry.
- (2) The part of the ballot that remains on the ballot stub shall contain the serial number of the ballot, the municipality and the number of the polling station.
- (3) The headline of the ballot for the election of Mayor shall contain the name of the municipality, i.e. the City of Skopje, for which the election is being administered.

5. Polling station

Article 99

- (1) In each of the polling places, a place shall be determined (premises in the facility) where the voting will take place (hereinafter: polling station).
- (2) The lists of candidates shall be displayed in the premises where the voting will take place.

Article 100

- (1) The president and members of the Election Board shall gather in the voting rooms not later than one hour prior to the beginning of the voting to establish whether:
 - the room is in the same condition as was left on the day before Election Day;
 - the election materials are in the same condition as left on the day before Election Day; and
 - the ballot box is empty.
- (2) The Election Board shall fill in a protocol on the state established, which is then signed by the president and members of the Election Board.
- (3) The remarks of the president and the board members shall be entered into the protocol.
- (4) Should the present representatives of the lists submitters have any remarks, the president shall ensure that they are recorded in the protocol and can be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote.
- (5) If the remarks of the present representatives of the lists submitters from paragraph (4) of this article are not registered in the protocol, they shall have the right to submit the remarks to the Municipal Election Commission within 5 hours after the signing of the protocol.
- (6) Accredited observers shall also have the right to be present at the inspection of the conditions before the voting begins.

6. Duration of voting

Article 101

- (1) Voting shall begin at 7:00 hours and last incessantly until 19:00 hours, and in the DCOs or consular offices the time difference in the country shall be taken into consideration, i.e. from 7:00 to 19:00 hours local time.
- (2) The polling station shall be closed at 19:00 hours, and the voters who happen to be in the building and the premises where the voting takes place shall be allowed to cast their vote.
- (3) The Election Board may close the polling station before the end of the period from paragraph (1) of this article in case when all voters registered in the Voter List have already cast their votes, but shall not start with the counting of the votes before 19:00 hours.

7. Securing the polling station

Article 102

- (1) The police shall secure the polling station incessantly from 6:00 hours until 19:00 hours.
- (2) Upon closure of the polling station and during the counting of the votes, the police shall secure the building where the polling station and the Election Board are located and shall remove all unauthorised persons from the building.
- (3) Upon request by the Election Board, the police shall secure the Election Board until the protocol and the electoral material are handed over to the Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje.

8. Competencies of the Election Board during voting

Article 103

- (1) The Election Board shall maintain peace and order at the polling station.
- (2) The Election Board may remove anybody who disturbs the peace and order at the polling station.
- (3) The building where the polling station is located and the access to it shall be secured by the police during the voting.
- (4) The Election Board may ask for police assistance in order to restore order at the polling station.
- (5) No one shall be allowed to come to the polling station armed, except for the police in the cases prescribed in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this article.
- (6) The Election Board, in co-operation with the police, shall be required to remove any promotional materials from the building and the room where voting takes place.
- (7) The police, upon request from the President or Deputy President of the Election Board shall be required to remove any unauthorised persons from the building and the room where voting takes place, as well as the unauthorised persons in the radius of 100 meters from the building where voting takes place.

Article 104

- (1) The Election Board may suspend the voting when the order at the polling station is disrupted, up until the moment it is again restored.
- (2) The voting may also be suspended in cases of natural disasters or other emergencies.
- (3) The Election Board shall suspend the voting if the access to the polling station is not secured by the police even though this was needed and the police was called, but failed to respond to the request.
- (4) The president or the deputy president of the Election Board may call the police to enter the voting room, if needed.
- (5) If voting has been suspended for more than an hour, it will be prolonged for as long as the suspension lasted, but not longer than three hours.
- (6) The reasons for the suspension of the voting and its duration shall be entered into the protocol.

9. Rights and obligations of list submitters and accredited observers during voting

Article 105

- (1) Should the representatives of the lists submitters have any remarks on the work of the Election Board during the voting, they may point out these irregularities so that they could be removed.
- (2) Should the present representatives of the lists submitters have any remarks, the president of the Election Board shall ensure that they are recorded in the protocol and can be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote.
- (3) If the remarks of the present representatives of the lists submitters from paragraph (2) of this article are not registered in the protocol, they shall have the right to submit the remarks to the Municipal Election Commission within 5 hours after the signing of the protocol.
- (4) Should the accredited observers have any remarks about the work of the Election Board, they shall have the right to enter them in the polling station logbook.
- (5) Representatives of the list submitters and accredited observers may closely monitor the verification of the identity of the voter who is approaching to vote.

Article 106

- (1) The president, the members of the Municipal Election Commissions and Election Boards, as well as the Election Boards at the DCOs or consular offices and their

deputies, as well as the representatives of list submitters and the observers shall not be allowed to have any insignia or symbols of a political party, coalition or candidate during the voting or within the voting rooms.

- (2) During the voting at the polling stations, the authorized representatives of list submitters shall wear a badge with the number of the polling station they are authorised to observe.
- (3) The Election Board can remove from the polling station any person who uses a mobile phone or camera to take photographs of the ballot during the voting.

10. Voting

Article 107

- (1) Votes shall be cast in person, at the polling stations in the Republic of Macedonia and at the DCOs or consular offices.
- (2) Voting on behalf of another person shall not be permitted, except in the cases prescribed in Article 111 of this Code.

Verifying the identity of the voter

Article 108

- (1) Voters shall approach to vote one at a time.
- (2) When the voter approaches to vote, the Election Board shall check whether the voter is at the adequate polling station and shall use a ultraviolet lamp to check whether there is an indelible mark on the nail and the thumb of the right hand.
- (3) When the voter approaches to vote, the Election Board shall verify his/her personal identity.
- (4) The voter shall prove his/her personal identity with an ID card or a travel document.
- (5) Having verified the voter's identity, the Election Board shall circle the ordinal number of the voter in the Voter List and the voter shall countersign the Voter List. If the voter is illiterate, then the voter shall deposit his/her fingerprint of the right thumb. If the voter does not have a right thumb, then the voter shall deposit the fingerprint of the left thumb. If he/she does not have a left thumb either, then no fingerprint shall be deposited.
- (6) After the identification, the voter shall be given a ballot and the thumb of the right hand or the thumb of the left hand, if the voter has no thumb on the right hand, shall be marked with a spray, while making sure that the spray also covers the nail of the thumb. If the voter has no thumb on either hand, no marking shall be done.

Article 108-a DELETED

11. Manner of voting

Article 109

- (1) Voting shall be conducted using one ballot for each type of elections determined by this Code.
- (2) The ballot shall be removed from the stub of the booklet in a consecutive order, a stamp shall be put on the front side of the ballot and it shall be given to the voter.
- (3) The voter shall be instructed on the manner of voting and shall be allowed to vote.
- (4) The voter shall cast his/her vote concurrently when there are two or more elections or a referendum.

Article 110

The voter shall vote by circling the ordinal number of the list submitter i.e. the ordinal number of the candidate who he/she has decided to cast the vote for and shall put the folded ballot into the ballot box.

Homebound voting (voting of incapacitated and ill persons)

Article 111

- (1) The voter who is unable to vote at the polling station (incapacitated or ill, pursuant to the Instruction of the State Election Commission) but wants to vote, shall notify the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje thereof not later than seven days prior to Election Day.
- (2) The notification from paragraph (1) of this article shall refer both to the first and the second round of voting.
- (3) The notification from paragraph (1) of this article may also be submitted through a proxy.
- (4) The Election Board shall enable the person from paragraph (1) of this article to vote in his/her home, one day prior to Election Day in a manner that will guarantee the secrecy of the voting.
- (5) The Election Board shall provide a special ballot box for the voting referred to in paragraph (4) of this article, which is taken empty to the home where the voter resides.
- (6) The voting from paragraph (4) of this article shall be recorded by the Election Board in the protocol.
- (7) For the date and time of voting, from paragraph (4) of this article, the president of the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall notify the representatives of the list submitters in writing.

Voting of persons who are not able to vote by themselves

Article 112

- (1) A voter who is unable to vote in the manner defined by this Code due to a physical disability or illiteracy shall have the right to bring along a person to assist him/her with voting.
- (2) If the voter from paragraph (1) of this article does not bring along a person to assist him/her with voting, the Election Board shall appoint another person from among the voters.
- (3) The person helping another person with voting shall not be from among the Election Board members, representatives of the list submitters or observers.
- (4) The same person may provide voting assistance to no more than two voters referred to in paragraph (1) of this article.
- (5) The Election Board shall instruct the person from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article that his/her assistance should not influence the voter's decision.
- (6) The voting from paragraph (1) of this article shall be recorded in the protocol of the Election Board.

Article 112-a

The Election Board is required to provide the conditions for voting of a disabled voter who cannot enter the polling station and vote in accordance with this Code, based on the Instruction issued by the State Election Commission.

Voting of persons who on Election Day are serving prison sentence or are in detention or in pretrial house arrest

Article 113

- (1) Voters who on Election Day are serving a prison sentence or are in detention or pre-trial house arrest shall vote in the penitentiary institutions or in the place where of the pre-trial house arrest.
- (2) Following the receipt of the lists of voters who are serving a prison sentence or are in detention on Election Day, the Municipal Election Commission is required to immediately submit the lists to the penitentiary institutions where the voters are serving a prison sentence or are being held in detention.
- (3) Voters who are in pre-trial house arrest on Election Day and are willing to vote shall use an authorised person to inform the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the city of Skopje, not later than three days before Election Day.

- (4) For the voters from paragraphs (2) and (3) of this article, the elections shall be administered by the Election Board of the nearest polling station or a special Election Board, in accordance with this Code and the Instruction of the State Election Commission, one day before Election Day, and the representatives of the list submitters are notified thereof to ensure their presence at the voting.
- (5) The Election Board shall enable voting for the voters from paragraph (3) of this article in the place of pre-trial house arrest, one day before the Election Day, while preserving secrecy of the vote.
- (6) For the voting referred to in paragraph (5) of this article, the Election Board shall provide a separate empty ballot box, brought in the place where the voter is kept in pre-trial house arrest.
- (7) The relevant election commission shall inform the competent authorities that ordered the pre-trial house arrest and the respective law enforcement authority about the voting of voters referred to in paragraph (3) of this article.
- (8) The Election Board shall fill in separate protocols about the voting of these voters.
- (9) The protocols and the election material shall be submitted to the respective Municipal Election Commissions after the completion of voting.

Article 113-a

- (1) The voters who are temporarily employed or residing abroad on Election Day shall vote at the DCOs or consular offices of the Republic of Macedonia abroad, one day prior to the Election Day in the Republic of Macedonia.
- (2) Out of country voting will be conducted at the following DCOs or consular offices of the Republic of Macedonia:
 - Republic of Albania – Tirana;
 - Republic of Austria – Vienna, which covers the Slovak Republic;
 - Commonwealth of Australia – Canberra and Melbourne;
 - Kingdom of Belgium – Brussels, which covers Grand Duchy of Luxembourg;
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo;
 - Republic of Bulgaria – Sofia, which covers the Republic of Moldova;
 - Canada – Ottawa and Toronto;
 - People’s Republic of China – Beijing, which covers the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
 - Republic of Croatia – Zagreb;
 - Kingdom of Denmark – Copenhagen;
 - Arab Republic of Egypt – Cairo;
 - Republic of Estonia – Tallinn;
 - Republic of France – Paris and Strasbourg, which covers the Portuguese Republic;
 - Federal Republic of Germany – Berlin, Bonn and Munich;
 - Republic of Greece – Athens and Thessaloniki;
 - Republic of Hungary – Budapest;
 - India – New Delhi;
 - Italy – Rome and Venice, which covers Malta;
 - State of Israel – Tel Aviv;
 - The Holy See of Vatican;
 - Kingdom of the Netherlands –The Hague;
 - Republic of Poland – Warsaw;
 - Romania – Bucharest;
 - Russian Federation – Moscow, which covers the Republic of Belarus;
 - Republic of Serbia – Belgrade;
 - Republic of Slovenia – Ljubljana;
 - Kingdom of Spain – Madrid;
 - Kingdom of Sweden – Stockholm, which covers the Republic of Finland;

- Switzerland – Bern and Geneva, which cover the Principality of Liechtenstein;
 - Republic of Turkey – Ankara and Istanbul, which cover Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Uzbekistan;
 - Ukraine – Kiev;
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – London, which covers Ireland and Republic of Iceland;
 - USA – Washington, Detroit, Chicago and New York;
 - State of Qatar – Doha;
 - Montenegro – Podgorica;
 - Czech Republic – Prague;
 - Republic of Kosovo – Pristina;
 - Kingdom of Norway – Oslo;
 - Japan – Tokyo;
 - Republic of Kazakhstan – Astana, and
 - United Arab Emirates– Abu Dhabi.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall deliver the election material to the DCOs or consular offices through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, immediately upon its receipt.
 - (4) For the voters from the paragraph (1) of this article, the elections shall be conducted by the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or consular offices.
 - (5) Election Boards at the DCOs or consular offices shall prepare protocols for the voting at the DCOs or consular offices.
 - (6) The ballots shall be placed in separate envelopes with an indication of the location of the DCOs or consular offices and electoral district and they shall be sealed.
 - (7) Election Boards shall deliver the protocols, sealed envelopes and other election material to the State Election Commission through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after the voting is completed.
 - (8) The State Election Commission shall tabulate and establish the results from the out-of-country voting.

