



Pursuant to Article 32 paragraph (1) items 1, 3 and 20 of the Law on Referendum and Other Forms of Direct Voting of Citizens („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“, no. 81/2005), related to Article 31 of the Electoral Code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 54/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16, 99/16, 136/16, 142/16, 67/17, 125/17, 35/18, 99/18 and 140/18), the Decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia to call a referendum no. 08-4666/1 dated 30.07.2018, published in the „Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 140 dated 30.07.2018, the State Election Commission, sitting in session on 01.08.2018, enacts the following:

CALENDAR

of activities to be implemented a referendum at the state level

30 September 2018

I. REFERENDUM

I. 1 The referendum at the state level (hereinafter: referendum) shall be held on **30 September 2018**.

II. AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF CARRYING OUT THE REFERENDUM

II.1 Within three days of calling the referendum, the State Election Commission (hereinafter: SEC) shall submit a request to the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (hereinafter: MISA) for data about employees in the state and municipal administrations and the City of Skopje, and public service, systematized by municipality according to their address of residence.

no later than 02 August 2018

II.2 The data about employees in state and municipal administrations and the City of Skopje, and public service, shall be provided by MISA to SEC within five days of receiving the request.

no later than 07 August 2018

II.3. Within five days of receiving the aforementioned data from MISA, SEC shall establish the Municipal Election Commissions (hereinafter: MEC) or add new members and deputies in place of members or deputies whose term in office has expired for whatever reason. The official decisions for establishing or modifying the compositions of MECs shall be published in the „Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“.

no later than 12 August 2018

II.4. Within three days from the date of establishing the MECs, SEC shall submit to MECs data about employees in the state and municipal administrations, the City of Skopje administration, as well as public service, who have a registered residence on the territory over which the MEC has jurisdiction to undertake electoral activities, in order to establish Electoral Boards (hereinafter: EB).

no later than 15 August 2018

II.5. No later than 20 days prior to the scheduled day of the referendum, MECs shall establish the EB, or add new members or deputies to replace the members or deputies of EB whose mandate terminated on various grounds.

no later than 10 September 2018

II. 6. Within three days of calling the referendum, SEC shall submit a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter: MFA) to provide data about diplomatic staff in Diplomatic-Consular Representations and Consular Offices (hereinafter: DCO), for purpose of appointing presidents and deputies/deputies of Electoral Boards for voting in DCOs (hereinafter: EB in DCO) **no later than 02 August 2018**

II. 7. MFA shall forward the data about diplomatic officials and staff of DCOs to the SEC within five days of receiving the request. **no later than 07 August 2018**

II. 8. The SEC shall establish EBs in DCOs no later than 20 days prior to the scheduled day of the referendum. **no later than 10 September 2018**

III. VOTERS LIST, PUBLIC INSPECTION AND APPLICATIONS FOR VOTING

III.1. Right after the publication of the decision to call the referendum, the SEC shall submit to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (hereinafter: MoIA) a request for data about the citizens, in accordance with Article 43 paragraph 1 and 3 and Article 45 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Electoral Code.

right after the decision to call the referendum, no later than 31 July 2018

III.2. MoIA shall submit the requested data about citizens according to Article 43 paragraphs 1 and 3 and Article 45 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Electoral Code to the SEC, on the day following the receipt of the request, on magnetic storage medium, and the data shall include the unique personal identification number ("EMBG") of each citizen.

the day after receipt of the request, no later than 01 August 2018

III.3. No more than 10 days after the date of calling the referendum, SEC shall allow public inspection of the Voters List at its regional and local offices. The public inspection shall last 15 days.

Public inspection starts on 09 August 2018 and lasts until 24:00h on 23 August 2018

III. 4. The SEC shall promptly, no later than two days after the date of calling the referendum, inform the citizens through public media about the places where the Voters List would be displayed for public inspection, how to check the data, the duration of the inspection and the ways for entering, adding or deleting data in the Voters List.

