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# ***JPRS Report***

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## **Soviet Union**

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***Political Affairs***  
**REPUBLIC ELECTION LEGISLATION**

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# Soviet Union

## Political Affairs

### REPUBLIC ELECTION LEGISLATION

JPRS-UPA-90-061

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## Armenian SSR

### Armenian SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

90US0069A Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian  
7 Sep 89 pp 1-3

["Draft Law of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of the Armenian SSR People's Deputies"]

#### [Text] I. General Provisions

##### Article 1. Principles of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR

Elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be held by single-mandate election okrugs on the basis of the free exercise of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

##### Article 2. Universal Suffrage

The election of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be universal: citizens of the Armenian SSR who have attained the age of 18 shall have the right to elect and be elected.

Any direct or indirect restrictions on the suffrage of citizens of the Armenian SSR on grounds of origin, social or property status, racial or national affiliation, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, length of residence in a given place, or type and character of occupation shall be prohibited.

Elections shall not be participated in by mentally ill citizens judged as incompetent by a court, persons in places of incarceration, or persons held in places of court-ordered mandatory treatment.

##### Article 3. Equal Suffrage

Elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be equal; each voter shall have one vote; voters shall take part in elections on an equal basis.

Women and men shall have equal suffrage.

Military servicemen shall exercise the right to vote on an equal footing with all citizens.

##### Article 4. Direct Suffrage

Elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be direct: people's deputies shall be elected directly by citizens.

##### Article 5. Secret Ballot

Voting in elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be secret; any monitoring of voters' expression of their will shall be prohibited.

##### Article 6. Holding of Elections by Election Commissions

The holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be carried out by election commissions formed of representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, assemblies of voters by place of residence, and servicemen by military units.

##### Article 7. Glasnost in the Preparation and Holding of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR

The preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be carried out by election commissions, labor collectives, and social organizations, in an open and public manner.

Election commissions shall inform citizens about their work, the formation of election okrugs and districts, the composition, location, and hours of operation of the election commissions, and voters' lists. Election commissions shall inform citizens of the results of registering candidates for the post of deputy, biographical data concerning the registered candidates, the basic provisions of their pre-election programs, the results of the balloting for each candidate, and the results of the elections.

Meetings of the election commissions, including those involving the registration of deputy candidates, the counting of votes in the election okrug, determination of the results of the elections in the okrug and summarizing of the overall results of the elections, also during the course of the balloting, may be participated in by representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, assemblies of constituents by place of residence, servicemen in military units, accredited representatives, and also by representatives of the press, television, and radio who have so notified the okrug election commission in good time but not later than three days prior to the elections.

The number of representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, assemblies of constituents, and military units shall be determined by the respective election commission.

The powers of said representatives must be certified by the appropriate document or by a decision of the labor collectives or their councils, assemblies of voters by place of residence, or servicemen by military units.

The mass information media shall inform the public of the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR and shall be guaranteed unimpeded access to all pre-election meetings. Election commissions, state and social organs, and labor collectives shall provide them with information relating to the preparation and holding of elections.

##### Article 8. Participation by Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Social Organizations in the Preparation and Holding of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR

Citizens of the Armenian SSR shall participate in the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR both through labor collectives,



social organizations, assemblies of voters by place of residence and servicemen by military units, and directly.

Labor collectives and social organizations shall take part in the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR both through their representatives in the election commissions and directly.

#### **Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

The right to nominate candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall pertain to labor collectives, social organizations, assemblies of voters by place of residence, and servicemen by military units.

#### **Article 10. Constituents' Mandates to People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

Constituents shall give mandates to their deputies.

The procedure for introducing, generalizing, examining, and organizing the implementation of mandates shall be established by the law of the Armenian SSR.

#### **Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR with Official Position**

Persons who are members of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers (with the exception of the Chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers), executives of departments of the Armenian SSR, the Chairman and members of the Armenian SSR Supreme Court, the Chief State Arbiter and the state arbiters of the Armenian SSR, and the Chairman and members of the Constitutional Oversight Committee of the Armenian SSR shall not simultaneously serve as people's deputies of the Armenian SSR.

#### **Article 12. Expenses Relating to Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR. Material Support of the Elections**

Expenses connected with the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be paid by the state.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations, and state and social organs shall provide the election commissions with the quarters and equipment necessary for preparing and holding elections.

Candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, and voters, shall not have to pay expenses connected with the preparation and holding of elections.

#### **Article 13. Responsibility for Violation of Legislation Concerning Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

Persons who, by coercion, deception, threats, or other means impede the right of a citizen of the Armenian SSR freely to exercise his right to elect or be elected a people's deputy of the Armenian SSR and conduct pre-election agitation, also members of election commissions or

officials of state and social organs who forge election documents, knowingly miscount votes, violate the right of secret ballot, or commit other violations of the present Law, shall bear responsibility stipulated by the law. Legal action shall also be taken against persons who publish or otherwise disseminate false information about a candidate for deputy.

Reports of violations of legislation concerning elections that come into the election commissions or state and social organs during the period of preparations for elections or after the elections shall be examined within a three-day period; those coming in on election day shall be examined immediately.

### **II. Procedure for Scheduling Elections and the Formation of Election Okrugs**

#### **Article 14. Scheduling of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

Elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be scheduled by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet not later than three months prior to the expiration of the term of office of the people's deputies of the Armenian SSR.

Announcement of the day of elections shall be published in the press.

#### **Article 15. Formation of Election Okrugs**

Two hundred fifty election okrugs shall be formed for the election of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR.

Election okrugs shall be formed by the Republic Election Commission for the Election of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR on the recommendation of rayon and city (except for cities under rayon jurisdiction) Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums.

Election okrugs for the election of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be formed having equal numbers of voters over the entire territory of the Armenian SSR. In determining the boundaries of election okrugs, the administrative-territorial division of the Armenian SSR shall be taken into account. The norm of voters for an election okrug shall be established by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Lists of election okrugs, indicating their boundaries and the location of okrug election commissions, shall be published by the Republic Election Commission not later than the 10th day following the scheduling of elections.

One people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall be elected from each election okrug.

### **III. Election Districts**

#### **Article 16. Formation of Election Districts**

In order to conduct balloting and count the votes in elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, the

territory of rayons, cities, and city rayons forming election okrugs shall be divided into election districts. Election districts shall also be formed in military units and form part of election okrugs where the units are located.

In sanatoria and vacation houses, hospitals and other permanent medical facilities, and in places where citizens are located in distant and remote regions, election districts may be formed which are part of election okrugs in their respective place of location.

#### **Article 17. Procedure and Norm of Formation of Election Districts**

Election districts shall be formed by rayon, city (except for cities under rayon jurisdiction), and city rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or by their presidiums with the consent of okrug election commissions. In military units, election districts shall be formed by local soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums at the request of unit or troop formation commanders.

Election districts shall be formed not later than two months prior to elections. In military units as well as in distant and remote regions, election districts shall be formed in the same timespan or, in exceptional circumstances, not later than five days prior to elections.

Election districts shall be formed with not less than 20 and not more than 3000 voters.

In exceptional cases, a Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, or a troop unit commander, shall have the right to form an election district with a greater or lesser number of voters.

The applicable Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium shall notify voters about the boundaries of each election district, indicating the location of the district election commission and the polling place.

### **IV. Election Commissions**

#### **Article 18. The System of Election Commissions**

For the holding of elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, the following election commissions shall be formed:

- the Republic Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR;
- okrug election commissions for elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR;
- district election commissions.

#### **Article 19. Formation of the Republic Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

The Republic Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be formed by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, taking account of proposals of rayon, city (except for cities under rayon

jurisdiction) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, not later than three months prior to the elections, to consist of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary, and 19 commission members.

The term of office of the Republic Election Commission shall be five years.

#### **Article 20. Powers of the Republic Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

The Republic Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR shall:

- 1) monitor the execution of the present Law throughout the territory of the Armenian SSR and ensure its uniform application; when necessary, submit to the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet proposals to interpret the present Law;
- 2) direct the activities of the election commissions; determine the procedure for making changes in the membership of the election commissions;
- 3) form election okrugs;
- 4) distribute funds to the various election commissions; monitor to see that election commissions are provided with facilities, transport, and communications and examine other matters of the material and technical support of elections;
- 5) establish the forms of the election ballot for elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, voting lists and minutes of meetings of election commissions, and other election documents, samples of ballot boxes and seals of election commissions, and procedures for the safekeeping of election documents;
- 6) hear reports of election commissions, ministries, state committees and departments of the Armenian SSR, and other state and social organs having to do with matters relating to the preparation and holding of elections;
- 7) register elected deputies, tally the results of the elections throughout the Armenian SSR, and publish an announcement in the press concerning the results of the elections and a list of elected people's deputies of the Armenian SSR;
- 8) submit to the credentials commission of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet the necessary documentation to verify the deputies' credentials;
- 9) deal with matters relating to the holding of repeat elections;
- 10) deal with matters relating to the organization of the recall [otzyv] of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR;
- 11) schedule elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR to replace recalled [vybyvshiye] deputies, and carry them out;

12) examine declarations and complaints concerning the decisions and actions of the election commissions and hand down final decisions with regard to them;

13) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law and other laws of the Armenian SSR.

#### **Article 21. Formation of Okrug Election Commissions**

A okrug election commission shall be formed in each election okrug for elections of a people's deputy of the Armenian SSR not later than two and a half months prior to the elections, consisting of 11 to 13 members.

Representatives to the okrug election commission shall be nominated by labor collectives or their councils, republic, rayon, city, and city rayon organs of social organizations, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units.

An assembly of voters by place of residence shall be convened by the applicable soviet or its presidium, if the initiative for holding the assembly is supported by at least 50 voters of said election okrug.

The assembly shall be empowered to nominate representatives for the okrug election commission provided at least 100 voters take part in the assembly.

The decision to nominate a representative to the okrug election commission shall be considered as passed provided at least 50 percent of the participants in the assembly voted for it.

Okrug election commissions for elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be formed by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet or its Presidium.

The term of office of okrug election commissions shall be five years.

#### **Article 22. Powers of the Okrug Election Commission**

The okrug election commission for elections of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall:

1) monitor the execution of the present Law within the territory of the okrug;

2) direct the activities of the district election commissions and establish uniform numbering of the election districts in the okrug;

3) hear reports of district election commissions, executive and administrative organs of local Soviets of People's Deputies, and directors of enterprises, institutions, and organizations relating to matters connected with the preparation and holding of elections;

4) see to the compilation of voters' lists and their submission for public inspection;

5) assist the organization of nomination of candidates for deputy; where necessary, send its members to participate in assemblies (conferences) and plenums to nominate candidates for deputy;

6) register the nominated candidates for deputy and issue them the appropriate credentials; inform voters of the list of registered candidates; see to the publication of posters carrying biographical data on the candidates for deputy;

7) ensure equal conditions for deputy candidates' participation in the election campaign;

8) register deputy candidates' accredited representatives and provide them with unimpeded access to all measures connected with the preparation and holding of elections;

9) collaborate with labor collectives and social organizations to arrange deputy candidates' meetings with voters both in the labor collectives and in places of residence;

10) approve the text of the ballot for the election okrug; see to the preparation of the ballots and supply them to the district election commissions;

11) determine and publish in the press the results of the elections in the election okrug; issue credentials to the elected deputy;

12) organize the holding of runoffs and repeat elections, also the election of a deputy to replace one that has been recalled;

13) decide questions relating to the holding of the recall of a deputy;

14) examine declarations and complaints concerning decisions and actions by district election commissions and make decisions regarding them;

15) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 23. Formation of District Election Commissions**

A district election commission shall be formed not later than 45 days prior to the elections, to consist of 5-13 members. Where necessary, by decision of the applicable Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums, the membership of the district election commission may be increased or reduced.

Representatives to the district election commission shall be nominated by labor collectives or their councils, rayon, city, and city rayon organs of social organizations and their primary organizations, organs of public initiative [samodeyatelnost naseleniya], assemblies of voters in places of residence, and servicemen in military units.

An assembly of voters in a place of residence shall be convened by the applicable soviet or its presidium, provided the initiative to hold the assembly has been supported by not less than 50 voters in the given election district.

An assembly shall be empowered to nominate representatives to the district election commission provided at least 75 voters take part in the assembly.

A decision to nominate a representative to the district election commission shall be considered passed provided at least 50 percent of the participants in the assembly voted for it.

District election commissions shall be formed by rayon, city (except for cities under rayon jurisdiction), and city rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums.

The term of a district election commission shall be terminated after the credentials of elected people's deputies have been verified.

#### **Article 24. Powers of the District Election Commission**

A district election commission shall:

- 1) compile lists of voters in the district;
- 2) acquaint voters with the list of voters; receive and review declarations concerning inaccuracies in the lists and decide whether to make appropriate changes in it;
- 3) issue voters certificates of the right to vote;
- 4) notify the public of the location of the district election commission and its hours of operation, also the day of elections and the polling place;
- 5) see to the preparation of voting facilities and polling booths and ballot boxes;
- 6) organize the voting in the election district on election day;
- 7) count the votes in the election district;
- 8) examine declarations and complaints relating to matters of the preparation of the elections and the organization of the voting in the election district and make decisions regarding them;
- 9) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 25. Procedure for Nominating Representatives to Election Commissions and Changes in Their Composition**

In order to determine labor collectives and social organizations nominating representatives to election commissions, the applicable Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums, where necessary, shall hold conferences of officers of labor collectives and social organizations located in the territory of the local soviet within the boundaries of the election okrug or district.

The membership of the election commissions shall be published for general notification.

A chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, or member of an election commission may be relieved of his duties on the commission by the Soviet of People's Deputies that formed it, or the soviet presidium, at his personal request or on recommendations of the labor collective, the organ of the social organization, the assembly of voters in their place of residence, or servicemen of the

military unit that nominated him for membership on the commission. The nomination of a new representative to the election commission shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure established by the present Law.

#### **Article 26. Organization of the Work of Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairmen, and secretary of the election commission shall be elected at the first meeting of the applicable commission.

Meetings of an election commission shall be authorized provided they are participated in by at least two thirds of the commission's membership. Commission decisions shall be made by open vote, by the majority of votes of the total membership of the commission. Commission members who do not agree with the decision shall have the right to express a special opinion which shall be appended to the minutes in written form and submitted for review to the next higher commission.

Decisions by election commissions that are made within the limits of their authority shall be binding on all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Decisions and actions of an election commission may be appealed [obzhalovany] to the next higher election commission and, in cases stipulated by the present Law, also to the court.

Members of an election commission, including the chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the commission, may by its decision be excused from the performance of production or office duties during the period of the preparation and holding of elections, while retaining average wages and salaries paid for from funds allocated for the holding of elections.

Members of an election commission shall not have the right to take part in campaigning for or against candidates for people's deputy in the respective election okrug.

#### **Article 27. Assistance to Election Commissions in the Exercise of Their Powers**

State and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials shall be obligated to assist election commissions in exercising their powers, and shall supply them with the information and materials necessary for their work.

An election commission shall have the right to address questions involving the preparation and holding of elections to state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials, which shall be obligated to examine the submitted question and respond to the election commission not later than within a three-day period.

**V. Voters' Lists****Article 28. Voters' Lists and Procedures for Compiling Them**

A voters' list shall be compiled for each election district and signed by the chairman and secretary of the district election commission. The district election commission may call on representatives of the public to take part in compiling the list.