Article 113-b

- (1) The members of the Election Boards for voting at the DCOs or consular offices shall vote at the State Election Commission three days prior to the election day in the Republic of Macedonia.
- (2) The elections for the voters from paragraph (1) of this article shall be administered by the Election Board for voting at the SEC.
- (3) For the purposes of the voting from paragraph (2) of this article, a special ballot box shall be provided which following the end of the voting shall be kept sealed in the offices of the SEC and shall be opened after the end of the voting in the Republic of Macedonia.
- (4) For the purposes of voting of these voters, the Election Board shall complete a separate protocol.
- (5) The protocol and the voting material shall be submitted to the corresponding Municipal Election Commissions after the end of the voting in the Republic of Macedonia.

12. Tabulating and determining the election results at polling stations

Article 114

- (1) The results of the voting at polling stations shall be tabulated and determined in the following manner:
 - the unused ballots shall be counted, and after the counting, first the bottom right-hand corner shall be torn off and then they shall be put in a special envelope which shall be closed, sealed and the number of the polling station and the number of the unused ballots shall be written on it;

- the total number of voters registered in the Voter List who have cast their vote and countersigned the Voter List or have deposited their fingerprint shall be determined;
- the ballot box shall be opened and the counting of votes shall begin;
- by drawing lots, one member shall be selected to take out and open the ballots from the ballot box one at a time and hand them over to the president of the Election Board;
- the ballot shall be shown to all Election Board members, to the present representatives of the lists submitters and to the observers;
- the Election Board shall determine whether the ballot is valid or not and for which list of candidates i.e. candidate the vote has been cast;
- the cast vote shall be recorded, the ballot shall be put in the corresponding place and a new ballot shall be taken out of the ballot box.

Valid ballot

Article 115

- (1) A ballot shall be considered valid if in compliance with Article 110 of this Code.
- (2) A ballot shall be considered valid if it can be established, in a reliable and unambiguous way, for which list of candidate, i.e. list of candidates the voter has cast his/her vote.
- (3) A ballot shall be considered invalid if it has not been filled in or if multiple lists of candidates or candidate are circled.

Voting protocol

Article 116

- (1) The Election Board shall enter the following information in the protocol: the ordinal number of the polling place, the number of the decision for establishing the Election Board, the time of beginning and concluding the voting; the total number of voters in the polling station according to the Voter List; the total number of voters who have voted; the total number of ill and incapacitated persons who have voted; the total number of ballots put in the ballot box; the total number of ballots that have not been used; the total number of invalid ballots and the total number of votes won by each list of candidates separately.
- (2) The protocol shall contain a separate tabular section for the tabulation and the determination of the results from the polling place.
- (3) Remarks of the Election Board members shall also be recorded in the protocol.

Article 117

- (1) The protocol shall be signed by the president and Election Board members.
- (2) The protocol shall be considered valid if signed by the majority of the Election Board members whose signatures have been deposited.
- (3) The president of the Election Board should state the reasons for the protocol not being signed by a member of the Election Board.
- (4) If the majority of members of the Election Board do not sign the protocol, the protocol shall be completed and signed by the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje, based upon the entire election material.
- (5) Should the present representatives of the list submitters have remarks, the president of the Election Board shall ensure that they are recorded in the protocol and can be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote. Should the present representatives of the lists submitters have any remarks, the president shall ensure that they are recorded in the protocol and can be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote.
- (6) If the remarks by the representatives of the list submitters referred to in paragraph (5) of this article are not recorded in the protocol, they shall have the right to submit them to the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of

Skopje within 5 hours after the completion of the protocol and can be used as grounds for filing a complaint.

- (7) If the protocol from the voting at the DCOs or consular offices has not been signed by the majority of members of the Election Board, the protocol shall be prepared and signed by the State Election Commission based on the entire election material.
- (8) If the accredited observers have any remarks on the work of the Election Board, they shall be entitled to enter them in the polling place logbook.

Handover of the election materials to the Municipal Election Commission

Article 118

- (1) The protocols and the other election material shall be submitted to the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje by the Election Board within 5 hours after the voting is completed.
- (2) A copy of the protocols duplicated as a carbon copy shall be given to every representative of the list submitter and the accredited observers. The original sample that has previously been verified with a seal by the State Election Commission shall be submitted to the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje.
- (3) Upon the completion of the activities prescribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article, the Election Board shall immediately announce and publish the tabulated results from the voting conducted at the polling place.
- (4) The election material shall be submitted to the Municipal Election Commission i.e. Election Commission of the City of Skopje by the president of the Election Board escorted by any interested Election Board members or representatives of the lists submitters and representatives of the police, if deemed necessary.
- (5) Separate protocols shall be prepared for the handover of the material from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 118-a

- (1) The protocols and other election material from the voting at the DCOs or the consular offices shall be handed over by the Election Board to the responsible person of the DCO or the consular offices, appointed by the State Election Commission (hereinafter “the responsible person of the DCO”) within 5 hours from the end of voting. A special protocol is prepared for this handover.
- (2) All representatives of the list submitters and accredited observers shall get a carbon copy of the protocol from the voting. The original sample which has previously been verified with a seal by the State Election Commission shall be delivered to the responsible person of the DCO or the consular offices.
- (3) The responsible person of the DCO or the consular offices shall immediately submit the protocol from voting at the DCOs or consular offices, the entire electoral material from the voting at the DCOs or the consular offices and one copy of the special protocol from paragraph (1) to the State Election Commission, via diplomatic post.

13. Tabulating and determining the results from the voting for election of President of the Republic

Article 119

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission shall tabulate the results of the voting for the list of candidates in the polling stations for which it is competent, and shall submit them to the State Election Commission within 5 hours after receipt of the entire election material from the Election Boards.
- (2) The Municipal Election Commission shall prepare a protocol on its activities.

- (3) The voting protocol shall contain the data on the tabulated votes, the ordinal number of the polling places in the electoral district for which it is competent, the total number of voters recorded in the Voter Lists for those polling places, the total number of voters who voted, the total number of ill and incapacitated persons who voted, the total number of invalid ballots and the total number of votes won by each candidate list from the polling places for which this Municipal Election Commission is in charge.
- (4) Remarks from the members of the Municipal Election Commission are also entered into the protocol.

Article 119-a

- (1) The protocol from Article 119 of this Code shall be signed by the president and members of the Municipal Election Commission.
- (2) The protocol shall be valid if signed by the majority of the members of the Municipal Election Commission.
- (3) The president of the Municipal Election Commission is required to state the reasons for the protocol not being signed by a member of the Commission.
- (4) Should the present representatives of the lists submitters have any remarks, the president of the Municipal Election Commission shall ensure that they are recorded in the protocol and can be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote.
- (5) All representatives of the list submitters and accredited observers shall receive a copy of the protocol.

First round

Article 120

The candidate who wins the majority of votes from the total number of voters registered in the Voter Register shall be elected President of the Republic.

Second round

Article 121

- (1) If no candidate running for President of the Republic wins the required majority in the first round, then voting will be administered in the second round for the two candidates who won the most votes in the first round.
- (2) The second round of voting shall take place within 14 days after the first round of voting.
- (3) A candidate shall be elected President if he/she has won the majority of the votes, providing that more than 40% of the voters have cast their votes.

Repetition of the voting

Article 122

- (1) The entire election procedure shall be repeated if none of the candidates wins the required majority in the second round of voting.
- (2) The entire election procedure shall be repeated if only one candidate is nominated for President of the Republic and that candidate fails to win the required majority in the first round of voting.

Statement

Article 123

- (1) Before assuming office, not later than ten days from the day of the announcement of the final results, but not prior to the end of the term of the outgoing President, incoming President of the Republic shall give and sign a ceremonial statement before the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, as follows:
"I hereby declare that I shall execute the Office of the President of the Republic of Macedonia in conscientious and responsible manner, that I shall respect the

Constitution and the Laws, and that I shall protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Macedonia".

- (2) The President of the Republic of Macedonia, elected in presidential elections due to cessation of term, shall deliver the statement from paragraph (1) of this article within three days after the announcement of the final results.

14. Tabulating and determining of the results from the voting for election of Members of Parliament

Article 124

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission shall tabulate the results of the voting for the lists of candidates at the polling places of the corresponding electoral district within 5 hours from receiving the entire election material from the Election Boards for which it is competent.

The protocol for voting

Article 125

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission shall prepare a protocol for its work.
- (2) The protocol shall contain data on the tabulated voting results, such as the ordinal number of the polling places in the electoral district for which it is competent, the total number of voters registered in the Voter Lists for those polling places, the total number of voters who have voted, the total number of ill and incapacitated persons who voted, the total number of invalid ballots and the total number of votes cast for each list of candidates at the level of the electoral district and the polling places for which the Municipal Election Commission is competent.

Article 126

- (1) The protocol from Article 125 of this Code shall be signed by the president and the members of the Municipal Election Commission.
- (2) The protocols shall be considered valid if signed by the majority of the members of the Municipal Election Commission.
- (3) The president of the Municipal Election Commission should state the reasons for the protocol not being signed by a member of the commission.
- (4) Should the present representatives of the lists submitters have any remarks, the president of the Municipal Election Commission shall ensure that they are recorded in the protocol and can be used as grounds in the procedure for protection of the right to vote.
- (5) All representatives of the list submitters and accredited observers shall receive a copy of the protocol.

15. Determining results and distributing mandates for the election of Members of Parliament

Article 127

- (1) The State Election Commission shall tabulate and determine the overall results of the voting in the electoral districts.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall determine the voting results based on the result tabulated result protocols of the Municipal Election Commissions and the entire election material.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall determine the results for each individual electoral district separately, according to the total number of won by the individual lists of candidates, based on the aggregated results of the Municipal Election Commission for the polling places in the electoral district for which it is competent.
- (4) Election results shall be determined by applying the d'Hondt method.
- (5) Having determined the total number of votes cast for that number of candidates in the electoral district (so-called electorate), each list shall be separately divided by the line of divisors 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. until all seats in the electoral district are allocated by applying this principle.

- (6) The quotients of the division, referred to in paragraph (5) of this article shall be ordered by size and the number of largest quotients to be considered relevant will be the same as the number of Members of Parliament being elected in the electoral district.
- (7) A list of candidates shall obtain as many parliamentary seats as there are largest quotients out of the number of quotients referred to in paragraph (6) of this article.
- (8) Should there be two identical quotients when distributing the last seat in the Parliament, the mandate shall be allocated by drawing lots.
- (9) When allocating the parliamentary seats, the number of candidates elected shall correspond to the number of seats won by the list.
- (10) Candidates shall be elected from the list of candidates, according to the established sequence.

Article 127-a

- (1) The State Election Commission shall tabulate and determine the final results of the voting in the electoral district which covers Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall determine the voting results based on the tabulated result protocols from the DCOs and the entire election material.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall determine the results according to the total number of votes won by the lists of candidates, based on the tabulated results from the DCOs or consular Offices in the electoral district.
- (4) Election results shall be determined by applying the D'Hondt method.
- (5) When the total number of votes given for that particular number of candidates in the electoral district is tallied (the so-called electorate), each list is separately divided with the line of divisors 1, 2 and 3 until all MP seats in the electoral district are allocated by applying this principle.
- (6) The quotients of the division referred to in paragraph (5) of this article shall be ordered by size and the number of largest quotients to be considered relevant will be the same as the number of members of Parliament being elected in the electoral district.
- (7) A list of candidates shall obtain as many parliamentary seats as there are largest quotients out of the number of quotients referred to in paragraph (6) of this article.
- (8) Should there be two identical quotients when distributing the last parliamentary seat, the mandate shall be allocated by drawing lots
- (9) When allocating the parliamentary seats, the number of candidates elected shall correspond to the number of seats won by the list.
- (10) The candidates shall be elected from the list of candidates, in the established order.