After calling the referendum, no later than 01 August

2018

III.5. Citizens may submit requests for entering, adding or deleting data in the Voters List in the period **09 August until 24:00 on 23 August 2018.**

III.6. SEC shall decide on the citizens' requests by issuing a decision within 24 hours of the date of receipt of the request.

III.7. Any citizen may appeal the decision denying the request within 24 hours of receipt of the decision, by filing a complaint to the Supreme Court.

III.8. The Supreme Court shall decide on the complaints within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint and shall promptly convey its decision to the complainant by electronic means.

III.9. No later than 30 days prior to the date of the referendum, the authority in charge of enforcement of sanctions shall provide SEC data on persons in custody or serving prison sentences, based on records maintained by the authority. The data shall be provided on magnetic storage medium and must contain personal identification number of the citizen ("EMBG").

no later than 30 August 2018

III.10. The Voters List incorporating all changes made during public inspection shall be printed in the form of excerpts and closed by SEC no later than 15 days after the closing of public inspection.

no later than 07 September 2018

III.11. SEC shall sign the closed Voters List and the excerpts from the Voters List that would be used for voting, no less than 10 days prior to the date of the referendum.

no later than 19 September 2018

III.12. The SEC shall promptly, no later than two days after the date of calling the referendum, notify the MFA to publish a public call about the referendum.

promptly, no later than 01 August 2018

III.13. The MFA shall publish the public call on its web page within 24 hours.

III.14. The MFA shall be required to forward the notification from SEC to DCO promptly, no more than three days after receiving the notification from the SEC, so that DCOs may publish it on their web pages. DCOs shall publish the public call on their web pages no later than 3 days after the day of receipt.

MFA forwards notification to DCOs no later than 04 August 2018

DCOs shall publish public call no later than 07 August 2018

III.15. Requests for entering, adding or deleting data in the special excerpts of the Voters List during the public inspection may be submitted by citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who temporarily work or reside abroad by electronic mail to the SEC.

in the period 09 – 23

August 2018

III.16. From the day of commencement of the public inspection until the end of the inspection, citizens of the Republic of Macedonia who temporarily work or reside abroad may file an application, signed personally or sent by electronic mail, to vote in the referendum.

in the period 09 – 23 August 2018

III.17. DCOs shall send the applications to the MFA immediately and within two days after the end of the public inspection period, and MFA shall forward them to the SEC promptly, within 24 hours from the date of receipt.

DCOs send applications to MFA promptly, no later than 25 August 2018

MFA forwards received applications to SEC promptly, no later than 27 August 2018

III.18. The SEC shall decide on the citizens' requests/applications by issuing a decision within 48 hours of the date of receipt of the request.

III.19. Any citizen may appeal the SEC decision denying the request within 24 hours of receipt of said decision by filing a complaint to the Supreme Court.

III.20. The Supreme Court shall decide on complaints within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint and shall promptly convey its decision to the complainant by electronic means.

IV. MANDATORY EDUCATION OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES

IV.1. SEC shall conduct mandatory education for members of MECs and shall issue certificates in a manner and time frame specified in a program.

SEC shall adopt the mandatory education program no later than **07 August 2018**.

IV.2. MECs shall organize and conduct education for members of EBs according to the SEC education plan and program, and shall issue certificates for the completed training.

V. PUBLIC PROPAGANDA

V.1. The authorized proposer shall conduct and bear the cost of public propaganda about the referendum. The public propaganda must end no later than 48 hours before the date of the referendum.

**Public propaganda starts on 30 July 2018
and ends at 24:00h on 27 September 2018**

V.2. Broadcast media, printed media, and electronic media (internet portals) shall be required to establish price lists for paid advertising for the referendum within five days from the date of calling the referendum. The price lists shall be published at least twice in their media programs or publications. Prices may not be changed during the referendum.

no later than 04 August 2018

V.3. Printed media and electronic media (internet portals) shall be required to provide their price lists to the SEC, the State Audit Office (SAO), and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) within five days of the date of calling the referendum, and broadcast media shall submit them to the Agency for Audio and Audio Visual Media Services (AVMS), SEC, SAO and SCPC within five days of the date of calling the referendum.