Executive committees of city, city rayon, settlement, and village Soviets of People's Deputies shall record voters and submit to the district election commissions information concerning the voters living within the respective territory, as necessary to compile the lists.

Lists of voters serving in military units, also members of families of servicemen and other voters living in regions where military units are located, shall be compiled on the basis of data submitted by military unit commanders. Servicemen living outside military units shall be included on voters' lists according to place of residence, on the usual basis.

Lists of voters in election districts formed in sanatoria and vacation houses, hospitals, and other permanent medical facilities, shall be drawn up on the basis of data submitted by the administrators of such institutions.

Surnames of voters shall be indicated on the voters' list in an order convenient for organizing the voting.

**Article 29. Procedure for Including Citizens on a Voters' List**

A voters' list shall include all citizens who have attained the age of 18 before or on election day, who live permanently or temporarily in the territory of the given election district at the time the list is drawn up, and have the right to take part in voting.

A voter may not be included on voters' lists in other election districts.

**Article 30. Citizens' Inspection of Voters' Lists and the Right to Protest Inaccuracies Therein**

Voters' lists shall be made available to general inspection 15 days prior to elections or, in election districts formed in sanatoria and vacation houses, hospitals, and other permanent medical facilities, 2 days prior to elections.

Citizens shall be guaranteed the opportunity to inspect the voters' list and check the accuracy of its compilation on the premises of the district election commission.

Every citizen shall have the right to protest non-inclusion, inaccurate inclusion on the list or exclusion from the list, also inaccuracies in the indication of a voter's personal data on the list. A declaration concerning inaccuracies on the list shall be examined by the district election commission, which shall be obligated, not later than in a two-day period or, on election day or the day before, immediately to examine the declaration

and make the necessary corrections in the list or provide the declarer with a copy of the decision motivating its rejection of his declaration. Such a decision may be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court not later than five days prior to the elections, said court being obligated to examine the complaint within a three-day period. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court shall be final. A correction to the voters' list pursuant to the court's decision shall be made immediately by the district election commission.

**Article 31. Certificate of the Right to Vote. Supplementary Voters' List**

When a voter changes his place of residence during the period between the submission of voters' lists for public inspection and election day, the district election commission, at his request and on his presentation of a passport or other document attesting to his identity, shall provide the voter with a certificate of the right to vote, and the appropriate notation shall be made in the voters' list.

On the basis of a certificate of the right to vote, the voter shall be included on election day in a supplementary voters' list in the election district in the place of his residence.

The supplementary voters' list in election districts shall be drawn up on election day and, at the close of voting, shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the district election commission.

**VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR****Article 32. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

Nomination of candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall commence on the 15th day after the scheduling of elections and shall terminate 45 days prior to the elections.

Nomination of candidates for deputies by labor collectives shall be held at assemblies (conferences) of such collectives.

In large labor collectives, assemblies may be held in shops, sections, shifts, and other subdivisions of enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

An assembly (conference) of a labor collective shall be authorized provided it is attended by more than half of the total number of its members or, in the case of a conference, at least two thirds of the delegates.

Nomination of candidates for deputies by social organizations shall be held at the republic, rayon, city, and city rayon plenums of such organizations.

Assemblies of voters in their place of residence for the nomination of candidates for deputies shall be convened

by the respective Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums in conjunction with okrug election commissions.

An assembly of voters in their place of residence shall be convened provided the initiative for holding the assembly is supported by at least 100 voters of the okrug. An assembly shall be authorized provided it is attended by at least 200 voters living within the territory of the election okrug.

Assemblies of servicemen for the nomination of candidates for deputies shall be convened by the command headquarters of the military units.

Assemblies (conferences) and plenums shall be provided with conditions for nominating an unlimited number of candidates. Every participant in an assembly (conference) or plenum shall have the right to make proposals concerning candidates for deputy, take part in their discussion, second the proposed candidates or move that they be rejected [otvod]. A participant in an assembly (conference) or plenum may propose his own candidacy for discussion as a deputy candidate. The decision to nominate a candidate for deputy shall be made at an assembly (conference) or plenum by open or secret ballot. The voting procedure shall be established by the assembly (conference) or plenum. Labor collectives, social organizations, assemblies of voters in their place of residence, and assemblies of servicemen in military units shall have the right to nominate one candidate for people's deputy.

A candidate shall be considered nominated provided he has been voted for by more than half of the participants in an assembly, two thirds of a conference, or a majority of the total membership of a plenum of a social organization. A document shall be drawn up concerning nomination of the candidate for deputy, which shall be submitted to the okrug election commission not later than the third day after the holding of the assembly (conference) or plenum for the nomination of candidates for deputy. The candidate for deputy shall be notified of the decision not later than within a two-day period.

The nomination of candidates shall be held in the okrug where the labor collective, social organization, or military unit is located or the assembly of voters in their place of residence is held.

Citizens working or living within the territory of the Armenian SSR may be nominated as candidates for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR.

A citizen of the Armenian SSR may not simultaneously serve as a people's deputy in more than two Soviets of People's Deputies.

### **Article 33. Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

Candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be registered by the okrug election commission at

the request of labor collectives, organs of social organizations, assemblies of voters in their place of residence, and servicemen in military units that have nominated candidates for deputy.

Registration of candidates for deputy shall commence 45 days and end one month prior to election day.

The decision to register candidates for deputies shall be made in the presence of the following documents: minutes of the assemblies (conferences) or plenums for the nomination of candidates for deputy in the respective election okrug, also declarations of candidates for deputy consenting to run in the respective election okrug. A declaration of consent to run shall be submitted to the election commission not later than on the fifth day after the end of the nominating period. Persons listed in Article 11 of the present Law shall, on being nominated for deputy candidate, indicate in their declarations the intention to vacate their position in the event they are elected deputies, or shall give notice of withdrawing their candidacy. The election commission shall draw up a document concerning the registration of candidates for deputies which, together with the deputy candidates' declarations, shall be submitted to the Republic Election Commission.

The applicable election commission shall register deputy candidates nominated in compliance with the stipulations of the present Law. A refusal of registration may be protested within a three-day period to the Republic Election Commission.

A candidate for deputy may be registered and run for office only in one election okrug.

A candidate for deputy may not be a member of the Republic Election Commission or of okrug or district election commissions in the election okrug where he has been nominated. A person who has been nominated as a candidate for deputy and who is a member of one of the aforementioned commissions shall be considered relieved of his duties on the commission from the moment he has registered as a candidate for deputy.

The applicable election commission shall publish in the press, not later than the fourth day after the registration of candidates for deputy, a notice concerning the registration, indicating the surname, given name, father's name, year of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence of every candidate for deputy.

### **Article 34. Reversal of the Decision to Nominate a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR. Candidate's Withdrawal of his Candidacy**

A labor collective, organ of a social organization, assembly of voters in their place of residence, or assembly of servicemen in a military unit who have nominated a candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall have the right to reverse their decision to nominate the candidate for deputy at any time.

A decision on this matter shall be made in accordance with procedures stipulated for the nomination of candidates for deputy and submitted to the respective election commission.

A candidate for deputy may withdraw his candidacy at any time prior to the elections by submitting his declaration thereto to the respective election commission.

The election commission which registered a candidate for deputy shall notify the population of the election okrug concerning a reversal of the decision to nominate the candidate for deputy or the candidate's withdrawal of his candidacy.

Reinstatement of the candidacy of a candidate who has announced his own withdrawal shall not be permitted.

**Article 35. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR to Replace Ones Removed**

In the event of the removal of a candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR after the termination of the period of registration of deputy candidates, if there are no other candidates in the election okrug, the okrug election commission shall propose that labor collectives, social organizations, assemblies of voters in their place of residence, and servicemen in military units nominate new candidates for deputy. In the event of the removal of candidates for deputy less than one month prior to the elections, the election of a deputy from the respective election okrug shall be held within a two-month period after the general elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputy to replace ones removed shall be held according to procedures stipulated by the present Law.

**Article 36. The Election Ballot**

A ballot shall include an alphabetical list of all registered candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, indicating the surname, given name, father's name, position (occupation), and place of work and residence of every candidate for deputy. The ballot shall be printed in the languages used by the population in the election okrug.

**VII. Guarantees of Activities of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

**Article 37. The Right of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR to Speak at Meetings, Utilize the Facilities of the Mass Media, and Obtain Information**

Candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall, from the time of their registration, have the right to speak at meetings, conferences, and sessions, in the press, on television, and radio.

State and social organs, officials of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and organs of public social initiative shall be obligated to assist candidates for

people's deputies of the Armenian SSR in organizing meetings with voters and members of social organizations and obtaining the necessary reference and informational materials.

**Article 38. The Pre-Election Program of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall announce a program of his future activities. A deputy candidate's program may not be in conflict with the USSR Constitution, the Armenian SSR Constitution, or Soviet laws.

**Article 39. Accredited Representatives of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR may have up to five accredited representatives who shall assist him in conducting the election campaign, agitate for his election as deputy, and represent his interests in relations with state and social organs, voters, members of social organizations, and in the election commissions.

A candidate for deputy shall designate accredited representatives at his own discretion and report them for registration in the okrug election commission. After such representatives are registered, the election commission shall issue credentials to them.

After such representative has been registered, at the request of the candidate for people's deputy he may, for the period of the pre-election events, be excused from the performance of production or office duties while retaining his average wage or salary in his workplace. Expenses incurred in this connection by enterprises, institutions, or organizations shall be reimbursed, at their request, from funds allocated for the holding of the elections.

An accredited representative may not be a member of election commissions of the respective election okrug.

**Article 40. Pre-Election Agitation**

Labor collectives, social organizations, voters in their place of residence, and servicemen in military units who have nominated candidates for deputy, also accredited representatives of candidates for people's deputies, shall have the right to conduct unimpeded agitation for their candidates.

Labor collectives, voters in their place of residence, and social organizations shall be provided by the election commissions with well-equipped facilities for assemblies and rallies as well as mass information media for the conducting of pre-election agitation.

Citizens of the Armenian SSR, labor collectives, and social organizations shall have the guaranteed opportunity for free and comprehensive discussion of the political, practical, and personal qualities of candidates for

deputy, also the right to conduct agitation for or against candidates, at meetings, in the press, and on television and radio.

Candidates for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall hold meetings with their constituents both at meetings and in other forms convenient to the voters. Assemblies of voters shall be organized by the election commission jointly with the respective Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium and social organizations.

Voters shall be informed in a timely manner of the time and place of the holding of assemblies and meetings.

Agitation shall not be permitted on election day.

**Article 41. Exemption of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR from Production or Office Duties in Order to Take Part in Pre-Election Events**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall, after registration, be excused from production or office duties for the time spent in meetings with voters, participation in rallies, and on television and radio, while retaining average wages and salaries, paid for out of funds allocated for the holding of elections.

**Article 42. The Right of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR to Free Transport**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall, after registration, have the right to free transport on all types of passenger transport (with the exception of taxis) within the limits of the respective election okrug.

A candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR living outside the election okrug shall enjoy the same right to transport into the election okrug and return to his place of residence.

**Article 43. Immunity of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR may not be subject to criminal action, arrest, or measures of administrative penalty applicable in court procedure without the consent of the Republic Election Commission.

**VIII. Voting Procedure and Tallying of the Election Results**

**Article 44. Time and Place of Voting**

In the election of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, voting shall be held on election day from 7:00 to 20:00 hours local time. The district election commission shall inform voters of the time and place of the voting not later than 10 days prior to the elections.

In voting districts formed in military units and in distant and remote regions, the district election commission may declare the voting to be closed at any time if all voters entered on the list have voted.

**Article 45. Organization of the Voting**

Voting shall be held in specially designated facilities which must be equipped with a sufficient number of booths or secret voting chambers and provided with designated places for the issuance of ballots and with ballot boxes installed. Ballot boxes shall be installed so that voters approaching them necessarily go through the booths or secret voting chambers.

Responsibility for organizing the voting, ensuring the secret expression of voters' will, equipping the facilities, and maintaining the necessary order shall be borne by the district election commission.

On election day, prior to the start of the voting, the ballot boxes shall be checked, sealed, or stamped by the chairman of the respective election commission, in the presence of all members of the commission.

Every voter shall vote personally; voting on behalf of other persons shall not be permitted. Ballots shall be issued by the respective election commission on the basis of the voters' list of the election district and a certificate of the right to vote on presentation of a passport or other identity document. A notation shall be made on the voters' list concerning the issuance of ballots. Certificates of the right to vote shall be appended to the supplementary voters' list.

In cases where particular voters cannot, for reasons of health or other factors, come to the voting place, the district election commission shall, at their request, direct particular members of the commission to organize voting in the place where such voters are staying. In such cases, the organization of the voting shall be participated in by at least two members of the commission.

**Article 46. Conducting of the Voting**

The election ballot shall be filled out by the voter in the booth or the secret voting chamber. When the ballot is being filled out, the presence of anyone else besides the voter shall be prohibited. A voter who is unable to fill out the ballot himself shall have the right to invite into the booth or chamber another person, at his own discretion, except a member of the election commission.

In the election of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, the voter shall cross out the names of candidates against whom he is voting on the ballot. The voter shall drop the filled-out ballot in the ballot box.

**Article 47. Counting of the Votes in the Election District**

Ballot boxes shall be opened by the district election commission after the commission chairman's announcement that the polls are closed. Opening of the ballot boxes prior to the end of polling shall be prohibited. Prior to the opening of the ballot boxes, all unused ballots shall be counted and canceled by the district election commission.



The district election commission shall, on the basis of the main and supplementary voters' lists, determine the total number of voters in the district as well as the number of voters who have received ballots. On the basis of the ballots in the ballot boxes, the commission shall determine: the total number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes given for and the number of votes given against every candidate for deputy; the number of ballots judged invalid. Votes for the names of citizens written in on the ballots by the voters shall not be counted.

Ballots of other than the stipulated form, ballots from other okrugs, and also ballots on which more than one candidate has been retained, shall be ruled invalid. In the event of any doubts concerning the validity of a ballot, the issue shall be decided by the district election commission, by means of a vote.

Ballots on which all names have been crossed out shall be counted valid, but the votes shall be counted as having been given against each candidate.

The results of the counting of the votes shall be examined at a meeting of the district election commission and entered on a document drawn up for the election okrug. The document shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary and members of the commission and passed on to the respective okrug election commission according to procedures stipulated by the republic election commission.

#### **Article 48. Determination of the Results of Elections**

On the basis of the documents of the district election commissions, the okrug election commission shall determine: the total number of voters in the okrug; the number of voters receiving ballots; the number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes given for and the number of votes given against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots ruled invalid. Votes for the names of citizens written in by the voters on the ballot shall not be counted.

The candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR who has received more than half of the votes of the voters who took part in the voting in the election shall be considered elected.

The okrug election commission may rule the elections invalid due to any violations of the present Law during the course of the elections or the counting of the votes.

The elections shall be judged invalid if they were participated in by less than half of the voters entered on the voters' lists, also in connection with the death of a candidate for deputy if just one candidate was registered in the okrug.

The results of the elections in the election okrug shall be determined at a meeting of the okrug election commission and entered in a document. The document shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and

members of the commission and passed on to the Republic Election Commission under procedures established by it.