Article 128

- (1) For each electoral district, the State Election Commission shall prepare a separate protocol for determining the results of the voting.
- (2) The protocols shall contain the following information on the voting results:
 - the total number of polling places;
 - the total number of voters registered in the Voter List for the electoral district;
 - the total number of ill and incapacitated persons; and
 - the total number of voters who have cast their vote;
 - the total number of invalid ballots;
 - the total number of votes that each individual list of candidates has won;
 - the number of parliamentary seats won by the list of candidates; and
 - the name and surname of the candidates elected.

Article 129

DELETED

16. Tabulating and determining of the results from the voting for election of Member of Council and allocation of mandates

Article 130

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission shall determine the overall results of the voting in a municipality.
- (2) The Municipal Election Commission shall determine the voting results based on the protocols with the tabulated votes, received from the Election Boards as well as the complete election material.
- (3) The Municipal Election Commission shall determine the results according to the number of the votes won by the lists of candidates for Members of Council separately, based on the tabulated results of the Election Boards.
- (4) The Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall determine the results from the voting for Members of Council according to the number of the votes won by the lists of candidates for Members of Council, based on the aggregated results received from the election commissions on the territory of the City of Skopje.
- (5) Election results shall be determined by applying the d'Hondt method.
- (6) Having determined the total number of votes cast for each list of candidates (ca-called electorate), each list shall be separately divided by the line of divisors 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. until the number of Members of Council for the municipality and the City of Skopje is reached.
- (7) The quotients of the division referred to in paragraph (6) of this article shall be ordered by size and the number of largest quotients to be considered relevant will be the same as the number of Members of Council being elected.
- (8) The list of candidates for Member of Council shall obtain as many seats in the Municipal Council as there are largest quotients out of the number of quotients referred to in paragraph (6) of this article.
- (9) Should there be two identical quotients when distributing the last seat in the Council, the mandate shall be allocated by drawing lots.
- (10) When allocating seats in the Municipal Council, the number of candidates elected shall correspond to the number of seats won by the list.
- (11) The candidates for Members of Council shall be elected from the list of candidates, according to the established sequence.

Article 131

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission shall prepare a protocol to determine the results of the voting.
- (2) The protocol shall contain the following information on the voting results:
 - the total number of polling places in the municipality and the City of Skopje,
 - the total number of voters registered in the Voter Lists for the municipality and the City of Skopje,
 - the total number of ill and incapacitated persons who voted ,
 - the total number of voters who have cast their vote,
 - the number of invalid ballots,
 - the total number of votes that each list of candidates has won separately,
 - the number of seats for Members of Council won by the list of candidates, and
 - name and surname of the candidates elected.
- (3) All representatives of the list submitters and accredited observers shall receive a copy of the protocol.

17. Determining the results from elections for Mayor
First round

Article 132

- (1) In the first round of voting for Mayor, the candidate who wins the majority votes of the total number of voters who have cast their vote shall be considered elected, provided that one third of the total number of voters registered in the Voter List for the relevant municipality have voted.
- (2) If during the first round of voting for the election of Mayor of the municipality or Mayor of the City of Skopje, one third of the total number of voters registered in the Voter List for the relevant municipality or the City of Skopje fail to turn up for voting, the entire election procedure shall be repeated for the corresponding municipality.
- (3) The Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall determine the results of the voting for Mayor according to the number of votes won by each of the lists of candidates for Mayor, based on the tabulated results received from the Municipal Election Commissions on the territory of the City of Skopje.
- (4) The entire election procedure shall be repeated if there is one candidate nominated for Mayor and this candidate fails to win the required majority of votes in the first round of elections referred to in paragraph (1) of this article.

Second round

Article 133

- (1) If no candidate running for Mayor wins the required majority of votes in accordance with Article 132, paragraph (1) of this Code, a second round of voting shall be organized for the two candidates who won the most votes in the first round.
- (2) The second round of voting shall take place within 14 days after the first round of voting.
- (3) The candidate who wins the most votes in the second round shall be elected for Mayor.

Appointing a trustee until the new elections

Article 134

- (1) Should there be no elected Mayor even after the second round of voting, for any reason, the election commission shall notify the Government of the Republic of Macedonia thereof within 15 days from the completion of the elections.
- (2) Upon receiving the notification referred to in paragraph (1) of this article, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia shall appoint a trustee to execute the office of Mayor within 15 days.
- (3) The Government of the Republic of Macedonia shall notify the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia not later than 15 days after the appointment of the trustee, for the purpose of calling elections for Mayor.

18. Announcing the election results

State Election Commission

Article 135

- (1) The State Election Commission shall announce the initial election results consecutively, as they receive them electronically; the results based on the protocols of the Municipal Election Commissions or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall be announced within 12 hours after the elections are completed.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall announce the final election results immediately, or not later than 24 hours from the day they become final.

Municipal Election Commission

Article 136

- (1) Within 7 hours after the voting is completed, the Municipal Election Commission shall announce the initial results of the elections for Members of Council i.e. Mayor based

on the data from the Election Boards by displaying the results on a bulletin board in the municipality and announcing them to the media.

- (2) Within 10 hours after the voting is completed, the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall announce the initial results of the elections for Members of Council i.e. Mayor, based on the data from Municipal Election Commissions for the City of Skopje, by displaying them on a bulletin board in the City of Skopje and announcing them to the media.
- (3) The Municipal Election Commissions i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall announce the final results of the elections for Members of Council and Mayor immediately and not later than 24 hours from the day they become final.

19. Elections for President of the Republic of Macedonia due to the termination of the mandate

Announcing the elections

Article 137

- (1) When the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia adopts an act that confirms the existence of conditions for cessation of the office of President of the Republic of Macedonia, in accordance with Article 81 paragraph (8) of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the Court shall submit it, within 24 hours, to the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and shall publish it in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia".
- (2) The President of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall issue an act announcing the elections for President of the Republic of Macedonia within 48 hours of the publication of the act referred to in paragraph (1) of this article.

Procedure for collection of signatures

Article 138

The collection of signatures in the procedure for nominating a candidate for President of the Republic of Macedonia and the public inspection of the Voter Register shall be administered in front of the State Election Commission and shall commence on the fifth day from the day of the announcement of the presidential elections due to termination of the mandate and shall last for ten days.

Submitting a list of candidate

Article 139

- (1) The list of candidates for President of the Republic of Macedonia shall be submitted to the State Election Commission, at the latest, on the sixteenth day from the day of the announcement of the elections.
- (2) A candidate may revoke his/her candidacy, at the latest, within 17 days from the day of the announcement of the elections.

Competency of the State Election Commission

Article 140

- (1) Within 24 hours upon receipt of the list of presidential candidates, the State Election Commission shall determine whether they have been submitted within the deadline prescribed in Article 139, paragraph (1) of this Code.
- (2) Should the Commission from paragraph (1) of this article conclude, upon receiving the lists, that certain irregularities or omissions have been committed, then it shall call upon the lists submitters to remove them immediately and at the latest within 24 hours after the submission of the lists.
- (3) Should the Commission from paragraph (1) of this article conclude that the lists have been submitted within the prescribed deadline and have been made in accordance with this Code or that the lists submitters did remove the irregularities and omissions within

the deadline set in paragraph (2) of this article, then the Commission shall confirm the submitted lists with a decision, within 24 hours after receiving the corrected lists.

Article 141

- (1) Should the State Election Commission conclude that the lists were not submitted on time or the lists submitters did not remove the irregularities and omissions found within the deadline prescribed in Article 140, paragraph (2) of this Code, the Commission shall reject the submitted list with a decision within 24 hours.
- (2) The decision of the State Election Commission can be appealed to the Administrative Court within 24 hours upon the receipt of the decision.
- (3) The Administrative Court shall decide upon the appeal within 24 hours upon the receipt.
- (4) The appeal referred to in paragraph (2) of this article shall be submitted through the State Election Commission, and submitting the appeal by post shall not be permitted.

Publishing the lists

Article 142

The State Election Commission shall announce the verified lists in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, not later than on the twenty-first day from the day of the announcement of the elections.

Election campaign

Article 143

The election campaigns shall commence on the twenty second day from the day of the announcement of the elections and shall end 24 hours before Election Day.

Article 144

DELETED

Article 145

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Publishing the descriptions of the polling places

Article 146

- (1) The State Election Commission shall submit a copy of the decision on determining the number and the description of every polling place to the Municipal Election Commission, not later than ten days prior to Election Day.
- (2) The Municipal Election Commission shall, not later than five days prior to Election Day, display the descriptions of the determined polling stations at a visible place, thus indicating which polling places are designated for voters from a particular area.

VIII. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Article 147

- (1) The procedure for the protection of the right to vote is urgent.
- (2) The submissions (complaints and appeals) for the protection of the right to vote shall be submitted directly to the competent bodies via the institutions that have made the previous decisions.
- (3) The complaints shall be submitted in writing and shall include:
 - time, place, description of the violation committed, the perpetrator and the evidence the submitter calls upon;
 - name, surname and a signature of the submitter of the complaint or authorized representative respectively, and
 - electronic mailbox for receiving correspondence.

- (4) Submitting a complaint and appeal by mail shall not be permitted.
- (5) The complaints may also be submitted on separate templates prescribed by the State Election Commission, which are published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” and on the website of the State Election Commission.
- (6) Complaints and appeals for out-of-country voting cannot be submitted via regular mail; this can be done via email, in person or through an authorized representative.
- (7) The decisions of the Administrative Court are final, cannot be appealed and no other legal remedy can be used against them, except in cases prescribed by this Code.

1. Procedure for protection of the right to vote of the list submitters

Article 148

- (1) Each submitter of a list of candidates in the procedure for voting, tabulating and determining the results has the right to submit a complaint to the State Election Commission.
- (2) The complaint from paragraph (1) of this article shall be submitted within 48 hours after the end of the voting, i.e. after the preliminary results are announced.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall decide on the complaint within 48 hours from having received it.
- (4) The decision from paragraph (3) of this article shall be delivered through the electronic mailbox for receiving correspondence and the decision shall be considered as delivered within five hours after it has been delivered in the electronic mailbox.
- (5) The submitter can appeal the decision of the State Election Commission to the Administrative Court within 48 hours from the receipt of the decision.
- (6) The appeal to the Administrative Court shall be based on the grounds and allegations listed in the complaint on which the first instance decision was adopted.

2. Procedure for protection of the voters right to vote

Article 149

- (1) Every voter whose individual voting right has been violated in the election procedure may submit a complaint to the State Election Commission within 24 hours.
- (2) Every voter whose individual voting right has been violated in the procedure for out-of-country voting may submit a complaint to the State Election Commission within 24 hours through express mail, and time of handing over the shipment shall be considered as a time of submission of the complaint.
- (3) The first instance authority is required to make a decision upon the complaint within 4 hours of the receipt.
- (4) The decision made by the first instance authority, or the State Election Commission, may be appealed to the Administrative Court within 24 hours from the receipt of the decision.
- (5) If the decision from paragraph (2) refers to certain action taken by the Election Board and the voting process is still ongoing, the voter shall be enabled to exercise his/her voting right.

Article 149-a

- (1) Any voter whose individual voting right has been violated at any stage of the electoral process may submit a complaint to the State Election Commission within 24 hours.
- (2) Any voter whose individual voting right has been violated abroad, at any stage of the electoral process, may submit a complaint to the State Election Commission within 24 hours of the day of the violation, via electronic or express mail, and the time of filing the complaint shall be counted from the time of handing over the shipment.
- (3) The first-instance authority shall pass a decision within 4 hours of the receipt of the complaint.
- (4) The decision of the State Election Commission may be appealed to the Administrative Court within 24 hours of the receipt of the decision.