no later than 04 August 2018

V.4. Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia, the City of Skopje, and legal entities that operate advertising panels and billboards shall be required to publish locations and rental prices for the advertising panels and billboards within 5 days from the date of calling the referendum. Prices may not change during the referendum and may not be higher than the average rental price calculated for the 3 months preceding the date of calling the referendum.

no later than 04 August 2018

VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

VI.1. The authorized proposer shall be required to submit, within 30 days after the end of the public propaganda, a complete financial report about the public campaign, with specification of costs, revenues, and expenditures, and to publish it on its web page. The financial report shall be submitted to the SEC, SAO, SCPC and the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. The SEC, SAO, SCPC and the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall publish the financial report on their web pages.

no later than 27 October 2018

VI.2. Broadcast media, printed media, and electronic media (internet portals) in the Republic of Macedonia shall be required to submit a report, no later than 15 days after the end of the public propaganda, on the advertising space/airtime used for the public propaganda and funds paid or receivables for those services. The report shall be submitted to the SEC, SAO and SCPC, who shall be required to publish it on their web pages.

no later than 12 October 2018

VII. DESCRIPTIONS OF POLLING STATIONS

VII.1. No later than 30 days before the date of the referendum vote, the SEC shall publish descriptions of polling stations by municipalities, as stipulated in the Electoral Code.

no later than 30 August 2018

VII.2. Polling station descriptions may be changed by decision enacted by the SEC no later than 30 days before the date of the referendum vote.

no later than 30 August 2018

VII.3. No later than 5 days before the date of the referendum, MECs shall prominently display the descriptions of polling stations to be used for voting, along with indications to guide voters from specific areas to their allocated polling stations.

no later than 24 September 2018

VIII. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROPOSER

VIII.1. The authorized proposer shall be entitled to designate a representative and his/her deputy who will monitor the work of electoral management bodies from the day of calling the referendum until the tabulation and publication of the

final results. The proposer shall provide an authorization to the representative and shall duly inform the SEC and MEC thereof, no later than 2 days prior to the date of the referendum.

no later than 27 September 2018

VIII.2. The SEC or MEC shall issue badges to the authorized representatives with an indication of MEC or EB and number of polling station where the representative is authorized to observe.

IX. OBSERVING THE REFERENDUM

IX.1. Organizations and persons listed in Article 161 of the Electoral Code may submit requests for observation to the SEC from the date of calling the referendum, but no later than 5 days before the referendum day.

from 30 July 2018, no later than 24 September 2018

IX.2. The SEC shall issue authorizations to the observers no later than 2 days after receipt of the request.

within two days after receiving the request.

X. CONDUCTING THE REFERENDUM

X.1. Voters who are unable to vote at a polling station (ill or infirm persons) and who would like to vote shall notify the MEC no less than 7 days before the voting day.

no later than 22 September 2018

X.2. Voters who are under house arrest on the voting day and who would like to vote shall notify the MEC through an authorized person 3 days at the latest, before the voting day.

no later than 26 September 2018

X.3. The SEC shall hand over electoral materials to MEC no later than 72 hours before the date of the referendum.

no later than 26 September 2018

X.4. MEC shall be required to hand over electoral materials to EB one day before the date of the referendum.

no later than 29 September 2018

X.5. Ill and infirm persons shall vote in their homes one day before the date of the referendum.

no later than 29 September 2018

Voters who are in detention or serving prison sentences on the voting day shall vote in the penitentiary institutions one day before the date of the referendum.

from 07:00h to 19:00h on 29 September 2018

Voters who are under house arrest on the voting day shall vote in their place of house arrest one day before the date of the referendum.

on 29 September 2018

Internally displaced persons shall vote in collective accommodation facilities and reception centers where they are accommodated one day before the date of the referendum.

from 07:00h to 19:00h on 29 September 2018

X.6. **Voting on the referendum shall commence at 07:00h and continue without interruption until 19:00h on 30 September (Sunday) 2018.**

X.7. Polling stations shall close at 19:00h on the voting day. Voters who are still in the polling station at the closing time shall be allowed to vote.