Announcement of the results of the elections in the election okrug shall be published in the press by the respective okrug election commission within the time period stipulated by the Republic Election Commission. The announcement shall indicate the total number of citizens entered on the voters' lists; the number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes given for and the number of votes given against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; and the surname, given name, father's name, position (occupation), party status, and place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **IX. Procedure for Tallying and Publishing the Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

##### **Article 49. Registration of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

The Republic Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR shall, on the basis of documents submitted to it by the election commissions, register the elected people's deputies of the Armenian SSR.

The Republic Election Commission may rule the elections invalid if during the course of the elections or during the counting of the votes or determination of the results of the elections there have been any violations of the present Law, and may refuse to register the people's deputy of the Armenian SSR.

##### **Article 50. Publication of the Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR**

An announcement of the results of elections throughout the republic as a whole and the list of elected people's deputies of the Armenian SSR shall be published in the press by the Republic Election Commission not later than within a 10-day period, in alphabetical order, indicating the surname, given name, father's name, position (occupation), party status, and place of work and residence of the deputy, and the election okrug from which he was elected deputy.

##### **Article 51. Credentials and Badge of the People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR**

The okrug election commission shall, after the publication in the press of the list of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR registered by the Republic Election Commission, issue to each elected deputy a certificate of his election.

After confirmation of the credentials of the elected deputies by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, the certificate of election as deputy that was issued to him shall be replaced with a certificate of people's deputy of the Armenian SSR. The deputy shall also be issued a badge reading "People's Deputy of the Armenian SSR."

**X. Runoffs, Repeat Elections, and Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR to Replace Deputies Removed**

**Article 52. Runoffs**

If more than two candidates for people's deputies of the Armenian SSR ran in an election okrug and neither one was elected, the okrug election commission shall make a decision as to holding a runoff in the okrug for the two candidates for deputies who received the greatest number of votes. The okrug election commission shall notify the Republic Election Commission of its decision and inform the voters of the okrug. The runoff in the election okrug shall be held not later than within a two-week period, in compliance with the stipulations of the present Law.

That candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR shall be considered elected who shall have received, during the runoff, the greatest number of the votes of the voters taking part in the runoff, compared with the other candidates.

In the event that, during the holding of a runoff in the election okrug, one of two candidates for deputy shall have withdrawn prior to the voting day, the okrug election commission shall hold a vote on the remaining candidate for deputy. The candidate for deputy shall be considered elected if he receives the votes of more than half of the voters taking part in the vote.

**Article 53. Repeat Elections**

If not more than two candidates for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR ran in an election okrug and neither one of them was elected, or the elections were ruled inconclusive or invalid in the election okrug, or if a runoff failed to determine an elected deputy, the Republic Election Commission shall direct the okrug election commission to hold repeat elections in the election okrug. In doing so, it may decide as to the necessity of holding elections with the okrug or district election commissions comprised of new membership. The vote shall be held in the same election districts and on the basis of voters' lists compiled for the holding of the general elections.

Repeat elections shall be held not later than within a two-month period after the general elections. The formation of election commissions, registration of candidates for deputies, and other measures shall be conducted under procedures stipulated by the present Law.

Persons who did not receive the necessary number of votes in the general elections may not run again.

**Article 54. Holding of Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR to Replace Ones Removed**

In the case that the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet shall rule the credentials of particular people's deputies of the Armenian SSR to be invalid, and also in the event of the

recall of a deputy or the cessation of a deputy's credentials prior to expiration of term for other reasons, new elections shall be held in the respective election okrugs within a three-month period of the removal of the deputy.

Elections shall be scheduled by the Republic Election Commission not later than two months prior to the time they are held and shall be organized in compliance with the stipulations of the present Law. The okrug election commission shall be formed 50 days, and district election commission one month, prior to the elections; the registration of candidates for deputy shall be terminated one month prior to the elections.

In the event of the removal of a people's deputy of the Armenian SSR less than one year prior to the expiration of the term of office of people's deputies of the Armenian SSR, no election shall be held to elect a new people's deputy of the Armenian SSR to replace the one removed.

**Armenian SSR Election Law Comparison**

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[Editorial Report] Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian on 24 February 1990 carries on pages 1, 2, and 3 the "Law of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR." Comparison of this version with draft law carried in KOMMUNIST on 7 September 1989 reveals the following variations:

Page 1, Section I, Article 2, paragraph one, second sentence reads: "Citizens of other union republics may also be elected people's deputies of the Armenian SSR" (adding new sentence);

Article 2, paragraph three, first sentence substitutes "...people confined in places of detention by court order..." for "...people confined in places of detention..." and omits reference to people undergoing compulsory treatment by court order. Second sentence reads: "People who are kept under guard in the manner prescribed by criminal procedural law shall not participate in elections" (adding new sentence);

Article 2, paragraph four reads: "Any direct or indirect restriction whatsoever of the voting rights of citizens of the Armenian SSR is impermissible and punishable by law" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 3, paragraph two is original paragraph three, omitting paragraph about equal voting rights of men and women;

Article 6, paragraph one substitutes "...representatives, elected by meetings (or conferences) of labor collectives..." for "...representatives of labor collectives..." and adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies of voters";

Article 7, paragraph two, second sentence substitutes "...results of nomination and registration of candidates..." for "...results of registration of candidates...";

Article 7, paragraph three, first sentence adds "unsealing and opening of ballot boxes" between "candidates for deputy," and "tallying the votes," omits reference to determination of district results, and reads "...representatives of social organizations and of the press, television, and radio with the proper credentials, representatives of labor collectives, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, assemblies of voters by place of residence and servicemen by military units, located within the territory of the electoral district, and the authorized representatives of candidates for deputy registered in the electoral district..." (changing order of items on list, adding academic collectives, and omitting reference to advance notification);

Article 7, paragraph three, second sentence is original paragraph four and adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "labor collectives," and "social organizations" and reads: "...electoral commission, which will establish equal conditions for the accommodation of participants" (adding all words following comma);

Article 7, paragraph three, third sentence is original paragraph five and substitutes "...powers of the representatives..." for "...powers of said representatives..." and reads "...military units, which will notify the district electoral commission of this at least 3 days in advance" (adding all words following comma);

Article 8, paragraph one, first sentence adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies of voters";

Article 8, paragraph two adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, assemblies of voters by place of residence and of servicemen by military units" between "social organizations" and "shall take part";

Article 9, paragraph one adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies";

Article 11, paragraph one adds "their deputies" between "departments of the Armenian SSR," and "the chairman and members";

Article 12, paragraph two reads: "To secure equal conditions for each candidate for people's deputy, the expenses connected with election preparations and proceedings will be paid by the applicable electoral commission from a united fund set up by the state and voluntary contributions from enterprises, social organizations, and citizens" (adding entire paragraph); paragraphs three and four are original paragraphs two and three;

Article 13, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes: "...organs, who prevent the free exercise of the right to

run for office as a people's deputy of the Armenian SSR, unjustifiably refuse to register a candidate for deputy, forge election documents..." for "...organs forging election documents...";

Article 13, paragraph two substitutes "...election day or the day before shall..." for "...election day shall...";

Article 13, paragraph three reads: "A copy of the decision on the results of the investigation shall be issued to the complainant" (adding entire paragraph);

Section II, Article 15, paragraph one substitutes "...260..." for "...250...";

Article 15, paragraph two substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 15, paragraph three, first sentence substitutes "...having approximately equal numbers of voters. In determining..." for "...having equal numbers of voters over the entire territory of the Armenian SSR. In determining..."; fourth sentence substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Section IV, Article 18, paragraph two substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Page 2, Article 19, title and paragraph one substitute "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission"; paragraph one substitutes "...Supreme Soviet from among the representatives nominated by labor collectives, republic organs of social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, assemblies of voters by place of residence and of servicemen by military units no later than..." for "...Supreme Soviet, with consideration for the proposals of rayon and city (with the exception of cities of rayon jurisdiction) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums no later than...";

Article 20, title and paragraph one substitute "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 20, paragraph two omits "throughout the territory of the Armenian SSR";

Article 20, paragraph three substitutes "...activities of electoral commissions; petitions the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet or its presidium for changes in the membership of district electoral commissions..." for "...activities of electoral commissions; determines procedure for making changes in the membership of electoral commissions...";

Article 20, paragraph eight omits reference to results of elections throughout the Armenian SSR;

Article 20, paragraph twelve reads: "...and carries them out on the scheduled date" (adding all words following "out");

Article 21, paragraph one substitutes "...no later than 70 days prior to..." for "...no later than two and a half months prior to...";

Article 21, paragraph two substitutes "...nominated by rayon, city, and municipal rayon organs of social organizations located within the territory of the electoral district, by labor collectives or their councils, by collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and by assemblies..." for "...nominated by labor collectives or their councils, by republic, rayon, city, and municipal rayon organs of social organizations, and by assemblies...";

Article 21, paragraph three, first sentence substitutes "...presidium on the initiative of at least 50 voters..." for "...presidium if the initiative to hold the assembly is supported by at least 50 voters..."; second sentence is original paragraph four; paragraphs four, five, and six are original paragraphs five, six, and seven;

Article 22, paragraph seven, reads: "...biographic data on the candidates for deputy and the basic premises of their campaign platforms" (adding all words following "deputy");

Article 22, paragraph ten reads "...9) arranges for meetings of candidates for people's deputy with voters in conjunction with labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and assemblies of voters by place of residence" (changing procedure and adding academic collectives);

Article 23, paragraph two substitutes "...nominated by rayon, city, and municipal rayon organs of social organizations or their primary organizations located within the territory of the electoral district, by labor collectives or their councils, by collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, by citizens' independent..." for "...nominated by labor collectives or their councils, by rayon, city, and municipal rayon organs of social organizations and their primary organizations, by citizens' independent...";

Article 23, paragraph three, first sentence substitutes "...presidium on the initiative of at least 50..." for "...presidium, if the initiative is supported by at least 50..." second sentence is original paragraph four;

Article 25, paragraph one substitutes: "...labor collectives, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and assemblies of voters by place of residence and of servicemen by military units nominating..." for "...labor collectives and social organizations nominating..." and substitutes "...organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and assemblies of voters by place of residence and servicemen by military units located..." for "...organizations located...";

Article 25, paragraph three substitutes "...organization, collective of a secondary specialized or higher academic institution, assembly..." for "...organization, assembly...";

Article 26, paragraph one substitutes "secretary of district or precinct electoral commission" for "secretary of electoral commission";

Article 26, paragraph seven reads: "Electoral commissions will keep a log of official correspondence from the time they are formed" (adding entire paragraph);

Section VI, Article 32, paragraph one substitutes "...commence 70 days prior to the elections and shall terminate 40 days prior..." for "...commence on the 15th day after the scheduling of elections and shall terminate 45 days prior...";

Article 32, paragraph two substitutes "...by labor collectives and collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions shall be conducted at assemblies (or conferences) of these collectives, located within the territory of the applicable electoral district. Collectives with fewer than 200 members may nominate candidates for deputy at assemblies (or conferences) held jointly with other collectives. The total number of members of collectives holding joint assemblies (or conferences) must not be lower than 200" for "...by labor collectives shall be conducted at assemblies (or conferences) of these collectives";

Article 32, paragraph three is original paragraph four, omitting original paragraph three about large labor collectives, substitutes "...assembly of a labor collective or collective of a secondary specialized or higher academic institution shall be..." for "...assembly (or conference) of a labor collective shall be...";

Article 32, paragraph four (original paragraph five) reads: "...plenums of such organizations and other equivalent organs" (adding all words following "organizations");

Article 32, paragraph five reads: "The nomination of candidates for deputy by neighborhood voters shall be conducted at neighborhood assemblies and by means of the collection of signatures in line with the citizens' initiative procedure" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 32, paragraph six reads: "Voter assemblies shall be convened by the district electoral commission if the proposal to convene an assembly is supported by at least 100 district voters. The assembly shall be authorized if it is attended by at least 200 voters living within the territory of the electoral district" (adding words and combining two original paragraphs);

Article 32, paragraph seven reads: "The collection of signatures for the nomination of a candidate for deputy in line with the citizens' initiative procedure shall be organized by the citizen or citizens on whose initiative the candidate for deputy is nominated. Voters in the electoral district shall sign a special form. A candidate

for whom at least 200 signatures of voters have been collected shall be considered nominated" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 32, paragraph nine, sixth sentence adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies" and substitutes "...place of residence and voters nominating a candidate for people's deputy in line with the citizens' initiative procedure, and assemblies..." for "...place of residence, and assemblies..."

Article 32, paragraph ten, first sentence substitutes "...assembly (or conference) or a majority..." for "...assembly, two-thirds of a conference, or a majority..."

Article 32, paragraph eleven reads "...labor collective, collective of a secondary specialized or higher academic institution, or military unit is located, where the assembly of voters by place of residence is held, or where signatures of voters have been collected in line with the citizens' initiative procedure" (adding words and omitting reference to social organizations); omits next paragraph in original regarding right of citizens to be nominated;

Article 33, paragraph one adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies";

Article 33, paragraph two substitutes "...40 days..." for "...45 days..."

Article 33, paragraph three, first sentence substitutes "...presence of minutes of..." for "...presence of the following documents: minutes of..." and substitutes "...electoral district, and lists of signatures collected in line with citizens' initiative procedure, as well as..." for "...electoral district, as well as..."

Article 33, paragraph four, first and second sentences are third and fourth sentences of original paragraph three; second sentence substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 33, paragraph five, first sentence substitutes "district electoral commission" for "applicable electoral commission"; second sentence substitutes "...the decision to refuse to register..." for "...the refusal to register..." and "...within 1 day to the organ nominating the candidate for deputy" for "...within 3 days to the Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 33, paragraph seven substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 33, paragraph eight substitutes "...applicable district electoral commission..." for "...applicable electoral commission..."

Article 34, paragraph one adds "collective of a secondary specialized or higher academic institution" between "organization," and "assembly";

Article 34, paragraph three substitutes "...applicable district electoral commission..." for "...applicable electoral commission..."

Article 35, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes "prior to the termination" for "after the termination" and adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies";

Article 36, paragraph one, second sentence reads: "In the event of the registration of a single candidate for people's deputy of the Armenian SSR, the ballot shall say 'approve' or 'reject' across from his name" (adding entire sentence);

Section VII, Article 37, paragraph one adds "rallies" between "assemblies," and "conferences";

Article 38, paragraph one omits second sentence about candidate's platform;

Article 39, paragraph one substitutes "10" for "5";

Article 39, paragraph two, third and fourth sentences read: "Like the candidate for deputy, his authorized representative or representatives can refuse the obligation. The candidate for deputy shall report to the district electoral commission on the registration of a new authorized representative or representatives and on the acknowledgement of the previous registration as invalid" (adding entire sentences);

Article 40, paragraph one adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" between "social organizations," and "assemblies";

Article 40, paragraph two substitutes "...collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and voters by place of residence shall..." for "...collectives, voters by place of residence, and social organizations shall..."