The decision-making of the Administrative Court

Article 150

- (1) The Administrative Court shall decide on the appeals from Articles 148, 149 and 149–a of this Code in a panel of 5 judges selected by drawing of lots, at a public session that the public and the authorized representatives whose appeals are subject to adjudication shall be informed about.
- (2) The Administrative Court shall pass a decision within 48 hours of the receipt of the appeal and publish it on its website within 24 hours. The published decisions shall also include the manner of voting of each judge individually.
- (3) The Administrative Court may confirm or overturn the decision.
- (4) Decisions related to complaints and appeals shall be published, as they are adopted, on the website of the Administrative Court, the State Election Commission, the Municipal Election Commissions and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje and in another appropriate manner.

IX. ANNULMENT AND REPETITION OF VOTING

Article 151

- (1) The State Election Commission shall pass a decision either ex officio, or based on a filed complaint, and annul the voting at the polling station in the following cases:
 - if the Election Board fails to conduct the voting in the manner defined by this Code;
 - if the secrecy of vote has been violated;
 - if the voting has been suspended for more than three hours;
 - if the police failed to respond to the request for intervention made by the Election Board when needed, which affected the conduct of voting in the polling station;
 - if the number of ballots in the ballot box is higher than the number of voters who cast their vote; and
 - if any person or persons have voted for other persons.
- (2) When deciding upon complaints, the State Election Commission is required to inspect the overall election material in the cases stipulated in items 1, 2, 5 and 6 from paragraph (1) of this article, if the facts which are referred to have been entered in the protocol.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall pass a decision to repeat the voting in the cases stipulated in paragraph (1) of this article at the polling stations where the voting has been annulled, only if the total number of voters registered at those polling stations at the level of electoral district, city, i.e. municipality has an impact on the overall results.
- (4) The decision from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article may be appealed to the Administrative Court through the State Election Commission, within 24 hours from the receipt of the decision.
- (5) The Administrative Court must decide on the lawsuit within 48 hours of its receipt.
- (6) The voting at the polling station that has been annulled shall be repeated 14 days after Election Day.

X. ADDITIONAL ELECTIONS

1. Termination of the term of office and additional elections for Members of Parliament

Article 152

- (1) The term of office of a Member of Parliament shall terminate before the expiry of the period for which he/she has been elected if:
 - he/she resigns;
 - he/she is sentenced for a criminal offence for which a prison sentence of at least five years is prescribed;
 - there is incompatibility with the office of Member of Parliament;
 - he/she dies;
 - he/she loses capacity to contract by an effective decision.
- (2) If the Member of Parliament resigns, during its next session, the Parliament shall determine that his/her term of office terminates on the day when that session is held.
- (3) The term of office of a Member of Parliament shall terminate on the day the conditions from paragraph (1), line 2, 3, 4, 5, of this article are fulfilled, which shall be determined by the Parliament at its next session.

Article 153

- (1) If the term of office of the candidate elected from the list of candidates terminates on one of the grounds prescribed in Article 152 of this Code, the next candidate on the list shall become Member of Parliament for the remaining duration of the term of office.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall notify the next candidate on the list in the cases referred to in paragraph (1) of this article within three days of the termination of the term of office.
- (3) If the following candidate on the list from paragraph (2) of this article fails to notify the State Election Commission within eight days whether he/she accepts the term of office, this right shall be transferred to the next candidate on the list.
- (4) In case when the list of candidates has been exhausted in accordance with the provisions set in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this article, realisation of this right shall commence again from the very start of the list of candidates, if there are any on the list.

Article 153-a

- (11) As an exception to Article 153 of this Code, if the Member of Parliament whose term of office has been terminated on one of the grounds prescribed in Article 152 of this Code is female, then the next female candidate on the list shall become a Member of Parliament for the remaining duration of the term of office.
- (12) The State Election Commission shall notify the next female candidate on the list in the cases from paragraph (1) of this article within three days of the termination of the term of office of the Member of Parliament.
- (13) If the candidate from paragraph (2) of this article fails to notify the State Election Commission within eight days whether she accepts the term of office, this right shall be transferred to the next female candidate on the list.
- (14) In case when the list of candidates has been exhausted in accordance with paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this article, this right shall be fulfilled in accordance with Article 153 of this Code.

Article 154

- (1) If there are no candidates on the list of candidates and if the grounds for acquiring the term of office of Member of Parliament as prescribed in Article 153 of this Code are exhausted, additional elections for Members of Parliament shall be announced in the electoral district where the Member of Parliament was originally elected.

2. Termination, revocation of the term of office and additional election for Member of Council and Mayor

Article 155

- (1) If the term of office of a Member of Council terminates or is revoked on one of the grounds prescribed with the Law on Local Self-Government and with this Code, then

the next candidate on the list shall become member of council for the remaining duration of the term of office.

- (2) The Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall notify the next candidate on the list in the cases referred to in paragraph (1) of this article within three days of the termination of the term of office of the Member of Council.
- (3) Within 8 days from the day of receipt of the notification from paragraph (2) of this article, the candidate from paragraph (1) of this article shall be required to notify, in written, the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje whether he/she accepts the term of office.
- (4) If the candidate, pursuant to paragraph (3) of this article, does not accept the term of office, this right shall be transferred to the next candidate on the list.

Article 155-a

- (1) As an exception to Article 155 of this Code, if the member of council whose mandate has been terminated or revoked on one of the grounds prescribed with the Law on Local Self-Government and with this Code is female, the next female candidate on the list shall become a member of council for the remaining duration of the term of office.
- (2) The Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall notify the next female candidate on the list in the cases prescribed in paragraph (1) of this article within three days of the termination of the term of office of the Member of Council.
- (3) If the female candidate from paragraph (2) of this article fails to notify the Municipal Election Commission i.e. the Election Commission of the City of Skopje within eight days whether she accepts the term of office, this right shall be transferred to the next female candidate on the list.
- (4) In case when the list of candidates has been exhausted in accordance with paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this article, this right shall be fulfilled in accordance with Article 155 of this Code.

Article 156

- (1) In case when, in accordance with Article 155, the list of candidates is exhausted, the realisation of this right shall commence again from the very start of the list of candidates, if there are any on the list.
- (2) If there are no candidates on the list of candidates and if the conditions for acquiring the term of office as Members of Council have been exhausted, additional elections for members of council of the municipality and members of the council of the City of Skopje shall be conducted.
- (3) The additional elections shall be announced by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia within 15 days from the day of revocation of the term of office.

3. Elections for replacement of Members of Councils

Article 157

- (1) If it is established by means of an effective court decision that during the election, a political party, coalition or a group of voters used bribe and criminal proceeds to win votes, the seats won by this political party, coalition or group of voters shall be annulled by the Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje, and replacement elections shall be conducted for these seats.
- (2) Replacement elections may not be announced six months prior to the expiry of the term of office for which the council was elected.
- (3) Pursuant to paragraph (1) of this article, the term of office of a Member of Council elected at replacement elections shall last until the end of the term of office of the member of council whose term of office was terminated or revoked.

- (4) The replacement election shall be announced by the President of the Parliament upon proposal of the competent Municipal Election Commission.

4. Early elections of Mayor and Members of Councils

Article 158

- (1) If the term of office of a Mayor is terminated due to one of the reasons stipulated in the Law on Local Self-Government and in this Code and if the Mayor receives a non-confidence vote in accordance with the Law, early elections for Mayor shall be announced.
- (2) If less than six months remain until the regular elections for Mayor, the early elections from paragraph (1) of this article shall not be called.

Article 159

Early elections for Members of Council shall be called before the end of the term of office if one of the conditions stipulated in the Law on Local Self-Government and in this Code is fulfilled.

5. Repeated election of Members of Councils

Article 160

If the session of the council does not take place until the thirty-first day from the day of the completion of the elections, in accordance with article 37, paragraphs (2) and (3) of the Law on Local Self-Government, repeated elections for Member of Council shall take place, which shall be called by the President of the Parliament.

XI. ELECTION OBSERVATION

Article 161

- (1) Elections and election procedures may be observed by:
 - domestic associations and foreign organisations registered in accordance with the law at least one year before Election Day and whose statutes incorporate the principle of protection of human rights;
 - international organisations; and
 - representatives of foreign countries.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall determine the procedure for observing the elections and the electoral procedure.

Article 162

- (1) The organisations and persons from article 161 of this Code may observe the entire election process after they have obtained the accreditation from the State Election Commission.
- (2) Applications for observation, together with the required identification documents, shall be submitted to the State Election Commission from the day of the announcement of the elections, but not later than 10 days prior to Election Day.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall issue accreditations to the observers not later than seven days from the day of the receipt of the application.
- (4) The State Election Commission has the right to revoke the observation accreditation of the entities referred to in Article 161 of this Code if they start expressing their support for a candidate, party, or a coalition.

Article 162-a

Only accredited observers can report on the course of the electoral process and the related observation activities.

XII. POLLING STATIONS

Article 163

For the purposes of this Code, a polling station shall be understood as an inhabited place or part of an inhabited place where the voters from that area exercise their right to vote.

1. Criteria for determining the polling stations

Article 164

- (1) Polling stations shall be established in those inhabited places or parts of inhabited places that have voters who are registered in the Voter List for those inhabited places or parts of the inhabited places.
- (2) The polling stations shall be within the boundaries of the municipality.
- (3) For the out-of-country voting within the DCOs or consular offices of the Republic of Macedonia, special polling stations shall be determined.

Article 165

- (1) The number of voters voting in a polling station shall be determined in a manner that shall ensure unhindered voting during the voting time.
- (2) The number of voters voting at a polling station cannot be higher than 1,000 voters.
- (3) A polling station shall not be established in an inhabited place that has less than 10 voters and in DCOs or consular offices with less than 10 voters who have registered to vote.

Article 166

- (1) As a general rule, the polling station shall be no further than 3 km away from the furthest address in urban settlements and 5 km in rural settlement.
- (2) The rule prescribed in paragraph (1) of this article shall not apply for the polling stations at the DCOs or consular offices.

2. Procedure for determining, changing and announcing polling stations

Article 167

The State Election Commission, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the competent authority for urban planning and construction, the competent authority for land surveying and cadastre and the administrative organisation in charge of statistics and organisational-technical and methodological processing of the data in the Voter Register shall draft the professional-technical descriptions of the polling stations. The professional-technical description of the polling stations contains the municipality, number of electoral district, number of polling station, inhabited place and location of the polling station (facility and address of the facility where the voting will be conducted, inhabited place), whether the polling station is an entirely inhabited, street (name), indicator of allocated house number (from – to).

Article 168

- (1) Based on the professional-technical descriptions of the polling stations prepared in accordance with Article 167 of this Code, the State Election Commission will reach a decision determining the number and description for each polling station separately, by pointing out the inhabited areas, i.e. streets and house numbers included in the polling stations and the voting facility.

Article 169

- (1) The change of the description of the polling station shall be done when changing the names of the streets or house numbers and if the number of voters or the distance from the polling station has increased.
- (2) The State Election Commission shall pass a decision to determine the change in the description of the polling station.

- (3) Changes in the description of the polling stations can be made not later than 30 days prior to Election Day or the day of Referendum.

Article 170

- (1) The Municipal Election Commission or the Election Commission of the City of Skopje shall display the descriptions of the polling stations that have been designated for voting by determining the allocation of voters per polling station according to the area where the voter resides, on a visible location and not later than 15 days prior to Election Day or the day of Referendum.
- (2) The announcement of the descriptions of the polling stations may also be conducted through the local means of public information.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall inform the citizens by publishing the descriptions of the polling stations in the press and other means of public information.

3. Conditions for the functioning of polling stations

Article 171

- (1) Each polling station shall have an ordinal number.
- (2) The ordinal number of the polling station shall be displayed on the facility where voting for that particular polling station is conducted; if voting for two or more polling stations is conducted in the same facility, the ordinal number of the polling station shall also be displayed on each of the rooms designated for voting in that polling station.

Article 172

The premises in which the voting is conducted cannot be located in a facility in which the seat of a political party is located or which is used for activities of political parties.