A polling station where all citizens registered on the excerpt from the Voters List have voted may close earlier than 19:00h with approval of the MEC in charge, but vote counting may not start before 19:00h.

X.8. All of the protocols and other election materials shall be submitted by EB to MEC within 3 hours after the end of voting. The president of the EB shall hand over the election materials to MEC, accompanied by interested members of the EB or representatives of the authorized proposer, and police officers, if needed.

X.9. Promptly after receiving the protocols and other election materials from the EB, MEC shall sum up the voting results from the polling stations on its territory.

X.10. The protocols and other election materials shall be forwarded by the MEC to the SEC within 12 hours of receiving them from the EB.

IX.11. The SEC shall hand over election materials for voting at DCOs to the authorized official of the MFA no later than five days prior to the date of the referendum. The MFA shall forward the electoral materials to DCOs immediately after receiving them, within 24 hours at the latest.

**no later than 24:00h on 24 September 2018, SEC hands over election materials to MFA.
MFA forwards election materials to DCOs immediately after receipt**

IX.12. Members of EB in DCOs vote at the SEC three days before the date of the referendum in the Republic of Macedonia.

from 07:00 until 19:00h on 26 September 2018

IX.13. Voters who are temporarily working or residing abroad on the voting day shall vote at DCOs, one day before the date of the referendum in the Republic of Macedonia.

**on 29 September (Saturday) 2018 from 07:00 until 19:00h
including the time zone difference,
i.e. from 07:00 until 19:00h according to the official time
in the respective country.**

IX.14. Protocols and other election materials from the voting at DCOs shall be handed over by EBs to the person in charge at the DCO within three hours after completion of voting.

IX.15. Records, sealed envelopes and other election materials shall be forwarded by EB through MFA to the SEC after completion of the voting.

X.16. Preliminary results from the referendum received electronically shall be published by the SEC as they arrive. Results based on data from protocols and election materials shall be published within 24 hours of receiving them from all MECs.

X.17. The final results of the referendum shall be published by the SEC immediately and no later than 24 hours from the date of they become final.

X.18. The results of voting in the referendum on the state level shall be published by the SEC in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", no later than 15 days from the date of the referendum. The report on the result of voting in the referendum on the state level shall be submitted by the SEC to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

no later than 15 October 2018

XI. REPORT OF THE REFERENDUM RESULTS

XI.1. The SEC shall submit a report to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia about the referendum carried out at the state level within three days after its completion.

no later than 03 October 2018

XII. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE

XII.1. Any citizen shall be entitled to file a complaint to the SEC concerning irregularities in the procedures for voting, tabulating and confirming the voting results within 24 hours from the date of the referendum on the state level.

XII.2. The SEC shall be required to enact a resolution within 24 hours of receiving the complaint.

XII.3. The SEC decision may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia within 48 hours following receipt of the decision.

XII.4. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia shall be required to act on the appeal within 48 hours.

XIII. RE-VOTING

XIII.1. The SEC may act ex-officio or upon receiving a complaint to annul the vote at particular polling stations in cases listed in Article 151 paragraph (1) items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

XIII.2. The SEC shall enact a resolution to repeat the vote at polling stations where voting has been annulled only if the total number of registered voters in those polling stations has an impact on the overall results of the referendum.

XIII.3. Voting at the polling station subject to annulment shall be repeated 14 days after the voting day.

XIV. SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES

XIV.1. The Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Statistical Office, the Government Cabinet's Office of General and Common Affairs and their regional units, as well as the municipalities and the City of Skopje shall be required to provide technical means, facilities, and other working conditions to the authorities in charge of carrying out the referendum at the state level. These institutions shall be provided with funding allocated from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia for the purposes listed above.

XV. This Calendar shall enter into force on the date of its enactment and shall be published promptly on the web page of the State Election Commission: <http://www.sec.mk>.

**No. 12 – 1402 / 1
01.08. 2018
SKOPJE**

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
PRESIDENT
Oliver Derkoski, *manu propria***