Article 40, paragraph three adds "collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions and assemblies of voters by place of residence" between "social organizations" and "shall be provided" and adds "rallies" between "assemblies," and "in the press";

Article 40, paragraph four, second sentence substitutes "district electoral commission" for "electoral commission";

Article 43, paragraph one substitutes "...consent of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet" for "...consent of the Republic Electoral Commission";

Page 3, Section VIII, Article 45, paragraph four, third sentence reads: "When the voter receives his ballot, he

shall sign the voters' list displayed to the public" (changing procedure and omitting reference to voting rights certificates);

Article 45, paragraph five, first sentence reads: "...voters are staying, on a separate list" (adding all words following comma);

Article 46, paragraph two reads: "...on the ballot, and if there is only one candidate he shall indicate approval or rejection across from his name" (adding all words following comma);

Article 47, paragraph one omits reference to each electoral district;

Article 47, paragraph two, first sentence is original third sentence and reads: "...precinct electoral commission, and this shall be entered on a document" (adding all words following comma);

Article 47, paragraph four, first sentence adds "or if the words 'approve' or 'reject' are not crossed out in the case of a single candidate" between "been retained," and "shall be";

Article 47, paragraph five adds "and the words 'approve' and 'reject' in the case of a single candidate" between "crossed out" and "shall be";

Article 47, paragraph six substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 48, paragraph three substitutes "...invalid if violations of this law, capable of seriously influencing election results, were committed..." for "...invalid if violations of this law were committed...";

Article 48, paragraph five substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Section IX, Article 49, paragraphs one and two substitute "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission"; paragraph two reads "...invalid and refuse to register the people's deputy if violations of this law, capable of seriously influencing election results, were committed during the elections or during the tallying of votes or the determination of the election results" (adding words and changing word order);

Article 50, paragraph one and Article 51, paragraph one substitute "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Section X, Article 52, paragraph one, second sentence substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission";

Article 52, paragraph two substitutes "...people's deputy who received more than half of the votes of the voters casting ballots in the runoff..." for "...people's deputy of the Armenian SSR receiving more votes than other candidates in the runoff...";

Article 53, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission"; second sentence is original third sentence, omitting original second sentence referring to new membership of commissions;

Article 53, paragraph two, second sentence omits "formation of electoral commissions";

Article 54, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "Central Electoral Commission" for "Republic Electoral Commission"; second sentence begins: "Precinct electoral commissions shall be formed a month prior..." (omitting reference to district commissions);

Adds signatures of Chairman G. Voskanyan and Secretary N. Stepanyan of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and date and place: 13 February 1990, Yerevan.

## Azerbaijan SSR

### Azerbaijan SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

90US0295A Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian  
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["Draft Law of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR"]

#### [Text] I. General Provisions

#### Article 1. Fundamentals of Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR

In accordance with the Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR, elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be conducted by single-mandate election okrugs on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, with secret balloting.

#### Article 2. Universal Suffrage

Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR are universal: every citizen of the Azerbaijan SSR who has reached 18 years of age shall have the right to vote and be elected.

Any and all direct or indirect limitations on the right to vote of citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR by virtue of origin, social or property status, racial or national origin, gender, education, language, attitude toward religion, length of residence in a given locality, or kind or nature of occupation, are forbidden.

Mentally-ill citizens declared incompetent by the court, persons incarcerated by decision of the court or with the sanction of the prosecutor, and also people sent to forced treatment by decision of the court, shall not take part in elections.

**Article 3. Equal Suffrage**

Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be equal: every elector shall have one vote; electors and candidates shall take part in the elections on an equal basis.

Women and men shall enjoy equal suffrage.

Military servicemen shall enjoy right of suffrage on an equal basis with all citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR.

**Article 4. Direct Suffrage**

Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be direct: people's deputies shall be elected directly by the citizens.

**Article 5. Secret Balloting**

Voting at elections for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be secret: monitoring the expression of the voters' will shall not be permitted.

**Article 6. Right to Vote of Citizens of Other Union Republics**

Citizens of other union republics who dwell on the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR shall enjoy the right to vote on an equal basis with citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR.

**Article 7. Conduct of Elections by Election Commissions**

Conduct of elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be provided by election commissions which shall be made up of representatives of working collectives, social organizations, collectives at secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, voters' assemblies at their place of residence, and military servicemen by military units.

**Article 8. Glasnost in Preparation for and Conduct of Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

Preparations for and conduct of elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be openly and publicly carried out by election commissions, working collectives and social organizations.

Election commissions shall inform the citizens of their work and the formation of election okrugs; of the make-up, place and time of the work of the election commissions; and of the voters' lists. Election commissions shall inform the voters of the results of registration of candidates for deputy, biographical data on the registered candidates, voting results for each candidate, and the results of the elections.

Representatives of working collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, voters' assemblies at their place of residence and military servicemen at their military units, okrug election commissions, organs of state power, authorized individuals, and representatives of the press, television and radio—shall have the right to be present at

sessions of the election commissions, including registration of candidates for deputy, sealing or unsealing ballot boxes before the beginning of the election, counting the votes at a polling place, determining the election results by okrug and summing up the overall election results, and at all other assemblies and sessions associated with the elections. The authority of designated representatives must be verified by the appropriate document or decision of the working collective, the collective of a secondary specialized or higher educational institution, voters' assembly at their place of residence, or military servicemen at their military units. The appropriate election commission shall be informed of the intention of representatives to be present on election day on the facilities of the election okrugs or at sessions of election commissions, not later than two days before the elections. The designated representatives shall not be permitted to interfere in the work of the election commissions.

The mass information media shall illuminate the course of preparations for and conduct of elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR. election commissions, state and social organs, and working collectives shall present information to them, connected with preparations for and conduct of elections.

**Article 9. Participation in Preparations for and Conduct of Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

Citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR shall participate in preparations for and conduct of elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR not only through their working collectives, social organizations, collectives at secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, voters' assemblies at their place of residence and military servicemen at their military units, but also directly.

Working collectives, social organizations and collectives of academic institutions shall take part in preparations for and conduct of elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR both through their representatives to the election commissions, and directly.

**Article 10. The Right to Nominate Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

The right to nominate candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR belongs to working collectives, social organizations, collectives at secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, voters' assemblies at their place of residence, and military servicemen at their military units.

**Article 11. Mandates of Electors of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

The electors shall give their mandates to their own deputies.

The procedure for introducing, summarizing, examining and organizing the execution of mandates are established by legislation of the USSR and the Azerbaijan SSR.

**Article 12. Incompatibility of the Status of People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR with One's Official Position**

Persons who are members of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers—with the exception of the Chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers and the Chairman of the Nakhichevanskaya ASSR Council of Ministers—administrators of agencies of the Azerbaijan SSR, the chairman and members of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Court, judges of the Baku Municipal Court, people's judges of rayon (city) people's courts, the Chief State Arbitrator and State Arbitrators of the Azerbaijan SSR, and the chairman and members of the Azerbaijan SSR Constitutional Oversight Committee, shall not be at the same time People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR.

**Article 13. Expenses Associated with Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR. Material Support of Elections**

Expenses associated with preparations for and conduct of elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be paid by the corresponding election commissions from a single fund created at the expense of the state, enterprises, social and other organizations, for the purpose of ensuring equal conditions for every candidate for people's deputy.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, and state and social organs, for the period of preparations for and conduct of the elections, shall place at the disposal of the election commissions the accommodations, necessary equipment and means of transportation, free of charge.

Financing or material support of a candidate for deputy by enterprises, cooperatives, institutions, organizations, state and social organs, and individual citizens, is not permitted.

Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, their authorized representatives and electors shall not bear the expenses associated with preparation for and conduct of elections.

**Article 14. Liability for Violation of Legislation on Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

Persons who prevent by means of force, deception, threat or other means, free realization of an Azerbaijan SSR citizen's right to vote for and be elected People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, or to carry out pre-election agitation; members of election commissions and responsible officials of state and social organs guilty of forgery of election documents or wittingly incorrect vote count, or who violate the secrecy of balloting or commit any other violation of the present Law, shall bear the liability established by law. Also subject to liability are persons who publish or distribute by other means wittingly false information about a candidate for deputy.

If a candidate for deputy violates the present Law, he shall be warned by the corresponding okrug election

commission; upon a second violation the Central Election Commission, upon representation of the okrug election commission, may withdraw the decision on registration of this candidate for deputy, which decision shall be brought to the attention of the populace of the corresponding election okrug.

Declarations on violations of election laws received by the election commissions, state and social organs during the period of preparations for the elections, or after the elections, shall be examined within a five-day period; those which arrive on the eve of the elections or on election day—shall be examined immediately.

**II. Procedure for Calling Elections and Formation of Election Okrugs**

**Article 15. Calling for Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be called by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet no later than three months prior to expiration of the term of office of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR.

Information on election day shall be published in the press.

**Article 16. Formation of Election Okrugs**

Three-hundred-sixty election okrugs shall be formed for election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR.

Election okrugs shall be formed by the Central Election Commission for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR upon representation of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Lists of election okrugs, indicating their boundaries, number of electors and locations of the okrug election commissions shall be published by the Central Election Commission no later than ten days after elections are called.

Election okrugs for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be formed, on the whole, with an equal level of population throughout the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR. When defining the boundaries of election okrugs, the administrative-territorial division of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be taken into consideration. The norm of electors per election okrug shall be established by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet for every election.

**III. Election Districts**

**Article 17. Formation of Election Districts**

For conduct of voting and counting of ballots during elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, the territories of rayons, cities, and urban rayons which are divided into election okrugs, shall be divided into election districts. Election districts shall also be formed in military units, and shall be part of the election okrug in the area in which the unit is situated.



Election districts may be formed at hospitals and other in-patient medical institutions; where citizens are found in remote and hard-to-reach regions; and also on ships at sea on election day. These election districts shall be part of the election okrug corresponding to their location, or at the ships' port of registration.

The question of attribution of voting districts formed in military units, as well as aboard ships which are at sea on election day, to election okrugs for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, shall be decided by the Central election Commission.

#### **Article 18. Procedure and Norm for Formation of Election Districts**

Election districts shall be formed by rayon, by city (excluding cities of rayon subordination), and by urban rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or by their presidia, upon coordination with the okrug election commissions. On ships at sea on election day, election districts shall be formed by the corresponding local Soviets of Peoples Deputies or by their presidia in the port at which the vessel is registered. In military units, election districts shall be formed by local Soviets of People's Deputies or by their presidia upon representation of the commanders of units or military formations.

Election districts shall be formed no later than two months prior to the elections. In military units, as well as in remote and hard-to-reach regions, and on ships at sea on election day, election districts shall be formed during the very same period, and in exceptional cases—no later than five days prior to the elections.

Election districts shall be formed of no fewer than 20 and no more than 3,000 voters.

The corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium shall inform the electors on the boundaries of each election district, and shall indicate the location of the district election commission and the polling place.

#### **IV. Election Commissions**

##### **Article 19. The Election Commission System**

- election commissions are formed for conducting elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR;
- a Central Election Commission for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR;
- okrug election commissions for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR; and,
- district election commissions.

##### **Article 20. Formation of a Central Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

The Central Election Commission for election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR is formed by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet by either open or secret balloting, taking into consideration suggestions from the

organs of state power of the Nakhichevanskaya ASSR, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, cities of republic subordination, rayons in the republic and republic organs of social organizations, not later than three months prior to the elections. The Commission shall consist of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary and 21 members.

The term of office of the Central Election Commission shall be five years.

##### **Article 21. Authority of the Central Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

The Central Election Commission for election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall:

- 1) monitor the execution of the present Law and assure its uniform application throughout the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR; provide explanation of the procedure for applying the present Law, and shall if necessary go to the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet with representations on interpreting the present Law;
- 2) direct the activity of the election commissions, and determine the procedure for making changes to the membership of the election commissions;
- 3) form election okrugs;
- 4) distribute monetary assets among the election commissions; monitor the provision of accommodation, transportation and communication to the election commissions; and examine other questions of material-technical supply for elections;
- 5) establish the form of ballots for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, voters' lists, proceedings of pre-election sessions of election commissions, other election documents, sample ballot boxes and seals for election commissions; and the procedure for protecting election documents;
- 6) hear reports from ministries, state committees and agencies of the Azerbaijan SSR and other state and social organs on questions associated with preparation for and conduct of elections;
- 7) register elected deputies, sum up the totals for the elections for the republic as a whole, and publish information in the press on the election results and the list of elected People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR;
- 8) send to the Mandate Commission of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet documentation necessary to verify the deputies' authority;
- 9) resolve questions associated with holding repeat elections;
- 10) resolve questions associated with organizing the recall of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR;

11) call elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR in place of deputies who have departed, and ensure they are held;

12) examine declarations and complaints on the decisions and actions of election commissions, and make final decisions on them; and,

13) exercise other authority in accordance with the present Law and other laws of the Azerbaijan SSR.

#### **Article 22. Formation of Okrug Election Commissions**

Okrug election commissions shall be formed in each election okrug for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, no less than 70 days prior to the elections, and shall consist of 9-13 members.

Representative members of okrug election commissions shall be nominated by working collectives or their soviets; by republic, oblast, rayon, city, or urban rayon organs of social organizations; by collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions; and by voters' assemblies at their place of residence and military servicemen at their military units. In order to define the working collectives, social organizations and collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and military units nominating representatives to commission membership, the corresponding Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia may when necessary conduct a meeting of authorized representatives of these collectives and organizations, and military units in the election okrug.

Okrug election commissions for election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be organized accordingly by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet of People's Deputies of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, or by their presidia, by open or secret balloting.

The term of office of okrug election commissions shall terminate after recognition by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet of the authority of the elected People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR.

#### **Article 23. Authority of the Okrug Election Commission**

The okrug election commission for elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall:

1) monitor the execution of the present Law on the territory of the election okrug;

2) direct the activity of district election commissions, and establish a uniform numbering system for voting districts throughout the okrug;

3) receive reports from district election commissions; from executive and administrative organs of local Soviets of People's Deputies; and from administrators of enterprises, institutions and organizations, on questions connected with preparation for and conduct of elections;

4) observe compilation of voter lists and their presentation for general familiarization;

5) organize nomination of candidates for deputy;

6) register candidates nominated for people's deputies and their authorized representatives, issues them the appropriate identification, and provides for printing of posters with biographical information on the candidates for deputy;

7) organize, together with working collectives, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, social organizations, and military units, meetings of candidate deputies with the electors both in the working collectives, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions and at their place of residence;

8) approve the text of ballots for the election okrug and provide for preparation of ballots and supplying them to the district election commissions;

9) establish and publish in the press the election results throughout the election okrug, and issue identification to the elected deputy;

10) organize the conduct of runoff elections and repeat elections;

11) examine statements and complaints for resolution and action of district election commissions, and make decisions on them; and

12) exercise other authority in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 24. Formation of District Election Commissions**

The district election commission for election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be formed no later than 40 days prior to the elections, and shall consist of 5-19 members. When necessary, upon the decision of the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, the size of a district election commission may be increased or decreased.

Representatives to the district election commission shall be nominated by working collectives or their soviets; by rayon, city, urban rayon organs of social organizations or their primary organizations; by collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions; by voters' assemblies at their place of residence, and military servicemen at their military units. In working collectives at enterprises, institutions or organizations with more than 150 workers, nomination of representatives to the district election commission may be carried out at assemblies of the collectives of shops, departments, sections, brigades and other subdivisions of enterprises, institutions and organizations—if no less than 30 persons work in these subdivisions. At the same time it is possible for several collectives to hold joint assemblies.

District election commissions shall be confirmed by rayon, city (except for cities of rayon subordination) or by urban rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia, by either open or secret balloting.

The term of office of district election commissions shall expire at the same time as that of the okrug election commissions, as established in Article 22. of the present Law.