Article 173

- (1) Voting shall be conducted in a closed room that fulfils the conditions for individual, free and secret voting of the voters.
- (2) The names of the inhabited places and parts of the inhabited places (streets and parts of streets) that are covered by the polling station (its description) shall be displayed in the room where the voting is conducted.
- (3) The voting room shall be equipped with polling booths, screens or curtains so that voters cannot be seen when marking the ballot.
- (4) Every polling booth must be equipped with a pen for the needs of the voters.
- (5) Ballot boxes made of hard material shall be placed in the voting room and they shall be handed over to the Election Boards sealed, along with a protocol.
- (6) The voting rooms must be properly equipped from the professional and technical point of view, so that they can be locked and sealed.

XIII. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Article 174

- (1) Electoral districts shall include (cover) the polling stations within the borders of the municipalities where the citizens exercise their right to vote.
- (2) The out-of-country electoral district shall consist of polling stations, or DCOs, or Consular Offices, within the electoral district where the citizens exercise their right to vote in line with this Code.

Article 175

- (1) There are seven electoral districts in the Republic of Macedonia:

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2592 to 2653
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2593/1 to 2593/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2597/1 to 2597/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2601/1 to 2601/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2614/1 to 2614/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2617/1 to 2618/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2626/1 to 2626/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2644/1 to 2644/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2649/1 to 2649/1
Municipality Karpos, polling stations from 2651/1 to 2653/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2425 to 2427
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2425/1 to 2426/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2654 to 2672
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2667/1 to 2667/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2669/1 to 2669/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2671/1 to 2671/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2739 to 2751
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2748/1 to 2748/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2751/1 to 2751/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2761 to 2771
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2762/1 to 2762/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2774 to 2795
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2781/1 to 2782/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2784/1 to 2784/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2789/1 to 2789/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2793/1 to 2793/1
Municipality Kisela Voda, polling stations from 2795/1 to 2795/1
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2796 to 2818
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2796/1 to 2797/1
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2805/1 to 2806/1

Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2822 to 2822
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2828 to 2828
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2830 to 2868
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2842/1 to 2844/1
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2847/1 to 2847/1
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2861/1 to 2861/1
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2867/1 to 2867/1
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2870 to 2871
Municipality Centar, polling stations from 2870/1 to 2871/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2819 to 2821
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2819/1 to 2819/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2823 to 2827
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2826/1 to 2826/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2829 to 2829
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2829/1 to 2829/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2869 to 2869
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2869/1 to 2869/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2872 to 2898
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2873/1 to 2874/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2876/1 to 2877/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2884/1 to 2884/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2886/1 to 2889/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2893/1 to 2893/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2673 to 2738
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2679/1 to 2680/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2682/1 to 2684/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2714/1 to 2717/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2719/1 to 2721/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2730/1 to 2730/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2732/1 to 2733/1
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2752 to 2760

Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2772 to 2773
Municipality Aerodrom, polling stations from 2772/1 to 2772/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2428 to 2461
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2428/1 to 2428/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2430/1 to 2431/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2433/1 to 2435/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2438/1 to 2438/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2447/1 to 2447/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2451/1 to 2452/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2458/1 to 2458/1
Municipality Saraj, polling stations from 2460/1 to 2460/1
Municipality Makedonski Brod, polling stations from 0224 to 0274
Municipality Makedonski Brod, polling stations from 0247/1 to 0248/1
Municipality Sopiste, polling stations from 2412 to 2424
Municipality Sopiste, polling stations from 2423/1 to 2423/1
Municipality Studenicani, polling stations from 2341 to 2361
Municipality Studenicani, polling stations from 2341/1 to 2341/1
Municipality Studenicani, polling stations from 2345/1 to 2351/1
Municipality Studenicani, polling stations from 2353/1 to 2353/1
Municipality Studenicani, polling stations from 2359/1 to 2359/1

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 2
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2332 to 2332
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2476 to 2552
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2476/1 to 2476/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2493/1 to 2493/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2499/1 to 2499/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2503/1 to 2503/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2507/1 to 2507/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2509/1 to 2511/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2514/1 to 2515/1
Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2531/1 to 2531/1

Municipality Gazi Baba, polling stations from 2538/1 to 2540/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2553 to 2591
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2553/1 to 2554/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2560/1 to 2560/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2571/1 to 2572/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2574/1 to 2574/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2576/1 to 2576/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2579/1 to 2582/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2587/1 to 2588/1
Municipality Gjorche Petrov, polling stations from 2590/1 to 2590/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2899 to 2903
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2900/1 to 2900/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2916 to 2917
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2916/1 to 2917/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2922 to 2922
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2922/1 to 2922/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2924 to 2928
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2934 to 2945
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2934/1 to 2937/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2939/1 to 2939/1
Municipality Cair, polling stations from 2941/1 to 2941/1
Municipality Suto Orizari, polling stations from 2955 to 2973
Municipality Suto Orizari, polling stations from 2955/1 to 2967/1
Municipality Suto Orizari, polling stations from 2969/1 to 2972/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2904 to 2915
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2904/1 to 2905/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2907/1 to 2907/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2909/1 to 2909/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2911/1 to 2911/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2914/1 to 2915/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2918 to 2921

Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2918/1 to 2921/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2923 to 2923
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2929 to 2933
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2946 to 2954
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2948/1 to 2948/1
Municipality Butel, polling stations from 2950/1 to 2951/1
Municipality Aracinovo, polling stations from 2333 to 2340
Municipality Aracinovo, polling stations from 2333/1 to 2337/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 0995 to 1104
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 0995/1 to 0995/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1000/1 to 1001/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1006/1 to 1006/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1008/1 to 1011/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1013/1 to 1014/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1017/1 to 1017/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1020/1 to 1020/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1026/1 to 1026/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1040/1 to 1042/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1047/1 to 1051/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1055/1 to 1055/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1057/1 to 1061/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1064/1 to 1064/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1078/1 to 1080/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1086/1 to 1087/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1091/1 to 1091/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1097/1 to 1098/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1101/1 to 1103/1
Municipality Lipkovo, polling stations from 1105 to 1130
Municipality Lipkovo, polling stations from 1111/1 to 1113/1
Municipality Lipkovo, polling stations from 1119/1 to 1121/1
Municipality Lipkovo, polling stations from 1125/1 to 1125/1

Municipality Lipkovo, polling stations from 1128/1 to 1130/1
Municipality Staro Nagoricane, polling stations from 1156 to 1186
Municipality Cucer – Sandevo, polling stations from 2462 to 2475

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 3
Municipality Berovo, polling stations from 0001 to 0016
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2135 to 2203
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2138/1 to 2138/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2143/1 to 2144/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2146/1 to 2146/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2153/1 to 2153/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2159/1 to 2159/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2170/1 to 2170/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2172/1 to 2173/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2201/1 to 2201/1
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2207 to 2210
Municipality Veles, polling stations from 2210/1 to 2210/1
Municipality Vinica, polling stations from 0303 to 0332
Municipality Vinica, polling stations from 0310/1 to 0311/1
Municipality Vinica, polling stations from 0315/1 to 0315/1
Municipality Gradsko, polling stations from 2217 to 2226
Municipality Gradsko, polling stations from 2219/1 to 2219/1
Municipality Delcevo, polling stations from 0572 to 0604
Municipality Delcevo, polling stations from 0577/1 to 0577/1
Municipality Delcevo, polling stations from 0582/1 to 0583/1
Municipality Zelenikovo, polling stations from 2362 to 2376
Municipality Zrnovci, polling stations from 0888 to 0891
Municipality Ilinden, polling stations from 2393 to 2411
Municipality Ilinden, polling stations from 2393/1 to 2397/1
Municipality Ilinden, polling stations from 2399/1 to 2399/1
Municipality Karbinici, polling stations from 2316 to 2331

Municipality Kocani, polling stations from 0830 to 0874
Municipality Kocani, polling stations from 0834/1 to 0834/1
Municipality Kocani, polling stations from 0836/1 to 0838/1
Municipality Kocani, polling stations from 0857/1 to 0857/1
Municipality Kocani, polling stations from 0860/1 to 0861/1
Municipality Kocani, polling stations from 0892 to 0902
Municipality Kratovo, polling stations from 0903 to 0937
Municipality Kratovo, polling stations from 0931/1 to 0932/1
Municipality Kriva Palanka, polling stations from 0938 to 0981
Municipality Kriva Palanka, polling stations from 0945/1 to 0947/1
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1131 to 1141
Municipality Kumanovo, polling stations from 1144 to 1150
Municipality Lozovo, polling stations from 1704 to 1712
Municipality Makedonska Kamenica, polling stations from 0605 to 0618
Municipality Makedonska Kamenica, polling stations from 0610/1 to 0612/1
Municipality Petrovec, polling stations from 2377 to 2392
Municipality Petrovec, polling stations from 2377/1 to 2378/1
Municipality Petrovec, polling stations from 2382/1 to 2382/1
Municipality Pehcevo, polling stations from 0017 to 0025
Municipality Probistip, polling stations from 1530 to 1573
Municipality Probistip, polling stations from 1539/1 to 1539/1
Municipality Probistip, polling stations from 1566/1 to 1566/1
Municipality Rankovce, polling stations from 0982 to 0994
Municipality Sveti Nikole, polling stations from 1671 to 1703
Municipality Sveti Nikole, polling stations from 1675/1 to 1675/1
Municipality Sveti Nikole, polling stations from 1684/1 to 1684/1
Municipality Staro Nagoricane, polling stations from 1142 to 1143
Municipality Staro Nagoricane, polling stations from 1151 to 1155
Municipality Caska, polling stations from 2204 to 2206
Municipality Caska, polling stations from 2205/1 to 2205/1
Municipality Caska, polling stations from 2211 to 2216

Municipality Caska, polling stations from 2227 to 2246
Municipality Caska, polling stations from 2234/1 to 2234/1
Municipality Cesinovo – Obleshevo, polling stations from 0875 to 0887
Municipality Stip, polling stations from 2247 to 2315
Municipality Stip, polling stations from 2247/1 to 2250/1
Municipality Stip, polling stations from 2255/1 to 2255/1
Municipality Stip, polling stations from 2268/1 to 2271/1
Municipality Stip, polling stations from 2280/1 to 2280/1
Municipality Stip, polling stations from 2294/1 to 2294/1

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 4
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0194 to 0204
Municipality Bogdanci, polling stations from 0368 to 0377
Municipality Bogdanci, polling stations from 0371/1 to 0371/1
Municipality Bogdanci, polling stations from 0376/1 to 0376/1
Municipality Bosilovo, polling stations from 1811 to 1826
Municipality Bosilovo, polling stations from 1824/1 to 1824/1
Municipality Bosilovo, polling stations from 1842 to 1843
Municipality Valandovo, polling stations from 0280 to 0302
Municipality Valandovo, polling stations from 284/1 to 284/1
Municipality Vasilevo, polling stations from 1794 to 1810
Municipality Vasilevo, polling stations from 1800/1 to 1800/1
Municipality Vasilevo, polling stations from 1804/1 to 1804/1
Municipality Gevgelija, polling stations from 0333 to 0367
Municipality Gevgelija, polling stations from 0349/1 to 0350/1
Municipality Demir Kapija, polling stations from 1238 to 1248
Municipality Kavadarci, polling stations from 0659 to 0712
Municipality Kavadarci, polling stations from 0660/1 to 0660/1
Municipality Kavadarci, polling stations from 0668/1 to 0668/1
Municipality Kavadarci, polling stations from 0672/1 to 0674/1
Municipality Kavadarci, polling stations from 0684/1 to 0684/1

Municipality Konce, polling stations from 1608 to 1617
Municipality Krivogastani, polling stations from 1508 to 1519
Municipality Mogila, polling stations from 0181 to 0193
Municipality Mogila, polling stations from 0214 to 0223
Municipality Negotino, polling stations from 1213 to 1237
Municipality Negotino, polling stations from 1216/1 to 1216/1
Municipality Negotino, polling stations from 1221/1 to 1221/1
Municipality Negotino, polling stations from 1223/1 to 1223/1
Municipality Novaci, polling stations from 0158 to 0180
Municipality Novaci, polling stations from 0161/1 to 0161/1
Municipality Novo Selo, polling stations from 1774 to 1792
Municipality Novo Selo, polling stations from 1791/1 to 1791/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1350 to 1457
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1367/1 to 1367/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1374/1 to 1375/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1380/1 to 1380/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1385/1 to 1385/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1387/1 to 1387/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1392/1 to 1392/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1400/1 to 1400/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1402/1 to 1402/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1456/1 to 1456/1
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1494 to 1507
Municipality Prilep, polling stations from 1520 to 1529
Municipality Radovis, polling stations from 1574 to 1607
Municipality Radovis, polling stations from 1578/1 to 1583/1
Municipality Radovis, polling stations from 1618 to 1623
Municipality Rosoman, polling stations from 0713 to 0722
Municipality Dojran, polling stations from 0378 to 0385
Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1713 to 1773
Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1720/1 to 1720/1

Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1727/1 to 1728/1
Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1730/1 to 1731/1
Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1763/1 to 1763/1
Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1793 to 1793
Municipality Strumica, polling stations from 1827 to 1841

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 5
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0549 to 0554
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0534 to 0542
Municipality Centar Zupa, polling stations from 0557 to 0571
Municipality Centar Zupa, polling stations from 0562/1 to 0562/1
Municipality Debarca, polling stations from 1314 to 1334
Municipality Debarca, polling stations from 1343 to 1349
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0026 to 0157
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0038/1 to 0040/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0066/1 to 0066/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0076/1 to 0076/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0089/1 to 0089/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0093/1 to 0094/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0102/1 to 0102/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0106/1 to 0106/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0119/1 to 0125/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0150/1 to 0150/1
Municipality Bitola, polling stations from 0205 to 0213
Municipality Vevcani, polling stations from 1921 to 1923
Municipality Demir Hisar, polling stations from 0619 to 0658
Municipality Demir Hisar, polling stations from 0623/1 to 0623/1
Municipality Dolneni, polling stations from 1209 to 1211
Municipality Dolneni, polling stations from 1458 to 1493
Municipality Dolneni, polling stations from 1470/1 to 1470/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0723 to 0757

Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0726/1 to 0726/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0733/1 to 0733/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0736/1 to 0739/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0745/1 to 0745/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0751/1 to 0752/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0758 to 0781
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0802 to 0813
Municipality Krivogastani, polling stations from 1212 to 1212
Municipality Krusevo, polling stations from 1187 to 1208
Municipality Krusevo, polling stations from 1187/1 to 1187/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1249 to 1313
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1253/1 to 1255/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1258/1 to 1259/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1263/1 to 1264/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1268/1 to 1268/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1278/1 to 1278/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1281/1 to 1283/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1298/1 to 1298/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1308/1 to 1310/1
Municipality Ohrid, polling stations from 1335 to 1342
Municipality Plasnica, polling stations from 0275 to 0279
Municipality Plasnica, polling stations from 0276/1 to 0279/1
Municipality Resen, polling stations from 1624 to 1670
Municipality Resen, polling stations from 1631/1 to 1631/1
Municipality Resen, polling stations from 1638/1 to 1638/1
Municipality Resen, polling stations from 1640/1 to 1640/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1844 to 1920
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1846/1 to 1846/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1848/1 to 1848/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1853/1 to 1853/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1858/1 to 1859/1

Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1863/1 to 1863/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1872/1 to 1873/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1875/1 to 1876/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1883/1 to 1884/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1895/1 to 1896/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1899/1 to 1899/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1905/1 to 1907/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1909/1 to 1910/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 1916/1 to 1918/1
Municipality Struga, polling stations from 2976 to 2976

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 6
Municipality Bogovinje, polling stations from 2050 to 2079
Municipality Bogovinje, polling stations from 2050/1 to 2050/1
Municipality Bogovinje, polling stations from 2062/1 to 2062/1
Municipality Bogovinje, polling stations from 2065/1 to 2065/1
Municipality Bogovinje, polling stations from 2069/1 to 2071/1
Municipality Bogovinje, polling stations from 2073/1 to 2074/1
Municipality Brvenica, polling stations from 2032 to 2049
Municipality Brvenica, polling stations from 2036/1 to 2040/1
Municipality Brvenica, polling stations from 2049/1 to 2049/1
Municipality Vrapciste, polling stations from 0436 to 0462
Municipality Vrapciste, polling stations from 0436/1 to 0439/1
Municipality Vrapciste, polling stations from 0444/1 to 0445/1
Municipality Vrapciste, polling stations from 0447/1 to 0447/1
Municipality Vrapciste, polling stations from 0455/1 to 0458/1
Municipality Vrapciste, polling stations from 0461/1 to 0461/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0386 to 0435
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0387/1 to 0388/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0396/1 to 0398/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0403/1 to 0403/1

Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0406/1 to 0407/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0413/1 to 0413/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0419/1 to 0419/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0422/1 to 0422/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0424/1 to 0427/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0435/1 to 0435/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0480 to 0480
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0499 to 0533
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0499/1 to 0501/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0504/1 to 0508/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0510/1 to 0511/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0518/1 to 0519/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0521/1 to 0521/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0527/1 to 0528/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0531/1 to 0531/1
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 0782 to 0782
Municipality Gostivar, polling stations from 2974 to 2975
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0477 to 0477
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0477/1 to 0477/1
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0543 to 0548
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0544/1 to 0544/1
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0547/1 to 0547/1
Municipality Debar, polling stations from 0555 to 0556
Municipality Zelino, polling stations from 2089 to 2114
Municipality Zelino, polling stations from 2090/1 to 2091/1
Municipality Zelino, polling stations from 2106/1 to 2110/1
Municipality Zelino, polling stations from 2113/1 to 2114/1
Municipality Jegunovce, polling stations from 2115 to 2134
Municipality Jegunovce, polling stations from 2132/1 to 2132/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0783 to 0801
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0783/1 to 0783/1

Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0793/1 to 793/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0814 to 0829
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0816/1 to 0817/1
Municipality Kicevo, polling stations from 0828/1 to 0828/1
Municipality Mavrovo and Rostusa, polling stations from 0463 to 0476
Municipality Mavrovo and Rostusa, polling stations from 0464/1 to 0465/1
Municipality Mavrovo and Rostusa, polling stations from 0470/1 to 0470/1
Municipality Mavrovo and Rostusa, polling stations from 0473/1 to 0474/1
Municipality Mavrovo and Rostusa, polling stations from 0478 to 0479
Municipality Mavrovo and Rostusa, polling stations from 0481 to 0498
Municipality Tearce, polling stations from 2007 to 2031
Municipality Tearce, polling stations from 2021/1 to 2022/1
Municipality Tearce, polling stations from 2029/1 to 2031/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1924 to 2006
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1927/1 to 1932/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1939/1 to 1939/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1941/1 to 1942/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1954/1 to 1954/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1958/1 to 1958/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1968/1 to 1968/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1971/1 to 1973/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1981/1 to 1981/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1989/1 to 1994/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 1997/1 to 1997/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 2000/1 to 2000/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 2004/1 to 2004/1
Municipality Tetovo, polling stations from 2080 to 2088

(2) For the purposes of voting for election of three Members of Parliament, one electoral district shall be established as follows:

- Electoral district no. 7, for voting of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing in Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia and Africa, with polling stations, or DCOs, or Consular Offices in those countries.

Article 176

If a polling station is altered in accordance with this Code, the voters from the new polling station shall exercise their right to vote in the electoral district in which the polling station used to belong.

Article 177

The State Election Commission shall publish the descriptions of the polling stations determined with this Code not later than 30 days prior to Election Day.

XIV. PENAL AND MISDEMEANOR PROVISIONS

Article 177-a

- (1) Regardless of the misdemeanour liability for not complying with the provisions of this Code related to limitation of election campaign expenses and submission of financial reports on election campaign financing, an election campaign participant shall be imposed:
 - partial loss of compensation of election campaign expenses;
 - complete loss of compensation of election campaign expenses; or
 - suspension of reimbursement of the compensation of election campaign expenses.
- (2) Partial loss of compensation of election campaign expenses shall be imposed to an election campaign participant in case when the permitted amount of election campaign expenses is exceeded, pursuant to Article 84 of this Code;
- (3) Partial loss of compensation of election campaign expenses as referred to in paragraph (2) of this article shall refer to the reduction of the amount for compensation of election campaign expenses by the amount in which the permitted amount of election campaign costs and expenses was exceeded. If the amount of funds exceeding the permitted amount of costs for the election campaign is higher than the amount for compensation of election campaign expenses, in such a case, a complete loss of the right of compensation of expenses for the election campaign shall be imposed.
- (4) Suspension of reimbursement of the compensation of election campaign expenses shall be imposed to an election campaign participant who fails to submit the financial reports in the prescribed deadline and content pursuant to Article 84-b, paragraphs (1) and (2) and Article 85 of this Code.
- (5) The suspension of reimbursement of the compensation of election campaign expenses from paragraph (4) of this article shall last until the obligation is properly fulfilled pursuant to Article 84-b, paragraphs (1) and (2) and Article 85 of this Code.
- (6) The decision for partial or complete loss of compensation of election campaign expenses referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this article and the decision for suspension of payment from paragraph (4) of this article shall be passed by the State Election Commission upon a proposal by the State Audit Office.
- (7) The decision from paragraph (6) of this article is final but an administrative dispute may be initiated against it.
- (8) The decision referred to in paragraph (7) of this article shall be published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.

Article 178

- (1) For acts of preventing the elections and voting, violating and abusing the right to vote, violating the voter’s freedom of choice, bribing during the elections and voting, destroying electoral documents, proceeding contrary to Article 8-a of this Code and committing an electoral fraud, the perpetrator shall be punished pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Code.

- (2) Any attempt to commit the criminal offences prescribed in paragraph (1) of this article shall be punishable.
- (3) The procedure for the criminal offences referred to in paragraph (1) of this article shall be urgent.

Article 178-a

For the misdemeanours prescribed in this Code, a misdemeanour procedure shall be initiated and misdemeanour sanction shall be pronounced by the competent court.

Article 179

- (1) A fine in the amount from 1.000 to 2.000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced for a violation committed by a member of the Government, deputy minister and a public office holder who is the head of an authority, for actions contrary to Article 8-a of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 3,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to a person for committing a misdemeanour by participating in an election campaign while wearing an official uniform (Article 9).
- (3) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 3,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to a Member of Election Management Body for committing a misdemeanour by acting contrary to the provisions of this Code (Article 19, paragraph (1)).

Article 179-a

- (1) A fine in the amount of 2,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a registered political party, coalition or an independent candidate if they use Voter Register data for other purposes, or if they use them on Election Day to mark the persons who have voted (Article 55, paragraphs (1) and (4)).
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for a political party, coalition or an independent candidate shall be pronounced to the authorized person of the political party, coalition or the independent candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 179-b

- (1) A fine in the amount of 8,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to a legal entity for committing a misdemeanour by non-complying with the deadline for commencing and concluding the election campaign (Article 69-a, paragraph (2)).
- (2) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 2,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to the president and the members of the State Election Commission for failure to proceed within the deadline prescribed in Article 69-a, paragraph (3) of this Code.
- (3) A fine in the amount from 600 to 2,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to a physical person for committing a misdemeanour by obstructing or preventing the election campaign (Article 73).
- (4) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 2,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to the president and the members of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption for failure to proceed within the deadline prescribed in Article 74, paragraph (1) of this Code.