#### **Article 25. Authority of the District Election Commission**

The district election commission shall:

- 1) compile voters' lists for the district;
- 2) familiarize the electors with the voters' list, receive and examine statements on irregularities in the list, and resolve questions of introducing the appropriate changes to it;
- 3) inform the public of the location of the district election commission and time of its operation, as well as the date of election and the location of the polling place;
- 4) provide for preparation of accommodations for voting and for ballot boxes;
- 5) organize the voting on election day at the election district;
- 6) tally the votes cast in the election district;
- 7) examine statements and complaints on questions of preparations for the elections and organization of voting, and take decisions on them; and,
- 8) exercise other authority in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 26. Organization of the Work of Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the election commission shall be elected at the first session of the corresponding commission.

The decision on formation of an election commission and its resolution on the election of its leadership shall be brought to the attention of the electors.

An election commission session shall be considered valid if no less than two-thirds of the commission's membership is present. Resolutions of the commission shall be adopted through open voting, by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission. Members of the commission who disagree with its decision have the right to express their particular opinion, which shall be submitted in written form and included in the minutes of the election commission meeting.

Decisions of election commissions taken within the bounds of their authority, shall be binding on all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Decisions and actions of election commissions may be appealed to a higher election commission, and in cases stipulated in the present Law, may be taken to court as well.

By decision of the commission, a member of an election commission, including the chairman, deputy chairman and secretary, may be released from his production duties or his official obligations for the period of preparation for and conduct of election, and shall continue to receive his average wages at the expense of funds allocated for holding the elections.

At certain stages of the pre-election campaign, at the discretion of the okrug election commission, one more members of the election commission may be released.

#### **Article 27. Procedure for Change in the Membership of Election Commissions**

Persons who are members of election commissions may be released from their obligations to the commission upon personal application, or by representation of the corresponding working collective or organ of the social organization; the collective of a secondary specialized and higher academic institution; the voters' assembly at their place of residence and military servicemen at their military units which nominated them to commission membership; and also on the basis of and in accordance with the procedure established by Article 34 of the present Law.

Nomination and approval of new representatives to election commissions shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the present Law.

#### **Article 28. Assistance to Election Commissions in the Exercise of their Authority**

State and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations and officials are obliged to assist the election commissions in the exercise of their authority, and shall offer them the information and materials required for their work.

An election commission shall have the right to appeal, on questions associated with preparation for and conduct of elections, to state and social organs; to enterprises, institutions and organizations; and to responsible officials, who are obligated to examine the question presented and provide an answer to the election commission within a three-day period.

### **V. Voters' Lists**

#### **Article 29. Voters' Lists and Procedure for Compilation**

Lists of voters for election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be drawn up for each election district, and shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the district election commission. The district election commission may invite members of the public to take part in drawing up the list.

Executive committees of city, urban rayon, settlement and village Soviets of People's Deputies shall provide a count of the electors and shall send the district election commissions information about the voters who live on the corresponding territory, necessary for drawing up lists of voters.

Lists of voters who are military servicemen located in military units, and also family members of military servicemen and other electors, if they live in the areas in which military units are situated, shall be drawn up on the basis of data presented by the commanders of the military units. Military servicemen who live outside military units shall be included in the voters' lists at their place of residence on a common basis.

Lists of voters for voting districts organized in hospitals or other in-patient medical facilities, and also on ships at sea on election day, shall be drawn up on the basis of data presented by the administrators of the aforementioned institutions and by captains of vessels.

Surnames of voters shall be indicated in the voters' list in a manner convenient for organization of the voting.

#### **Article 30. Procedure for Including Citizens on Voters' Lists**

Voters' lists shall include all citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR who shall have reached age 18 by election day, who at the moment of compiling the list dwell on the territory of a given voting district, and who have the right to take part in the election.

A voter shall not be included on the voters' list in other voting districts.

#### **Article 31. Familiarizing Citizens with Voters' Lists and the Right to Complain of Irregularities in the Voters' List**

Voters' lists shall be presented for general familiarization 15 days prior to the elections, and at voting districts formed in hospitals and other in-patient medical facilities—two days prior to the elections.

Citizens shall be afforded the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the voters' list and to verify the correctness of its compilation, on the facilities of the district election commission.

Each citizen shall have the right to complain about being excluded, about being improperly included or excluded from the list, and also about inaccuracies found in the list in the data about a voter. Statements of irregularities in the list shall be examined by the district election commission, which is obliged to examine the statement within a two-day period, or on the eve of and on the day of election—immediately, and make the necessary correction to the list, or give the complainant a copy of the reason for the decision on rejecting his statement. This decision may be appealed to the rayon (or city) people's court no later than five days prior to the elections, which is obliged to examine the complaint within a three-day period. The decision of a rayon (or city) people's court

shall be final. Corrections to the voters' list shall be carried out immediately by the district election commission, in accordance with the decision of the court.

#### **Article 32. Supplementary Voters' Lists and Ensuring the Right of Suffrage to Citizens When Changing Place of Residence**

Voters who arrive at a new place of residence after the voters' list has been presented for general familiarization, or who by reason of various circumstances were not included in the basic voters' list, shall be included in the supplementary voters' list at the voting district for their place of residence, on election day, upon their request and upon presentation of their passport or other personal identification.

Supplementary voters' lists shall be drawn up by the district election commission and signed by its chairman and secretary.

When an elector changes his place of residence in the period following publication of the voters' lists but prior to election day, the district election commission shall, upon the request of the voter, and upon presentation of his passport or other document establishing his personal identity, issue a ballot to him. The voter shall deposit the completed ballot, in a sealed envelope, in a sealed or locked box, which shall be stored by the district election commission until election day. An appropriate mark shall be made on the voters' list to indicate a ballot was issued.

#### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

##### **Article 33. Procedure for Nomination of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

Nomination of candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall begin two months before, and shall cease 40 days before the elections.

Nomination of candidates for deputy shall be conducted at assemblies (conferences) of working collectives of enterprises; institutions and organizations; and by collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions situated on the territory of an election okrug, and shall include no fewer than 250 persons. With the consent of the corresponding okrug election commission, working collectives and collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions having a lesser number of workers and students, may hold combined assemblies. At the same time the total number must consist of no fewer than 250 persons.

Nomination of candidates for deputy from social organizations shall be accomplished by their republic, oblast, rayon, city (cities of republic subordination), and urban rayon organs at congresses, conferences, and plenums of these organizations.

Voters' assemblies at their place of residence for nominating candidates for deputy shall be convened by the

corresponding Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia jointly with the okrug election commission. The assembly shall be valid if no less than 250 voters who dwell on the territory of the election okrug are present.

Assemblies of military servicemen for nominating candidates for deputy shall be convened by commanders of military units. When it is impossible to hold a general assembly of military servicemen in a district, the assemblies shall be held by sub-units [podrazdelenie].

Before the assembly is opened, its competence shall be established on the basis of the results of registration of the participants. A presidium or a chairman and secretary shall be elected for its jurisdiction.

A single candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be nominated from the working collective of an enterprise, institution, organization; from the collective of a secondary specialized and higher educational institution or a joint assembly of several collectives; from a voters' assembly at their place of residence, or military servicemen at their military unit.

Conditions shall be established at the assemblies for discussion of an unlimited number of candidatures. Every participant at an assembly (or conference) has the right to submit proposals on candidate deputies, to take part in discussing them, and to support the candidate proposed or introduce proposals on their withdrawal. A participant in the assembly may bring up his own candidature as a subject for discussion. The decision on nominating a candidate for deputy is taken at an assembly either by open or secret ballot. The voting procedure for other procedural questions shall be established by the assembly (conference), or by the plenum of the selecting organ of a social organization.

A candidate shall be considered nominated, if more than half the participants at an assembly (conference) vote for him; or the majority of the total membership of the corresponding organ of a social organization. A record shall be made of the nomination of candidate for deputy. The candidate deputy shall be informed of the decision taken within a two-day period.

As a rule, candidates nominated for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be citizens who work or dwell on the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR.

A citizen of the Azerbaijan SSR cannot be at the same time a people's deputy of more than two Soviets of People's Deputies.

The okrug election commission organizing the nomination of candidates for deputy shall inform the public of the candidates nominated for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR.

#### **Article 34. Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be registered by the okrug election commission

upon representation of workers' collectives, organs of social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, or voters' assemblies at their place of residence and military servicemen at their military units, who have nominated candidates for deputy.

Registration of candidates for deputy shall begin 45 days before and conclude one month prior to the elections.

The decision on registration of candidates for deputy shall be taken when records are available on the nomination of candidates for deputy for a given election okrug, along with statements by candidates for deputy on their willingness to run for office in a given election okrug. Persons enumerated in Article 12 of the present Law, as well as people who are deputies of two Soviets of People's Deputies, shall upon their nomination as candidates for deputies, declare their intention to vacate the post they occupy in case of their election as deputies, or shall relinquish their authority as deputy in one of the Soviets; or, shall report on the withdrawal of their candidature.

The okrug election commission shall make a record of the registration of candidates for deputy; which, together with the declarations of the deputies shall be presented to the Central Election Commission, within a five-day period.

The okrug election commission shall register candidates for deputy nominated in accordance with the requirements of the present Law. Refusal to register may be appealed to the Central Election Commission within a three-day period.

A candidate for deputy may run for office in only one election okrug.

A candidate for deputy shall not be a member of the Central Election Commission, nor of the okrug or district election commission where he has been nominated as a candidate. A person nominated as a candidate for deputy and who belongs to one of the aforementioned commission, shall be considered relieved of his responsibilities on the commission from the moment of registration of his candidature for deputy.

The okrug election commission shall publish a report in the press on registration, indicating the surname, first name and patronymic; year of birth, position occupied (occupation); party status, place of work and residence of each candidate for deputy, not later than four days after registration of candidates for deputy.

#### **Article 35. Withdrawal of Decision on Nomination of Candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR**

A working collective, organ of a social organization, a collective at a secondary specialized and higher educational candidate, a voters' assembly at their place of residence, and military servicemen at their military unit, who have nominated a candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR, may withdraw their decision on

nominating a candidate for deputy at any time. The decision on this question shall be adopted according to procedure stipulated for nomination of candidates for deputy, and shall be presented to the appropriate election commission.

A candidate for deputy may at any time prior to the elections, withdraw his candidature, having submitting a statement on this to the okrug election commission.

The okrug election commission shall inform the population in the election okrug of the decision to withdraw the nomination of a candidate for deputy, or a candidate's withdrawal of his own candidature.

#### **Article 36. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR in Place of Removed Candidates**

In case of the departure of a candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR after the period for registration of candidates for deputy has expired, if there are no other candidates remaining in the okrug, the commission shall appeal to the working collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, voters' assemblies at their place of residence and military servicemen at their military units, with a proposal to nominate new candidates for deputy. When candidates for deputy depart less than a month before the elections, the election of a deputy from the corresponding election okrug shall be held in the two-month period after the general elections.

Nomination of candidates for deputy in place of candidates who have left shall be conducted according to procedure established by the present Law.

#### **Article 37. The Ballot**

All registered candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall be included on the ballot in alphabetical order, indicating their surname, first name and patronymic; the position they occupy (occupation); and their place of work and residence, for every candidate for deputy. Ballots shall be printed in the Azerbaijanian language, and in the languages which are used by the population of the election okrug. Ballots shall be supplied to all district election commissions in an election okrug not later than five days prior to the elections.

### **VII. Guarantees of Action of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

#### **Article 38. The Right of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR to Speak at Assemblies, Use the Mass Information Media, and Receive Information**

Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall, from the time of their registration by the election commissions, have an equal right to speak at pre-election and other assemblies, meetings and sessions, in the press, on television and radio. Material-technical means of agitation shall be equal for all candidates for deputy in an election okrug.

State and social organs, administrators of enterprises, institutions and organizations, and organs of public social initiative are obligated to render assistance to candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR in organizing meetings with the electors, and in acquiring the necessary references and informational materials.

#### **Article 39. Pre-Election Program of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR**

A candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR shall present a program of his future activity. The program of a candidate for people's deputy shall not contain statements calling for forceable change of the constitutional basis of the state and social structure of the USSR and the Azerbaijan SSR; nor war propaganda; nor appeals to incite racial, inter-ethnic and religious strife; nor violations of a person's rights and liberties.

#### **Article 40. Authorized Representatives of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR**

A candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR may have up to five authorized representatives, who assist him in waging his election campaign, conduct agitation for electing him as deputy, and represent his interests in interacting with state and social organs, voters, and election commissions.

A candidate for deputy shall designate authorized representatives at his discretion, and shall report on them for registration at the okrug election commission. After registering the authorized representatives, the election commission shall issue identification to them. A candidate for deputy shall bear responsibility for the actions of his authorized representatives and shall have the right to replace them at any time prior to the elections.

An authorized representative shall not be a member of any election commission in the okrug.

After their registration, authorized representatives of a candidate for deputy may, by request of the candidate for people's deputy, be relieved of their production duties or official responsibilities for the duration of the pre-election campaign, and shall continue to receive their average wages at their place of employment, at the expense of funds allocated for holding the elections.

#### **Article 41. Pre-Election Agitation**

Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR shall hold meetings with their electors both at assemblies and in other forms convenient for the electors. The election commission shall, together with the corresponding Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia, assist in holding such assemblies.

The voters shall be informed of the time and place for holding assemblies and meetings in a timely manner.

Working collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions,

voters at their place or residence and military servicemen at their military units, who have nominated candidates for deputy, shall be granted the right of unhindered agitation for their candidates.

Working collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and voters at their place of residence shall be supplied furnished accommodations for their assemblies and meetings, and also mass information media, for conducting pre-election agitation.

Citizens, working collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and military units shall be guaranteed the opportunity of free and all-round discussion of the political, business and personal qualities of candidates for deputy, and also the right of agitation for or against candidates, at meetings, in the press and on television and radio.

Agitation shall not be permitted on election day.

**Article 42. Relieving Candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR of their Production or Official Responsibilities for Taking Part in Pre-Election Measures**

After registration, a candidate for people's deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR shall, for the period of holding meetings with the electors and speaking at pre-election assemblies and meetings and on television and radio, be relieved of responsibility for his production or official duties, and shall retain his average wages at the expense of funds allocated for holding the elections.

**Article 43. The Right of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR to Free Transportation**

After registration, a candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR shall have the right to free transportation on all forms of passenger transport (with the exception of taxis) within the bounds of the corresponding election okrug. A candidate for deputy who lives beyond the bounds of an election okrug shall enjoy the very same right of travel to the election okrug and back to his place of residence.

**Article 44. Inviolability of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR**

A candidate for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR shall not be subject to criminal liability, arrested or subjected to measures of administrative penalty imposed by a court, without the consent of the Central Election Commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Tallying Election Results**

**Article 45. Time and Place for Voting**

For election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, voting shall take place on election day from 07:00 to

20:00, local time. District election commissions shall inform the voters of the time and place for voting not less than 10 days prior to the election.

If necessary, in consideration of local conditions, the okrug election commission may, with the consent of the Central Election Commission, change the time for voting.

At voting districts organized on ships which are at sea on election day, in military units, and in remote and hard-to-get-to places, the district election commission may declare the voting concluded at any time, if all voters on the list have voted.

**Article 46. Organization of Voting**

Voting shall take place in specially-designated accommodations, which must be furnished with an adequate number of booths or rooms for secret voting, in which places are designated for distribution of ballots and ballot boxes set up. Ballot boxes shall be set up in such a manner that voters approaching them must necessarily pass through the booth or room for secret voting.

Responsibility for organization of voting, ensuring the secret expression of the electors' will, furnishing the accommodations and maintaining the required order in them shall be borne by the district election commission.

On election day, prior to the voting, the ballot boxes shall be inspected, and sealed or locked by the chairman of the district election commission, in the presence of all members of the commission.

Each voter shall vote personally; voting on behalf of other persons is not permitted. Ballots shall be issued by the district election commission on the basis of the voters' list of the voting district, upon presentation of one's passport or other means of personal identification. A mark shall be made on the voters' list to indicate a ballot has been issued.

In cases in which individual voters, who because of their state of health or other reasons are unable to come to the polling place, the district election commission may upon their request authorize no less than two members of the commission to organize voting at the place where these voters are located.

**Article 47. Conduct of Voting**

The ballot shall be completed by the voter in a booth or secret voting room. When the ballot is being filled in, absolutely no one shall be present except the voter. A voter who is unable to fill in the ballot by himself shall have the right to invite another person into the booth or secret voting room at his discretion—except for members of the election commission.

For election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, the voter shall cross out on the ballot the surname of the candidate against whom he is voting.

The voter shall drop the completed ballot in a ballot box.

#### **Article 48. Tallying Votes at Voting Districts**

For election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, the tally of votes in a voting district shall be conducted individually for every candidate for deputy.

Ballot boxes and sealed envelopes sent to the district election commission by voters changing their place of residence shall be opened by the district election commission after the chairman has declared the voting concluded. Opening of ballot boxes and envelopes from voters prior to conclusion of voting is forbidden. Before the opening, all unused ballots shall be counted and canceled by the district election commission.

The district election commission shall determine from the voters' list the total number of voters in the district, and also the number of voters who have received ballots. On the basis of the ballots found in the ballot boxes and in voters' envelopes, the commission shall establish for the election okrug (within the limits of a given voting district): the total number of voters taking part in the election; the number of votes cast for and the number of votes cast against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots found to be invalid. Ballots on which voters have written in the names of other citizens shall not be counted.

Ballots on which the surnames of all candidates have been crossed out shall be considered valid. For them the votes are counted as cast against every candidate.

Ballots which do not correspond to the established pattern are considered invalid, as well as ballots on which more than one candidate was left during the voting. When doubts arise as to the validity of a ballot, the question is resolved by the district election commission by means of a vote.

The results of counting the votes shall be examined at a session of the district election commission and shall be entered in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and members of the commission, and shall be sent to the okrug election commission without delay, in accordance with the procedure established by the Central election Commission.

#### **Article 49. Establishing Election Results for an Election Okrug**

The okrug election commission shall establish, on the basis of the minutes of the district election commissions: the total number of voters for the okrug; the number of voters who received ballots; the number of voters taking part in the election and the number of votes cast for and the number of votes cast against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots found to be invalid.

The candidate for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR who receives more than half the votes of the electors taking part in the voting, shall be considered elected.

The okrug election commission may rule an election invalid because of violations of the present Law in the course of the election or in counting the votes.

Elections shall be considered inconclusive if less than half the voters entered on the voters' list take part in the election; and also in connection with the departure of a candidate for deputy, if only one candidate is registered for the okrug.

Results of elections for an election okrug shall be determined at a session of the okrug election commission and shall be entered in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission, and shall be sent to the Central Election Commission in accordance with the procedures it has established.

Election results for an election okrug shall be published in the press by the okrug election commission at times established by the Central Election Commission. The report shall indicate the total number of citizens on the voters' list; the number of voters taking part in the election; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; and the surname, first name and patronymic, year of birth, position occupied (occupation), party membership, and place of work and residence of the person elected People's Deputy.

#### **IX. Procedure for Tallying and Publishing the Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

##### **Article 50. Registration of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

For the election of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, the Central Election Commission shall register the elected People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR on the basis of minutes from the okrug election commissions.

The Central Election Commission may declare the elections invalid if in the course of the election or when counting the votes or determining the results of the election, violations of the present Law have occurred; and it may refuse to register a People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR.

##### **Article 51. Publishing the Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR**

The Central Election Commission shall publish in the press a report on the results of elections as a whole for the republic and the list of elected People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, not later than ten days after election day; and shall list the surnames, first name and patronymic, position occupied (occupation), party membership, place of work and residence of the deputy, and the election okrug from which he has been elected deputy.

##### **Article 52. Identification and Badge of a People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR**



Following publication in the press of the list of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR, and their registration by the Central Election Commission, the okrug election commissions shall issue to each elected deputy a temporary certificate of his election.

After the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet confirms the authority of the elected deputies, the temporary certificate of their election as deputies shall be replaced by identification as a People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR. A deputy shall also be issued a badge.

#### **X. Runoff and Repeat Elections and Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR in the Place of Departed Deputies**

##### **Article 53. Runoff Elections**

If more than two candidates for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR ran for election in an election okrug and none of them was elected, the okrug election commission shall adopt a resolution on holding a runoff election in the okrug for the two candidates for deputy who received the largest amount of votes. The okrug election commission shall inform the Central Election Commission of this, and shall inform the election okrug. In accordance with the requirements of the present Law, the runoff election shall be held in the election okrug no later than two weeks after the general election. A report on holding the runoff shall be published in the press.

The candidate shall be considered elected a People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR, who receives the largest number of votes from electors taking part in the runoff election, with respect to the other candidate.

##### **Article 54. Repeat Elections**

If no more than two candidates for People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR ran for office in an election okrug, and neither of them was elected, or if the elections were declared inconclusive or invalid for the election okrug, or if a runoff election did not permit determining who was the elected deputy, the Central Election Commission shall authorize the okrug election commission to hold repeat elections in the election okrug. At the same time it may adopt a resolution on the necessity to hold elections under okrug and district election commissions with new membership. Voting shall take place at the very same election districts and with the voters' lists compiled for holding the general election.

Repeat elections shall be held no later than two weeks after the general election. Organization of election commissions, registration of candidates for deputy and other measures shall be conducted in accordance with procedure established by the present Law.

In the case of repeat elections, citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR may not run again as candidates for people's deputy who had not garnered the required number of votes in the course of the general elections in a given election okrug.

##### **Article 55. Holding Elections for People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR in the Place of Departed Deputies**

In cases in which the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet declares the authority of certain People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR invalid, and also in cases of recall of a deputy, or termination of a deputy's authority prior to expiration of his term of office for other reasons, new elections shall be held in the corresponding election okrug within a three-month period from the day of the deputy's departure. The elections shall be called by the Central Election Commission not later than two months before election day, and shall be organized as required by Law. At the same time the okrug election commission shall be organized within 50 days, and the district commission within one month of the elections, and registration of candidates for deputy shall cease one month prior to the elections.

In case of the departure of a People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR less than a year prior to expiration of his term of office as a People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR, election of a new People's Deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR in place of the departed deputy shall not be held.

##### **Azerbaijan SSR Election Law Comparison**

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[Editorial Report] Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian on 30 June 1990 carries on pages 2 and 3 the "Law of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of People's Deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR." Comparison of this version with draft law carried in BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY on 23 November 1989 reveals the following variations:

Page 2, Section I, Article 2, paragraph two reads: "A citizen of the Azerbaijan SSR who has reached 21 years of age can be elected a people's deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 2, paragraph four substitutes "...people serving court sentences and people kept under guard by a decision of a criminal court" for "...people held in places of detention by court order or by the authority of the public prosecutor, as well as those undergoing compulsory treatment by court order";

Article 3, paragraph one substitutes "...equal: The voter..." for "...equal: Each voter..." and substitutes "...one vote; voters will..." for "...one vote; voters and candidates for deputy will...";

Articles 6-15 correspond to articles 7-16 in November draft, omitting earlier Article 6 concerning voting rights of citizens of other union republics;

Article 7, paragraph four is end of Article 8, paragraph three in November draft; first sentence reads: "...labor collective, organ of social organization, collective of secondary..." (adding words between commas);

Article 7, paragraph six is second sentence of paragraph four in November draft and substitutes "...will supply the news media with materials connected with..." for "...will supply them with information connected with..."

Article 8, heading substitutes "Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, Social Organizations, and Collectives of Secondary Specialized and Higher Academic Institutions in Preparations..." for "Participation in Preparations..."

Article 8, paragraph two omits reference to collectives of academic institutions;

Article 10, heading substitutes "Mandates of Voters and Social Organizations" for "Mandates of Voters";

Article 10, paragraph one substitutes "voters and social organizations" for "voters";

Article 10, paragraph two omits reference to USSR;

Article 11, paragraph one omits reference to judges of Baku Municipal Court and people's judges of rayon people's courts;

Article 12, paragraph one reads: "In order to secure equal conditions for each candidate for people's deputy, the expenditures..." (changing word order) and substitutes "...covered by electoral commissions from a unified centralized fund, established by the Central Electoral Commission for elections of people's deputies of the Azerbaijan SSR with state funds and voluntary contributions from enterprises, social and other organizations, and citizens" for "...covered by the appropriate electoral commission from a unified fund, created with the funds of the state, enterprises, and social and other organizations";

Article 12, paragraph two reads: "...establishments, organizations..." (substituting comma for "and") and omits reference to facilities; omits third and fourth paragraphs of November draft, referring to coverage of campaign costs by enterprises, citizens, and candidates;

Article 13, paragraph one, second sentence substitutes "false information" for "information known to be false";

Section II, Article 14, paragraph one substitutes "2 months" for "3 months";

Article 14, paragraph two substitutes "The scheduling of elections and the date will be..." for "The date of elections will be..."

Article 15, paragraph three reads: "One people's deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR will be elected from each electoral district" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 15, paragraph four, first sentence omits reference to number of voters and substitutes "5th day" for "10th day";

Article 16, heading reads: "Electoral Districts" (adding new heading);

Article 16, paragraph one is paragraph three of Article 16 in November draft; first sentence substitutes "an equal number" for "essentially the same number"; third sentence substitutes "standard number of people" for "standard number of voters";

Section III, Article 17, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes "territory" for "territories";

Article 17, paragraph two omits reference to hospitals and other in-patient treatment facilities and substitutes "...will be included in the corresponding electoral districts or according to the ship's port of hail" for "...will be included in electoral districts on the basis of their location or the ship's port of hail"; omits third paragraph of November draft, referring to military units and ships at sea;

Article 18, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "15th day after elections have been scheduled" for "2 months before the elections"; second sentence substitutes "...units, remote..." for "...units, as well as remote..."

Section IV, Article 20, paragraph one, first sentence omits reference to open or secret ballot and substitutes "2 months" for "3 months";

Article 21, paragraph two substitutes "...explains the application of this law..." for "...explains the procedure for applying this law..."

Article 21, paragraph three omits reference to procedure of changing commission membership;

Article 21, paragraph seven substitutes "...reports of electoral commissions, ministers..." for "...reports of ministers..."

Article 22, paragraph one substitutes "10th day after elections have been scheduled" "for 70 days before elections" and substitutes "9-15 members" for "9-13 members";

Article 22, paragraph two, second sentence substitutes "...social organizations, collectives..." for "...social organizations and collectives..." and substitutes "...institutions and military units..." for "...institutions, military units..."; third sentence substitutes "...collectives, social organizations and military units..." for "...collectives and organizations, military units..."

Article 22, paragraph three, first sentence substitutes "NKAO" for "Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast" and omits reference to open or secret ballot;

Article 23, paragraph one reads: "Azerbaijan SSR within the territory of its electoral district:" (adding all words after "SSR");

Article 23, paragraph two omits reference to district territory;

Article 23, paragraph three omits reference to precinct numbers;

Article 23, paragraph eight reads "...labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and military units..." (changing word order) and substitutes "...voters in collectives, as well as..." for "...voters in labor collectives and collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, as well as..."

Article 24, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes "13th day after elections have been scheduled" for "40 days before elections"; second sentence substitutes "...presidium, the membership of the precinct electoral commission can be changed" for "...presidium, the numerical composition of the precinct electoral commission can be increased or decreased";

Article 24, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "...labor collectives of enterprises, establishments, and organizations or their councils..." for "...labor collectives or their councils..." and substitutes "...primary organizations, citizens' independent activity groups, collectives..." for "...primary organizations, collectives..."

Article 24, paragraph three is end of previous paragraph in November draft; first sentence substitutes "...and other subdivisions, if at least 30 people work in them" for "...and other subdivisions of enterprises, establishments, and organizations, if at least 30 people work in these subdivisions";

Article 24, paragraph four omits reference to open or secret ballot;

Article 25, paragraph three substitutes "...changes and additions" for "...changes";

Article 25, paragraph four reads: "(3) accepts election ballots in sealed envelopes from voters who have changed their place of residence between the time that lists of voters were posted and election day and guarantees the secrecy of the voters' choices" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 25, paragraphs 5-10 correspond to paragraphs 4-9 in November draft;

Article 26, paragraph one substitutes "...at a meeting..." for "...at the first meeting..."

Article 26, paragraph four substitutes "...social organizations, enterprises..." for "...social organs, enterprises..."

Article 26, paragraph six, second sentence is paragraph seven in November draft;

Article 27, paragraph one substitutes "The member of the electoral commission can..." for "People who are members of electoral commissions can..." and reads: "...commission by the organ approving the membership, at his personal request or at the suggestion of the

nominating state organ, labor collective, social organization, collective of secondary specialized or higher academic institution, assembly of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units" (changing word order and omitting reference to procedure stipulated in Article 34);

Article 27, paragraph two substitutes "The nomination of new representatives to electoral commissions and their approval as commission members will be..." for "The nomination and approval of new representatives to electoral commissions will be..."

Section V, Article 29, paragraph one, first sentence reads: "...will be compiled by the precinct electoral commission for each election precinct and signed by its chairman and secretary" (changing word order);

Article 29, paragraph four omits reference to hospitals and other in-patient treatment facilities;

Article 31, paragraph one substitutes "list" for "lists" and omits reference to hospitals and other in-patient treatment facilities;

Article 31, paragraph three, sixth sentence is paragraph one of Article 32 in November draft and substitutes "...arriving in place of residence..." for "...arriving in new place of residence..." and reads: "...will be included at their request and upon their submission of an identification card or other proof of identity" (omitting reference to inclusion on supplemental list);

Article 32, heading reads: "Guarantee of Citizens' Voting Rights After Change of Residence" (new heading); omits paragraph two of November draft, referring to supplemental list;

Article 32, paragraph one replaces three sentences of paragraph three of Article 32 in November draft and reads: "The voter who changes his place of residence after the list of voters has been posted and before election day will have the right to submit his choice of the candidates for deputy on the ballot in a sealed envelope to the precinct electoral commission. The precinct electoral commission will make the appropriate notation on the list of voters upon the submission of an identification card or other proof of identity by the voter" (omitting references to issuance of ballot);

Section VI, Article 33, paragraph one substitutes "...will begin on the 10th day after elections have been scheduled and end a month before elections" for "...will begin 2 months before the elections and end 40 days before";

Article 33, paragraph two, second sentence substitutes "...collectives of specialized and higher..." for "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher..."