Article 180

- (1) A fine in the amount of 8,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a registered political party, coalition or an independent candidate for failure to comply with Article 72 of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for a political party, coalition or an independent candidate shall be pronounced to the authorized person of the political party, coalition or the independent candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 181

- (1) A fine in the amount of 2,250 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to a broadcaster for a misdemeanour if:

- the broadcaster reports on the regular activities of the state bodies, the municipal bodies and the bodies of the City of Skopje, and the legal entities that have been entrusted with the performing of public authorities, contrary to Article 75-b of this Code;
 - editors, journalists, program hosts and presenters who are engaged in the program preparation for the broadcaster, if they participate in the pre-election activities of the election campaign participants contrary to Article 75-c of this Code;
 - the broadcaster does not record the output signal of the program from the day when elections are announced until their completion and does not keep the recordings from the program (Article 75- d, paragraph (1));
 - the broadcaster does not submit the recordings and other data related to the media coverage of the elections, contrary to Article 75-d paragraph (2);
 - notices and announcements for independent candidates are broadcast contrary to Article 75-e, paragraph (3);
 - the broadcaster does not provide equitable access to the informative program pursuant to Article 76-a, paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Code;
 - the public broadcasting service does not inform the citizens and people with impaired hearing about the election process (Article 76-a, paragraphs (1) and (4)); and
 - the public broadcasting service broadcasts free political presentation of the participants in the election process and acts contrary to Article 76-a, paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12) of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the broadcasting service shall be pronounced to the responsible person in the broadcasting service for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 181-a

- (1) A fine in the amount of 4,000 EUR in MKD equivalent for a misdemeanour shall be imposed to the broadcaster, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) if:
- the coverage of elections is not done in a fair, balanced and unbiased manner (Article 75, paragraph (1));
 - they do not provide equal conditions for access to the programs for all election campaign participants (Article 75, paragraph (2));
 - programs intended for juvenile audience are used for electoral media presentation (article 75, paragraph (3));
 - they finance or give donations to political parties in any way (Article 75, paragraph 4);
 - they act contrary to Article 75-f of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount from 800 to 1,200 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to the official who had approved the use of funds from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia or the budgets of municipalities and the City of Skopje, for paid political advertising during the election campaign.
- (3) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the broadcaster, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) shall be pronounced to the responsible person in the broadcasting service, printed media and electronic media (internet portals) for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 182

- (1) A fine in the amount of 4.000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a broadcaster, printed media and electronic media (internet portal) for committing a misdemeanour if:
- they broadcast or publish paid political advertising contrary to Article 75-e, paragraph (1) of this Code;
 - the notices and announcements for independent candidates contain data contrary to Article 75-e, paragraph (3) of this Code;

- they broadcast, i.e. publish announcements and advertisements contrary to Article 75-e, paragraph (6) of this Code;
 - they do not determine the pricelist for the political advertising of the participants in the election process (Article 75-f, paragraph (2));
 - they do not announce and/or submit the pricelist (Article 75-f, paragraph (3) and (4));
 - they change the pricelist during the election campaign (Article 75-f, paragraph (5));
 - the existing pricelists for paid political advertising are not used during the election campaign and if the price per second of paid political advertising exceeds the average price of advertising calculated in the last 3 months preceding the day of calling the elections (Article 75-f paragraph(6)).
 - they do not provide equitable access in accordance with Article 75-f, paragraph (7) of this Code, and
 - they violate the election silence (Article 76-b).
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the broadcaster, the printed media and the electronic media (internet portals) shall be pronounced to the responsible person of the broadcaster, printed media and the electronic media (internet portal), for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 183

- (1) A fine in the amount of 4,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to the broadcaster for committing a misdemeanour if it:
- broadcasts the election advertising without referring to it as paid political advertising and without separating it from other media content (Article 76, paragraph (1));
 - does not make a clear indication of the purchaser of the paid political advertising (Article 76, paragraph (2));
 - broadcasts election advertising involving minors in paid political advertising (Article 76, paragraph (3)), and
 - broadcasts paid political advertising in news, information, education and children’s programmes and during live coverage of religious, sports, cultural and other events (Article 76, paragraph (4));
 - broadcasts free political presentation in its programmes as of the day of the announcement of the elections until their completion (Article 76, paragraph 8).
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the broadcaster shall be pronounced to the responsible person of the broadcaster for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 183-a

- (1) A fine in the amount of 2,250 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a broadcaster, printed media and electronic media (internet portal) for committing a misdemeanour, if:
- results of the opinion poll are announced contrary to Article 77, paragraph (1) of this Code;
 - results of the opinion poll are announced and the data specified in Article 77, paragraph (2) of this Code are not stated; and
 - results of the opinion poll carried out on the day of voting are announced contrary to Article 77, paragraph (3) of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the broadcaster, printed media and electronic media (internet portal), shall be pronounced to the responsible person of the broadcaster, printed media and electronic media (internet portal), for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 184

- (1) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 3,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to the mayor of the municipality, i.e. the City of Skopje for failure to determine places for displaying posters free of charge and to mark them for each list submitter separately (Article 78).
- (2) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 3,000 EUR, in MKD equivalent, shall be pronounced to the mayor of municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia and the City of Skopje, for actions contrary to Article 78-a, paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Code.
- (3) A fine in the amount of 5,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to the legal entities which manage the advertising panels and billboards for actions contrary to Article 78-a, paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Code.
- (4) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the legal entity shall be pronounced to the responsible person in the legal entity from paragraph (3) of this Article.

Article 185

- (1) A fine in the amount of 2,500 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a registered political party, coalition, or an independent candidate for failure to remove the remains of the posters in the deadline prescribed in Article 79, paragraph (2) of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for the political party, coalition, or independent candidate shall be pronounced to the authorized person of the political party, coalition or the independent candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 186

A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 2,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a person for committing a misdemeanour by destroying or pasting election posters over the posters of other election campaign participants on the locations designated for their display (Article 78, paragraph (1)).

Article 187

- (1) A fine in the amount of 8,000 EUR in MKD equivalent for misdemeanour shall be imposed to a political party, coalition or an independent candidate for:
 - failure to report an election rally not later than 48 hours prior to its holding, and
 - organising a rally contrary to articles 81 and 82 of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for a the political party, coalition or an independent candidate shall be pronounced to the authorized person of the political party, coalition or the independent candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 188

A fine in the amount from 450 to 1,200 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to the public office holder or the head of the competent state body, religious community or public institution for committing a misdemeanour by allowing the election campaign participant to organise pre-election rallies contrary to Article 82 of this Code.

Article 188-a

- (1) A fine in the amount of 9,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced for a misdemeanour to a political party, coalition or an independent candidate for failure to return the unspent donations to the donors in the prescribed deadline, in proportion with the donated amount, in case of non-submission or non-verification of the list of candidates (Article 71, paragraph 7).
- (2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for a political party, coalition or an independent candidate shall be pronounced to the authorized person of the political party, coalition or the independent candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

- (3) A fine in the amount of 900 to 1,350 EUR, in MKD equivalent, shall be pronounced to a person planning to run as a candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 189

- (1) A fine in the amount of 9,000 EUR, in MKD equivalent, shall be pronounced for a misdemeanour to a political party, coalition or an independent candidate for failure to submit the campaign financing report prescribed in Article 85 of this Code, or for electoral campaign financing using funds pursuant to Article 83 of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount of 9,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced for a misdemeanour to a political party, coalition or an independent candidate if more funds are spent in the election campaign than the amount prescribed in Article 84 of this Code.
- (3) A fine in the amount of 30% of the fine prescribed for a political party, coalition or an independent candidate shall be pronounced to the authorized person of the political party, coalition or the independent candidate for the misdemeanour from paragraph (1) and (2) of this article.

Article 189-a

- (1) A fine in the amount of 4,000 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to a broadcasting or printed media for committing a misdemeanour by not submitting a report on the advertising space used by each election campaign participant and the money paid or claimed on that basis, not later than 15 days after the conclusion of the election campaign (Article 85-a).
- (2) A fine in the amount from 500 to 1,500 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be imposed to the editor-in-chief for committing a misdemeanour by committing the activities from paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 190

- (1) A fine in the amount from 1,000 to 2,000 EUR, in MKD equivalent, shall be pronounced to the State Auditor General for actions contrary to the provisions from Article 74-a, paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Code.
- (2) A fine in the amount from 450 to 1,500 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a person for committing a misdemeanour by using a mobile phone or camera to take photographs of the ballot during voting.
- (3) A fine in the amount from 300 to 750 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a person from Article 106 of this Code for committing a misdemeanour by displaying an insignia or symbol of a political party or a candidate during and at the place of voting or by not wearing a badge during the voting.

Article 191

- (1) A fine in the amount from 750 to 2,250 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced to a person for committing a misdemeanour by voting for other persons or on behalf of another person, as well as by preventing the presence of the police, when needed (Articles 102, 103, 111, and 112).
- (2) A fine in the amount from 750 to 2,250 EUR in MKD equivalent shall be pronounced for a misdemeanour to an official (police officer) who abuses his or her position and causes disorder at the polling station (Article 102).

Article 191-a

For the misdemeanours prescribed in this Code, the fine for the legal entities shall be determined pursuant to the Law on Misdemeanours.

XV. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 192

(Article 192 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, No. 40/06)

On the day this Code enters into force, the following laws shall become void: Law on Election of President of the Republic of Macedonia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.20/94, 48/99 and 11/2004); Law on Election of Members of Parliament, (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.42/2002 and 46/2004), Law on Local Elections, (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.45/2004, 52/2004, 60/2004 and 4/2005), Law on Voter List, (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 42/2002, 35/2004 and 74/2005), Law on Polling Stations, (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.50/97), and Law on Electoral Districts for Election of Members of Parliament in the Republic of Macedonia, (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No.43/2002).

Article 193

(Article 193 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, No. 40/06)

- (1) At the first forthcoming elections for Members of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, the Election Board shall be composed of five members and their deputies.
- (2) The President of the Election Board and his/her deputy shall be selected from among the employees in the state administration, municipal administration and the administration of the City of Skopje, while two members and their deputies shall be selected from among the public administration employees by random selection.
- (3) One member of the Election Board and his/her deputy are appointed upon a nomination of the opposition political parties that won the majority of votes at the last parliamentary elections.
- (4) One member of the Election Board and his/her deputy are appointed upon proposal of the ruling political parties that won the majority of votes at the last parliamentary elections.
- (5) The manner and the procedure for election of members from paragraph (2) of this article are implemented in accordance with Article 39 of this Code.
- (6) The political parties from paragraphs (3) and (4) of this Code shall submit their nominations for members to the Municipal Election Commission within five days from the day of receipt of notification from the Municipal Election Commission.
- (7) If the political parties do not submit the nominations within the deadline stipulated in paragraph (6) of this article, the members shall be appointed by the Municipal Election Commission.

Article 194

(Article 194 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, No. 40/06)

- (1) The importance of recording personal data in accordance with Article 41, paragraph (3) of this Code shall be implemented after the relevant conditions are met.
- (2) The State Statistical Office shall continue administering the organisational – technical and methodological processing of the data from the Voter List until it is fully transferred to the Ministry of Justice.
- (3) For administering the voting of Internally Displaced Persons, the Ministry of Justice shall prepare separate Voter Lists based on the records of the competent bodies.

Article 195

(Article 195 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, No. 40/06)

The State Election Commission shall be appointed within 15 days from the day this Code enters into force.

Article 196

(Article 196 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 40/06)

The by-laws prescribed with this Code shall be adopted by the State Election Commission within 20 days from the day this Code enters into force.

Article 196-a (DELETED)

For the purpose of the organization of the early elections for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia that will be held in 2016, citizens for whom there are no recent data and records in the data bases of the institutions during the cross-checks in line with the Rulebook on the Methodology for Maintaining and Updating the Voter Register based on checks and statistical analyses, cross-checks of various data-bases and records, unlimited field checks and other appropriate acknowledged verification methods, who are considered to be temporarily employed or residing abroad, who registered their last residence in the Republic of Macedonia, whose number totals 171,500 persons, with no limitation of their electoral right, the State Electoral Commission shall register them in the special Voter Lists referred to in Article 45, paragraph 4 of the Electoral Code.

Article 196-b (DELETED)

- (1) For the purpose of the organization of the early elections for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia that will be held in 2016, within three days from the date of the entry into force of this Code, the citizens for whom the State Election Commission, during the administrative and field checks conducted in line with the Rulebook on the Methodology for Maintaining and Updating the Voter Register based on checks and statistical analyses, cross-checks of various data-bases and records, unlimited field checks and other appropriate acknowledged verification methods, established disputable entries, or discrepancy in the data of the citizens who were subject to verification in the Voter Registry, whose number totals 39,502 persons, shall be placed for public inspection on the website of the State Election Commission and it shall conduct a media campaign and publish a public announcement for application.
- (2) The public announcement shall list the necessary documents for the application of citizens whose data are published, in line with the Electoral Code.
- (3) The State Election Commission shall submit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a notification on the publication of the public announcement for the application of the citizens referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall publish the announcement on its website. The Ministry of Foreign affairs is required to submit the notification immediately to the DCOs, or the consular offices, for the purpose of its publication on their website.
- (4) The application deadline in line with the published public announcement referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article is 25 days from the date of the publication of the public announcement.
- (5) In the period prescribed in paragraph (4) of this Article, the four largest political parties can appoint their observers to the regional offices of the State Election Commission.
- (6) The application can either be in person at the State Election Commission or the regional offices of the State Election Commission, or electronically, in line with Articles 48-51 of the Electoral Code, to the State Election Commission.
- (7) Within 10 days from the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, three or more members of the State Election Commission can request additional verification of any of the persons who applied during the inspection by requesting the person to appear in person, if the person has permanent or temporary residence in the

- Republic of Macedonia, or through a video conference if the person is temporarily employed or residing abroad.
- (8) If after the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, the persons whose data were placed for public inspection fail to act in line with paragraph (6) of this Article, they shall not be recorded in the Voter Registry.
 - (9) If persons referred to in paragraph (7) of this Article fail to appear in person or through a video conference, in line with paragraph (7) of this Article, or if the State Election Commission establishes that the data provided are incorrect, they shall not be recorded in the Voter Registry.
 - (10) Persons who shall not be recorded in the Voter Registry shall have an additional possibility to apply at the State Election Commission during the public inspection prior to the elections.