Article 33, paragraph three reads: "...at plenums of republic, oblast, rayon, city (in cities of republic jurisdiction), and municipal rayon organizations" (changing word order);

Article 33, paragraph four, first sentence substitutes "...will be convened by the district electoral commissions with the consent of soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, or on their own initiative, as well as the initiative of organs of citizens' independent activity groups" for "...will be convened by the appropriate soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums in conjunction with the district electoral commission"; rest of paragraph reads: "The proposal to hold assembly of voters by place of residence must be discussed by the district electoral commission within 3 days. If the proposal is accepted, the date, time, and place of the assembly will be decided and will be announced to district voters within 3 days. The proposal to hold an assembly of voters by place of residence will be denied if the citizens' independent activity group is not within the territory of this electoral district or if the initiative of the group is not supported by a record of proceedings of its meeting on this matter. If the proposal to hold a assembly of voters by place of residence is denied, a copy of the explanation for this decision will be issued to the citizens' independent activity group. This decision can be appealed to the Central Electoral Commission, the decision of which will be final" (adding five sentences);

Article 33, paragraph five, first sentence substitutes "commanders" for "command";

Page 3, Article 33, paragraph eight, first sentence substitutes "At meetings (or conferences) and plenums of elected bodies of social organizations, conditions will be..." for "At meetings, conditions will be..."; second sentence substitutes "...the meeting will..." for "...the meeting (or conference) will..." and reads: "...their withdrawal, and nominate himself as a candidate for deputy" (combines two sentences in November draft);

Article 33, paragraph nine substitutes "...meeting (or conference) or plenum of the elected body of a social organization" for "...meeting (or conference) or a majority of the total membership of the concerned body of the social organization";

Article 33, paragraph ten is second and third sentences of paragraph nine in November draft;

Article 34, paragraph one reads "...place of residence and military personnel..." (substituting "and" for comma);

Article 34, paragraph two substitutes "...will begin 35 days before elections and end 25 days before" for "...will begin 45 days before elections and end a month before";

Article 34, paragraph three substitutes "...records of meetings for nomination..." for "...records of nomination..." and substitutes "...district, as well as statements..." for "...district and statements...";

Article 34, paragraph four is second sentence of paragraph three in November draft and substitutes "Article 11" for "Article 12" and reads "...one of the soviets, or will announce..." (changing punctuation);

Article 34, paragraph six, second sentence substitutes "5 days" for "3 days";

Article 34, paragraph seven substitutes "...may run for office simultaneously only in..." for "...may run for office only in...";

Article 35, heading, second sentence reads: "The Candidate's Withdrawal from the Race" (adding new sentence);

Article 35, paragraph three substitutes "...notify the voters" for "...notify the population of the electoral district";

Article 36, paragraph two is second sentence of paragraph one in November draft and substitutes "25 days" for "a month" and substitutes "deputies" for "deputy";

Article 37, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes "...all candidates registered by the appropriate district electoral commission" for "...all registered candidates"; third sentence substitutes "3 days" for "5 days";

Section VII, Article 38, paragraph one substitutes "...from the moment of their registration by district electoral commissions..." for "...from the time of their registration by electoral commissions..." and substitutes "...will participate in the campaign on an equal basis and have the right to speak..." for "...will have an equal right to speak..."; omits second sentence about material and technical campaign equipment;

Article 38, paragraph two reads: "...organizations, secondary specialized and higher academic institutions, and organs..." (adding all words between commas);

Article 40, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "...will notify in writing..." for "...will notify...";

Article 40, paragraph three substitutes "...commissions of the electoral district" for "...commission of the district";

Article 41, paragraph one, second sentence reads: "Assemblies of voters will be organized by the electoral commission in conjunction with the appropriate soviet of people's deputies or its presidium" (providing alternative translation);

Article 41, paragraph five substitutes "Citizens of the Azerbaijan SSR, labor collectives..." for "Citizens, labor collectives..." and reads "...on television and radio" (changing punctuation);

Section VIII, Article 45, paragraph three reads: "...regions, the precinct..." (changing punctuation);

Article 46, paragraph four, second sentence omits reference to other proof of identity;

Article 48, paragraph four substitutes "election ballots" for "ballots";

Article 49, paragraph one reads: "...casting a ballot; number of votes..." (changing punctuation);

Article 49, paragraph six, first sentence substitutes "...in the press by the appropriate electoral commission..." for "...in the press by the district electoral commission..."

Section IX, Article 51, paragraph one substitutes "...of the deputy, as well as the electoral..." for "...of the deputy and the electoral..."

Article 52, paragraph one substitutes "commission" for "commissions";

Article 52, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "...identification of a deputy-elect..." for "...temporary identification of a deputy-elect..."; second sentence substitutes "The deputy will also be issued a badge 'Azerbaijan SSR khalg deputaty'" for "The deputy will also be issued a badge";

Article 52, paragraph three reads: "If the people's deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR should be recalled or if his conviction by a court should cause the early termination of the deputy's term of office, the identification and badge of the people's deputy of the Azerbaijan SSR will be returned to the Secretariat of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet" (adding entire paragraph);

Section X, Article 54, paragraph two, second sentence substitutes "...commissions, nomination, registration..." for "...commissions, registration..."; third sentence reads: "The repeat elections will be announced in the press" (adding new sentence);

Article 55, paragraph one, second sentence substitutes "...requirements of this law" for "...requirements of the law";

Adds signature of President A. Mutalibov of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and date and place: 26 June 1990, Baku.

## Belorussian SSR

### Belorussian SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

18001579A Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA  
in Russian 19 Aug 89 pp 1-3

["Draft Law of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic on the Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies"]

#### [Text] I. General Principles

#### Article 1. Principles of the Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies

In conformity with the Belorussian SSR Constitution, the elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies are held by single-mandate electoral districts on the basis of the universal, equal, and direct franchise with secret

voting. With the purpose of guaranteeing the representation of public organizations on the basis of the standards established by this Law, one-fourth of the Belorussian SSR people's deputies are elected from public organizations—the Belorussian Communist Party, trade unions, cooperative organizations, the Belorussian Komsomol, associations of women and war and labor veterans, scientific workers, creative unions, and other organizations that were created in the procedure established by the Law and that have republic agencies. The elections of people's deputies from the public organizations are held at their congresses and conferences, or at plenums of their republic agencies.

#### Article 2. Universal Franchise

Elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from electoral districts are universal: Belorussian SSR citizens who have reached the age of 18 years have the right to vote. The right to elect deputies from public organizations is enjoyed by all the delegates to their republic congresses and conferences, or the participants in the plenums of their republic agencies.

Any citizen of Belorussian SSR who has reached the age of 18 years can be elected Belorussian SSR people's deputy.

Any and all direct or indirect limitations of the franchise of Belorussian SSR citizens on the basis of their origin, social or property position, race or nationality, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, time of residence in a particular locality, or type or nature of occupation are banned.

Persons who do not participate in elections are: mentally ill citizens who have been deemed by the court to be incompetent; and persons who are being held at places of incarceration or who are under arrest, as well as those who, on the basis of a court decision, have been sent to places of forced treatment.

#### Article 3. Equal Franchise

All the voters take part in the election on an equal basis.

Elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from the electoral districts are equal: the voter for each electoral district has one vote.

During elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from a public organization, every delegate to its congress or conference, or each plenum participant, has one vote.

#### Article 4. Direct Franchise

Elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from electoral districts are direct: the people's deputies are elected directly by the citizens.

Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are elected directly by the delegates to their congresses or conferences, or by the participants in the plenums of their republic agencies.

#### **Article 5. Secret Voting**

The voting at elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies is secret: no monitoring of the expression of the voters' will is allowed.

#### **Article 6. Conducting of Election by Electoral Commissions**

The conducting of an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies is supported by electoral commissions, which are formed from representatives of labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel at their military units.

#### **Article 7. Publicity When Preparing and Conducting an Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

The preparation and conducting of an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies are carried out electoral commissions, labor collectives, and public organizations openly and publicly.

The electoral commissions inform the citizens about the work performed by the commissions, their makeup, their location, and the working hours of the electoral commissions. The electoral commission make known to the citizens the results of the registration of candidates for election as deputies, the biographical information concerning the registered candidates, the results of the voting for each candidate, and the election results.

At sessions of the electoral commission, including those when registering candidates for election as deputies and counting the votes, and at the polling station, when determining the results of the election for the district, and summing up the overall election results, representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, and meetings of voters, proxies, and representatives of the press, television, and radio have the right to be present. The powers of the representatives of the labor collectives, public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence must be certified by the appropriate document and their presence must be reported to the electoral commission no later than two days ahead of time.

The mass media report the rate of preparation and conducting of the election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies, and their representatives are guaranteed access to all meetings and sessions linked with the election. The electoral commission, state and public agencies, and labor collectives provide them with the information linked with the preparation and conducting of the election.

#### **Article 8. Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Public Organization in Preparing and Conducting the Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

Belorussian SSR citizens take part in preparing and conducting the elections of Belorussian SSR people's

deputies both through the labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel at their military units and through the district pre-election meetings, and directly.

The labor collectives and public organizations participate in preparing and conducting the elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies both through their representatives in the electoral commissions, and directly.

#### **Article 9. Right to Nominate Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

The right to nominate candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies in the individual electoral districts belongs to labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel at their military units within the territorial limits of the particular electoral district, and the right to nominate candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations belongs to their republic agencies on the basis of presentations pertaining to candidates for election which have been sent in by the local agencies, low-level collectives, and members of those organizations.

#### **Article 10. Mandates of the Voters and Public Organizations for Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

The voters and public organizations issue mandates to their deputies.

The procedure for introducing, summarizing, reviewing, and organizing the fulfillment of the mandates is established by Belorussian SSR Law.

#### **Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of Belorussian SSR People's Deputy with One's Official Position**

Persons who are members of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers, with the exception of its Chairman; administrators of Belorussian SSR departments; the chairman and members of Belorussian SSR Supreme Court; chairmen and members of oblast courts and the Minsk City Court; the Chief State Arbiter and Belorussian SSR state arbiters; and the representative and members of the Belorussian SSR Committee for Constitutional Oversight cannot be simultaneously Belorussian SSR people's deputies.

#### **Article 12. Expenses Linked with an Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies. Material Support of the Election**

The expenses linked the preparation and conducting of an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies are paid by the state.

Enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and state and public agencies put at the disposal of the electoral commissions the areas, equipment, and transportation means that are needed to prepare and conduct the election.

Candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies and the voters do not bear any of the expenses linked with the preparation and conducting of the election. The funds of enterprises, institutions, organizations, or citizens cannot be used for these purposes.

#### **Article 13. Responsibility for Violating the Legislation Governing the Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

Persons who hinder, by violence, deception, threats, or other means, the free carrying out by a citizen of Belorussian SSR of his or her right to vote or to be elected as a Belorussian SSR people's deputy or to carry out an election campaign, as well as members of electoral commissions or officials of state and public agencies who have forged election documents, deliberately miscounted the votes, violated the secrecy of the voting, or have otherwise violated this Law, bear the legally established responsibility. Persons who have published or otherwise spread false rumors concerning a candidate for election as a deputy, or who appealed for or agitated for the boycotting of an election, are also held accountable.

If a candidate for election as a deputy has violated this Law, he is given a warning by the appropriate district electoral commission, and if he repeats the offense the Central Electoral Commission, in accordance with the presentation of the district electoral commission, can cancel the decision to register that person as a candidate for election as deputy.

Statements concerning violations of the election legislation that have been received by electoral commissions and state and public agencies during the period of preparation for an election or after the election must be reviewed within three days, and those that have been received on election day must be reviewed immediately.

## **II. Procedure for Scheduling an Election and the Formation of Electoral Districts**

#### **Article 14. Scheduling of an Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

An election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies is scheduled by Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet no later than three months prior to the expiration of the term of office of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations is done at their congresses or conferences, or at the plenums of their republic agencies, no earlier than 20 days prior to election day and no later than election day for the electoral districts.

Information concerning the election day for the electoral districts, the date and place of holding congresses and

conferences of public organizations, or the plenums of their republic agencies, is published in the press.

#### **Article 15. Formation of Electoral Districts**

In order to elect Belorussian SSR people's deputies, 272 electoral districts are formed.

The electoral districts are formed by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies on the representation of the oblast soviets of people's deputies and the Minsk City Soviet, or their presidiums.

The electoral districts for an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies are formed on the territory of Belorussian SSR basically with an equal number of voters, with a consideration of the republic's administrative-territorial division.

The lists of electoral districts with an indication of their boundaries, the number of voters, and the locations of the district electoral commissions are published by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies no later than the fifth day after the scheduling of the election.

One Belorussian SSR people's deputy is elected from each electoral district.

#### **Article 16. Norms for Representation of Public Organizations When Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

Eighty-eight Belorussian SSR people's deputies are elected from the republic's public organizations, including:

- from the Belorussian Communist Party, 13 deputies;
- from Belorussian trade unions, 13 deputies;
- from the Belorussian Komsomol, 7 deputies;
- from kolkhozes united by the Belorussian SSR Kolkhoz Council, 7 deputies;
- from the Belorussian Republic Union of Consumer Societies and other cooperative associations of citizens, 4 deputies;
- from women's unions united by the Belorussian SSR Women's Council; the Belorussian Department of the V. I. Lenin Children's Foundation; and the Belorussian Charity and Health Foundation, 7 deputies;
- from war and labor veterans who are united by their Belorussian Republic Council; the Belorussian Society of the Disabled; the Belorussian Society of the Blind; and the Belorussian Society of the Deaf, 7 deputies;
- from associations of scientific workers (of the Belorussian SSR Academy of Sciences; the Belorussian Republic Board of the USSR Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies; the Belorussian Republic Board of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Efficiency Experts), the Belorussian SSR Pedagogical Society, the

Belorussian SSR Economic Society, and the F. Sko-  
rina Belorussian Language Society, five deputies;

—from Belorussian SSR creative societies (Architects  
Union, Designers Union, Journalists Union, Cinema-  
tographers Union, Composers Union, Writers Union,  
Theatrical Workers Union, and figures in the Artists  
Union), 6 deputies;

—from other public organizations that have been cre-  
ated in the legally established procedure and that have  
republic agencies, 19 deputies.

The list of these organizations is established by the  
Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian  
SSR People's Deputies. Within the limits of the indi-  
cated standards, the representation of each public orga-  
nization is established at a joint session of the adminis-  
trators of the elected agencies of these organizations of  
their proxies, which session is convoked by the Central  
Electoral Commission, or in instances of a difference of  
opinion, by the Central Electoral Commission.

### III. Electoral Wards

#### Article 17. Formation of Electoral Wards

In order to conduct the voting and tally the votes in an  
election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from the  
electoral districts, the territory of the rayons, cities, and  
city rayons is divided into electoral wards. Electoral  
wards are also formed in military units and are part of  
the electoral district in the place where the units are  
deployed.

Electoral wards can be formed in sanitoriums and rest  
homes, hospitals, and other in-patient therapeutic insti-  
tutions.

#### Article 18. Procedure and Standard for Formation of Electoral Wards

Electoral wards are formed by rayon, city (other than in  
cities of rayon subordination), and city-rayon soviets of  
people's deputies or their presidiums in coordination  
with the district electoral commissions. In military units,  
electoral wards are formed by the local soviets of peo-  
ple's deputies or their presidiums on the basis of state-  
ments by the commanders of the units or military  
formations.

The electoral wards are formed no later than two months  
before the election. In military units the electoral wards  
are formed within the same time period, or in excep-  
tional instances no later than five days before the elec-  
tion.

Electoral wards are formed with a number of no fewer  
than 20 and no more than 3000 voters.

The appropriate local soviet of people's deputies or its  
presidium informs the voters of the boundaries of each  
electoral ward, and indicates the location of the ward  
electoral commission and the polling place.