Article 196-c (DELETED)

The rules on media presentation referred to in Articles 75, 75-a, 75-b, 75-c, 75-d, 75-e, 76-c and 76-d of the Electoral Code shall apply 100 days prior to the date of the conducting of the early elections for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia that will be held in 2016.

Article 196-d (DELETED)

Within the frames of the Agency for the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services, an Interim Committee for Media Presentation Monitoring shall be established (further in the text referred to as the "Interim Committee"), to monitor the implementation of the provisions from Articles 75, 75-a, 75-b, 75-c, 75-d, 75-e, 75-f, 76, 76-a, 76-b, 76-c, 76-d and 77 of this Code.

Article 196-e (DELETED)

- (1) The Interim Committee shall consist of five members, four of whom shall be determined by the two opposition political parties with the largest number of members of parliament and the two ruling political parties with the largest number of members of parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, upon prior consultation with the relevant professional organizations, with at least one member from the lines of the representatives of the largest non-majoritarian community in the Republic of Macedonia, within seven days from the date when this Code enters into force.
- (2) The Director of the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall appoint the four members to the Interim Committee immediately, or not later than one day from the date when they were determined.
- (3) The fifth member of the Interim Committee shall be appointed by the Director of the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services upon prior proposal adopted by consensus reached by the four members referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, within 15 days from the date of their appointment.
- (4) The term of office of the Interim Committee shall last until the completion of the electoral process for the early elections for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia that will be held in 2016.

Article 196-f (DELETED)

The Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall act upon the proposals of the Interim Committee and shall initiate proceedings in line with the Electoral Code.

Article 196-g (DELETED)

- (1) The Interim Committee shall immediately receive the reports on the monitoring of media presentation and the programme services of the broadcasters and electronic media (internet portals) in the Republic of Macedonia from the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services.
- (2) The assessment of the balanced presentation by broadcasters, or the public broadcasting service, commercial broadcasting associations and electronic media (internet portals) shall be announced by the Interim Committee in a period of not more than seven days.

Article 196-h (DELETED)

- (1) The spatial, technical and financial conditions for the operation of the Interim Committee shall be provided by the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services.
- (2) The members of the Interim Committee shall have the right to monthly compensation for their work in the amount of three and a half average monthly salaries in the Republic of Macedonia according to the latest data published by the State Statistical Office.

Article 196-i (DELETED)

Within 30 days from the date of the adoption of this law, the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services shall amend the Methodology referred to in Article 76-c, paragraph (8) of the Electoral Code in reference to the application of the provisions of this Law.

Article 196-j (DELETED)

- (1) Not a single media outlet or journalist can be sanctioned for the expression of opinion.
- (2) The expression of opinion must be separated from the news.
- (3) Not a single media outlet can be closed down upon the proposal of the Interim Committee in a procedure initiated in line with its competencies prescribed by this Law.

Article 196-k (DELETED)

- (1) For violation of the provisions of the Electoral Code that are regulated with fines referred to in Articles 181, 181-a, 182, 183, 183-a and 189-a, if the violation is committed for the first time, the Court shall pronounce a violation sanction - warning.
- (2) If the violation is repeated, the Court will pronounce a fine in line with Articles 181, 181-a, 182, 183, 183-a and 189-a of the Law.
- (3) In the cases referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, Article 75 from the Law amending the Electoral Code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 196/15) shall not apply.

Article 196-l (DELETED)

- (1) Upon the proposal of the opposition political party with the largest number of members of parliament at the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, and upon prior consultation with the two ruling political parties with the largest number of members of parliament at the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the opposition political party with the second largest number of members of parliament at the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the editor of the information program of the public broadcasting service shall be appointed from the lines of the experts in the field.
- (2) The editor referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall assume the position 100 days prior to the conducting of the early elections for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia that will be held in 2016

Article 196-m

The terms of office of the Members of Council and Mayors from the elections held on 24 March 2013 shall last until the election of the new Members of Councils and Mayors.

Article 196-n

The Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, in a procedure regulated with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, shall align the composition of the State Election Commission with Article 27, paragraph (5) of this Code not later than the beginning of the electoral campaign for the elections to be held on 15 October 2017 for the election of members of councils of the municipalities and the Council of the City of Skopje and mayors of the municipalities and mayor of the City of Skopje.

The Parliament shall open a call for the election of a member of the State Election Commission in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” and in the daily press. The call shall be open for five days from the date of the publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”. The President of the Parliament shall notify the political party in opposition, within 24 hours from the receipt of the notification of candidates who have answered the call referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, to submit a proposal for a member of the State Election Commission. The Committee on Election and Appointment Related Issues shall confirm the submitted proposal and shall immediately submit it to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 197

This Code shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.

Article 197

(Article 95 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

In article 18, paragraph (2); 21 paragraphs (2) and (5); 23 paragraphs (2) and (3); 31 paragraph (2) lines 1, 7 and 14; 34; 35; 36 and 37; 39 paragraphs (1) and (2); 40 paragraphs (2) point 6 and paragraph (3); 66 paragraph (3); 67 paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5); 68 paragraph (3); 69 paragraphs (3) and (4); 102 paragraph (3); 111 paragraphs (1) and (6); 113 paragraph (3); 117 paragraphs (4) and (6); 118 paragraphs (1), (2) and (4); 135 paragraph (1); 151 paragraphs (2) and (3); 157 paragraph (1) and article 170 paragraph (1) and after the words “Municipal Election Commission”, the words “ Election Commission of the City of Skopje” shall be added.

Article 198

(Article 96 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

State Election Commission shall be elected not later than 30 days from the date this Code enters into force.

The State Election Commission continues with its work until the election of the State Election Commission in accordance with this Law.

Article 199

(Article 97 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

Until 1 September 2009, the Ministry of Justice shall continue executing those competences that shall be transferred to the SEC, pursuant to this Law.

Article 200

(Article 98 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

The State Election Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall commence performing the activities related to registering of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily employed or residing abroad within 60 days from the day this Law enters into force.

Article 201

(Article 99 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

For citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad, the voting for members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia as well as for President of the Republic shall be administered after 1 September 2009, in accordance with this Law.

Article 202

(Article 100 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

By-laws determined by this Law shall be adopted no later than three months from the date this Law enters into force.

Article 203

(Article 101 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

Upon a proposal of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall establish a Coordinative Body for the implementation of the activities related to the transfer of the Voter List from the Ministry of Justice to the State Election Commission, comprised of members from the Ministry of Justice, State Election Commission, State Statistic Office, no later than 60 days from the day this Law enters into force.

In the coordinative body, one member from the parties in opposition and one member from the ruling parties represented in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall be selected.

The Coordinative Body for the implementation of the activities from paragraph (1) shall adopt, not later than 1 September 2009, a Program and an Action Plan with which it shall determine the deadlines for the implementation of the activities related to the transfer of competences.

The State Statistical Office shall continue conducting the organisational-technical and methodological processing of the data of the Voter List until 1 September 2009, i.e. the transfer to the State Election Commission.

Article 204

(Article 102 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 136/08)

The employees in the regional offices of the Ministry of Justice who perform the working duties and tasks related to the registration of the right to vote shall be transferred to the State Election Commission.

Article 205

(Article 92 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 44/2011)

The Deputy President of the State Election Commission continues to perform the function as Vice-President of the State Election Commission until the end of the mandate for which he was elected.

Article 206

(Article 93 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 44/2011)

The by-laws determined with this Law shall be adopted within 10 days from the day of entry into force of this Law.

Article 207

(Article 68 of the Law published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, no.14/14) DELETED).

Article 208

(Article 69 of the Law published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, no.14/14) DELETED).

Article 209

(Article 70 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 14/2014)

The polling stations from Article 58 of this Code shall be, whenever possible, located in the same facilities as the new polling stations defined with the division of voters.

Article 210

(Article 71 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 14/2014)

The Parliamentary Legislative Committee of the Republic of Macedonia shall be authorized to draft a consolidated version of the Electoral Code.

Article 211

(Article 72 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 14/2014)

This Code shall enter into force on the eighth day from the date of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.

Article 212

(Article 78 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

- (1) For the purpose of organizing the early parliamentary elections which will take place on 24 April 2016, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall publish a vacancy announcement for the election of members of the State Election Commission within five days of the day of entry into force of this Code, pursuant to the provisions of this Code.
- (2) Within 15 days from the publication of the announcement from paragraph (1) of this article, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall elect the State Election Commission, pursuant to the provisions of this Code.

Article 213

(Article 79 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

With reference to Article 78, paragraph (1), the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall pass a decision for the publishing of an announcement for the election of a President and members of the State Election Commission within no more than five days of the day of entry into force of this Code, under the conditions and manner prescribed by this Code.

Article 214

(Article 80 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

For the purpose of organizing the early parliamentary elections which will take place on 24 April 2016, the Rulebook on the Methodology for Maintenance and Updating of the Voter Register based on checks and statistical analyses, cross-checks of various data-bases and records, unlimited field checks and other appropriate acknowledged verification methods from Article 31, paragraph (2), item 28-g) and the Rulebook on the Methodology for Full Access, Amendment and Deletion of Data in the Voter Register, as well as the procedure for conducting field checks for the purposes of updating the Voter Register from Article 31, paragraph (2), item 28-h) shall be adopted by the State Election Commission, upon prior agreement of the four largest political parties in the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, within 30 days of the day of entry into force of this Code.

Article 215

(Article 81 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

The Voter Register data “personal photo“, as part of the data contained in the Voter List from Article 45, paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) of this Code, shall be included in the Voter List if the

Rulebook on the Methodology for Maintenance and Updating of the Voter Register based on checks and statistical analyses, cross-checks of various data-bases and records, unlimited field checks and other appropriate acknowledged verification methods from Article 31, paragraph (2), item 28-g and Article 79 of this Code establish that the technical conditions are met for this data to be included as part of the content of the Voter Register.

Article 216

(Article 82 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

Article 217

(Article 83 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

Article 218

(Article 84 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

The State Election Commission shall adopt the bylaws prescribed by this Law within 30 days of the day of the adoption of the decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia for the election of a President, Vice-President and members of the State Election Commission.

Article 219

(Article 85 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

Prior to the next regular parliamentary elections, the State Election Commission shall prepare and submit to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia a feasibility report and a plan for introduction of a fingerprint voter identification system for a review.

Article 220

(Article 86 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

The Parliamentary Legislative Committee of the Republic of Macedonia shall be authorized to prepare a consolidated version of the Electoral Code.

Article 221

(Article 87 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 196/2015)

This Code shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.

Article 222

(Article 5 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 99/2018)

The Parliament shall publish a vacancy announcement for the election of the President, Vice President and the members of the State Election Commission within 3 days from the day of entry into force of this Law.

Article 223

(Article 6 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 99/2018)

With the election of the President, Vice President and members of the State Election Commission, in line with the provisions of this Law, the mandate of the members of the State Election Commission elected in accordance with the Electoral Code (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 40/2006, 136/2008, 148/2008, 155/2008, 163/2008, 44/11, 51/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16, 99/16, 136/16, 142/2016, 67/17 125/17 and 35/18) shall expire.

Article 224

(Article 7 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 99/2018)

The Secretary General of the State Election Commission appointed in line with the Electoral Code (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 40/2006, 136/2008, 148/2008, 155/2008, 163/2008, 44/11, 51/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16, 99 /16, 136/16, 142/2016, 67/17 125/17 and 35/18) shall perform the function of a Secretary General until the appointment of a new Secretary General of the State Election Commission.

Article 225

(Article 8 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 99/2018)

This Law shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.

Article 226

(Article 8 of the Law published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 138/2018)

This Law shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”.