### IV. Electoral Commissions

#### Article 19. System of Electoral Commissions

In order to conduct an election of Belorussian SSR  
people's deputies, the following electoral commissions  
are formed:

—Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorus-  
sian SSR People's Deputies;

—district electoral commissions for electing Belorussian  
SSR people's deputies from the electoral districts;

—ward electoral commissions;

—electoral commissions for electing Belorussian SSR  
people's deputies from public organizations.

#### Article 20. Formation of the Central Electoral Commis- sion for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies

The Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorus-  
sian SSR People's Deputies is formed by the Belorussian  
SSR Supreme Soviet with a consideration of the recom-  
mendations made by the oblast soviets of people's dep-  
uties and the Minsk City Soviet, or their presidiums, and  
the republic agencies of public organizations, no later  
than 90 days before the election, with a makeup of a  
chairman, two deputy chairmen, secretary, and 15 com-  
mission members.

The term of office of the Central Electoral Commission  
for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies is five  
years.

#### Article 21. Powers of the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies

The Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorus-  
sian SSR People's Deputies:

1) monitors, on the entire territory of Belorussian SSR,  
execution of this Law and guarantees its uniform appli-  
cation; whenever necessary, goes to the Belorussian SSR  
Supreme Soviet with representations concerning the  
interpretation of this Law;

2) directs the activity of the electoral commissions;  
determines the procedure for making amendments in the  
makeup of the electoral commissions;

3) forms the electoral districts;

4) resolves the questions of assigning the electoral wards  
that have been created in military units that are located  
outside the confines of the USSR to the electoral districts  
for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies;

5) distributes the monetary funds to the electoral com-  
missions; monitors the providing to the electoral com-  
missions of facilities, transportation, and communica-  
tion, and considers other questions of providing  
material-technical support to the election;



6) establishes the forms of the ballots to be used in an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies, the voter lists, the minutes of the pre-election meetings and sessions of the electoral commissions, and other election documents; the models of the ballot boxes and the seals for the electoral commissions; and the procedure of storing the election documents;

7) listens to reports from ministries, state committees, and departments of Belorussian SSR and of other state and public agencies with regard to questions linked with the preparation and conducting of an election;

8) registers the elected deputies, sums up the election results for the republic, and publishes in the press a report on the election results and a list of the elected Belorussian SSR people's deputies;

9) submits to the Credentials Commission of Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet the documentation that is necessary for verifying the deputies' powers;

10) resolves questions linked with the conducting of runoff elections;

11) resolves questions linked with organizing the recall of Belorussian SSR people's deputies;

12) schedules the election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies to fill vacancies left by people's deputies and provides for the carrying out such elections;

13) reviews statements and complaints concerning the decisions and actions of the electoral commissions and makes the final decisions with regard to them;

14) carries out other duties in conformity with this Law and other Belorussian SSR laws.

#### **Article 22. Formation of District Electoral Commissions**

A district electoral commission is formed in each electoral district for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies no later than 75 before the election, and consists of 9-13 members.

Representatives to make up the district electoral commission are nominated by meetings of labor collectives or the councils of labor collectives, by collectives of schoolchildren or students at institutions of higher learning, republic, oblast, rayon, city, and city-rayon agencies of public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel at their military units. To determine the labor collectives and public organizations that nominate their representatives as members of the commission, the presidiums of the appropriate local soviets of people's deputies can, if necessary, conduct conferences of the authorized representatives of the labor collectives and public organizations in the electoral district.

The district electoral commissions for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies are formed by the oblast soviets of people's deputy and the Minsk City Soviet, or their presidiums.

#### **Article 23. Powers of the District Electoral Commission**

The district electoral commission for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies:

1) monitors the execution of this Law on the territory of the district;

2) directs the activity of the ward electoral commissions;

3) listens to reports given by the executive and directive agencies of the local soviets of people's deputies and administrators of enterprises, institutions, and organizations with regard to questions linked with the preparation and conducting of the election;

4) observes the preparation of voter lists and the submission of those lists for universal familiarization;

5) organizes the nomination of candidates for election as deputies;

6) convokes and conducts district pre-election meetings;

7) registers the nominated candidates for election as deputies, and their proxies, and issues the appropriate identification documents to them, and provides for the printing of posters with biographical data concerning the candidates for election as deputies;

8) organizes, jointly with the labor collectives and public organizations, meetings between the candidates for election as deputies and the voters, both in the labor collectives and at the voters' place of residence;

9) approves the text of the ballot for the electoral district, and provides for the manufacture of the ballots and the supplying of them to the ward electoral commissions;

10) establishes and publishes in the press the results of the election for the electoral district, and issues identification documents to the elected deputy;

11) organizes the conducting of runoff voting and runoff elections;

12) reviews statements and complaints concerning the decisions and actions of the ward electoral commissions and makes decisions with regard to them;

13) carries out other duties in conformity with this Law.

#### **Article 24. Formation of Ward Electoral Commissions**

A ward electoral commission for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies is formed no later than 45 days before the election, with a makeup of 5-19 members. Whenever necessary, the makeup of the ward electoral commission can be increased or decreased.

Representatives to make up ward electoral commission are nominated by meetings of labor collectives or the councils of labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren or students at institutions of higher learning, rayon, city, and city-rayon agencies of public organizations, their primary organizations, citizens' public-action agencies, and meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel at their military units.

The ward electoral commissions are approved by the rayon, city (other than in cities of rayon subordination), and city-rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

#### **Article 25. Powers of the Ward Electoral Commission**

The ward electoral commission:

- 1) prepares the voter lists for the ward;
- 2) familiarizes the voters with the voter list, receives and reviews statements concerning inaccuracies in the list, and resolves questions concerning the making of the appropriate changes in it;
- 3) informs the public about the election day and the voting place;
- 4) provides for the preparation of the facilities for the voting and the ballot boxes;
- 5) organizes the voting at the electoral ward on election day;
- 6) tallies the votes that have been cast at the electoral ward;
- 7) reviews the statements and complaints dealing with questions of preparing the election or organizing the voting, and makes the appropriate decisions;
- 8) carries out other duties in conformity with this Law.

#### **Article 26. Formation of Electoral Commissions for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations**

Electoral commissions for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are formed in a makeup of 7-13 members by the republic agencies of those organizations no later than 75 days before the election by voting districts.

If necessary, several public organizations can form a general electoral commission.

#### **Article 27. Powers of the Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies from a Public Organization**

The electoral commission for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies from a public organization:

- 1) registers the nominated candidates for election as deputies, and issues the appropriate identification documents to them;

- 2) publishes a list of the candidates for election as deputies;

- 3) summarizes the recommendations and comments addressed to the candidates for election as deputies by the local agencies, low-level collectives, and members of public organizations, and by citizens, and reports them to the congress or conference of the public organization or to the plenum of its republic agency;

- 4) approves the text of the ballot for an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies;

- 5) provides for the preparation of the facilities for the voting and the ballot boxes, and organizes the voting at the congress or conference of the public organization, or at the plenum of its republic agency;

- 6) tallies the votes and establishes the results of the election of deputies, and issues identification documents to the elected deputies;

- 7) organizes a runoff election or an election to fill vacancies left by deputies;

- 8) carries out other duties in conformity with this Law.

#### **Article 28. Organization of the Work of the Electoral Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairmen, and secretary of the district and ward electoral commissions, as well as the commission for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are elected at a session of the appropriate commission.

The sessions of the electoral commission are valid if no less than two-thirds of the makeup of the commission takes part in them. The commission decisions are made by open voting, by a majority of the votes from the overall commission makeup. Commission members who do not agree with a commission decision have the right to express a special opinion which, in written form, is attached to the minutes.

The decisions of the electoral commissions that are made within the confines of their powers are mandatory for execution by all the state and public agencies, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

The decisions and actions of the electoral commission can be appealed to the superior electoral commission, and in the instances that have been stipulated by this Law, to the court also.

A member of an electoral commission, on the basis of its decision, can be released during the period of preparing for and conducting an election from execution his production or official duties, while retaining his average earnings, chargeable to the funds allocated for the conducting of the election.

**Article 29. Assisting the Electoral Commissions in Carrying Out Their Powers**

State and public agencies, enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and officials are required to assist the electoral commissions in carrying out their powers, and to provide them with the information and materials needed for their work.

The electoral commission has the right, with regard to questions linked with the preparation and conducting of an election, to contact state and public agencies, administrators of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and other officials, who are required to review the question that has been raised and to issue a reply to the electoral commission within three days.

**V. Voter Lists****Article 30. Voter List and Procedure of Preparing It**

The voter list for an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from the electoral districts is prepared for each electoral ward and is signed by the chairman and secretary of the ward electoral commission. The ward electoral commission can ask representatives of the public to participate in the work of preparing the list.

The executive committees of city, city-rayon, settlement, and rural soviets of people's deputies maintain records concerning the voters and communicate to the ward electoral commissions the information about the voters residing on the appropriate territory, which information is necessary to prepare the voter list.

The list of military personnel who are voters and who are located in military units, as well as the members of the families of military personnel and other voters, if they are residing in areas of deployment of military units, is drawn up on the basis of information provided by the commanders of the military units. Military personnel residing outside of military units are included in the voter lists at their place of residence on general principles.

The voter lists for electoral wards formed in sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient therapeutic institutions are prepared on the basis of information provided by the administrators of those institutions.

The last names of the voters are indicated in the voter list in an order that is convenient for organizing the voting.

**Article 31. Procedure of Including Citizens in the Voter List**

The list includes all Belorussian SSR citizens who have reached, before or on the day of election, the age of 18 years, and who reside permanently or temporarily, as of the moment that the list is prepared, on the territory of the particular electoral ward and have the right to participate in the voting.

The voter cannot be included in voter lists at other electoral wards.

**Article 32. Familiarization of the Citizens with the Voter Lists and the Right to Appeal Inaccuracies in the Voter List**

The voter lists are presented for universal familiarization 15 days before the election, and at electoral wards formed in sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient therapeutic institutions, two days before the election.

Citizens are given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the voter list and to verify the correctness with which it was prepared at the facilities of the ward electoral commission.

Each citizen is granted the right to appeal the noninclusion or incorrect inclusion in the list or his exclusion from the list, as well as any inaccuracies made in the list in indicating the information concerning the voter. The statement concerning the inaccuracies in the list is reviewed by the ward electoral commission, which is required within two days—or, on the day before election day or on election day itself, immediately—to review the statement, make the necessary changes in the list, or to issue to the person making the statement a copy of the substantiated decision to reject his statement. This decision can be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court no later than five days before the election, and that court is required to review the appeal within three days. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. The correction in the voter list in conformity with a court decision is made immediately by the ward electoral commission.

**Article 33. List of Persons Voting in the Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies from a Public Organization and the Procedure for Preparing It**

The list of persons voting in an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from a public organization is prepared by the republic agency of the public organization, and is transmitted to the electoral commission no later than three days before the election.

The list of persons voting includes the delegates to the congress or conference of the public organization, or the participants of the plenum of its republic agency. All the questions linked with inclusion in the list of persons voting are resolved by the electoral commission. The last names of the persons voting are indicated in the list in alphabetical order.

**VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies****Article 34. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies for the Electoral Districts**

The nomination of candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies for the electoral districts begins 70 days before the election and ends 40 days before it.

Candidates for election as deputies are nominated at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives and collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning having no fewer than 300 persons. Upon coordination with the appropriate district commission, labor collectives with a smaller number can conduct combined meetings.

Candidates for election as deputies for the electoral districts from public organizations are nominated by their oblast, rayon, city, and city-rayon agencies at the plenums of those organizations.

Meetings of voters at their place of residence to nominate candidates for election as deputies are convoked by the district electoral commissions jointly with the appropriate soviets of people's deputies, or their presidiums, both on their own initiative or on the initiative of the agencies of the public territorial self-government, supported by no fewer than 300 voters in the particular electoral district. The recommendation to hold a meeting of voters at their place of residence must be reviewed by the district electoral commission jointly with the appropriate soviet of people's deputies or its presidium within three days. In the event that this recommendation is accepted, the date, time, and place of conducting the meeting are established and, within three days, are reported to the voters in the district. A recommendation to conduct a meeting of voters at their place of residence is rejected if the agency of public territorial self-government is located not on the territory of the particular electoral district, and also if the initiative of that agency is not confirmed by the minutes of its session with regard to that question. In the event of rejection of a recommendation to hold a meeting of voters at their place of residence, the agency of the public territorial self-government is issued a copy of the substantiated decision. This decision can be appealed to the Central Electoral Commission, whose decision is final. The meeting is valid if no fewer than 300 voters who reside on the territory of the electoral district participate in it.

Meetings of military personnel to nominate candidates for election as deputies are convoked by the command element of the military units.

At the meetings, the conditions are created for nominating an unlimited number of candidates. Every participant in the meeting has the right to make recommendations concerning candidates for election as deputies, to participate in discussing them, and to support the proposed candidacies, or to make recommendations that they been rejected. The meeting participant can recommend for discussion as a candidate for election as a deputy his own candidacy. The labor collective, collective of schoolchildren or students at an institution of higher learning, agency of a public organization, or meeting of voters at their place of residence or of military personnel at their military units can nominate only one candidate for election as deputy. The decision to nominate a candidate for election as deputy is made at

the meeting by open or secret voting. The voting procedure is established by the meeting.

The candidate is considered to be nominated if more than half the meeting participants, or the majority of the total makeup of the appropriate public agency, have voted for him. Minutes are prepared concerning the nomination of candidates for election as deputies. The decision that has been made is reported to the candidate for election as deputy within two weeks. As a rule, the persons who are nominated as candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies are citizens who are working or residing on the territory of the particular electoral district.

A Belorussian SSR citizen cannot be simultaneously a people's deputy of more than two soviets of people's deputies.

#### Article 35. District Pre-Election Meeting

In conformity with the Belorussian SSR Constitution, a district pre-election meeting can be conducted to discuss the candidates who have been nominated from the electoral district as candidates for election as deputies and to make decisions concerning the presentation of the names of candidates for registration to the district electoral commission. The meeting is convoked by the district electoral commission and is conducted after the end of the nomination of candidates for election as deputies, the submittal of the minutes concerning the nomination of candidates, and their statements concerning their consent to run for election in the particular electoral district. If no more than three candidates for election as deputies have been nominated for the district, no district pre-election meeting is held.

The participants in the district pre-election meeting are delegated by the labor collectives or their councils, by collectives of schoolchildren or students at institutions of higher learning, agencies of public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence or of military personnel at their military units, and also by agencies of the public territorial self-government, in equal quantity in accordance with the standards established by the district electoral commission.

The decision to nominate representatives delegated to the district pre-election meeting and a list of their names are submitted to the district electoral commission no later than two days before the meeting is to be held. On their basis, before the beginning of the meeting, the participants in the district pre-election meeting are registered. The meeting is valid if no less than two-thirds of the total number of delegated representatives are present at it. No less than two-thirds of the meeting participants must consist of voters from the particular electoral district.

The participants in the district pre-election meeting are previously given a list of all the candidates nominated for election as deputy for the particular district, and the basic information about them.

At the meeting, the candidate for election as deputy is given the opportunity to make a statement outlining his future activity. Any participant at the meeting has the right to discuss the candidates for election as deputy and to make his recommendations about him.

Any number of candidates for election as deputies can be submitted for registration. The decision is made by a major of the votes cast by the meeting participants by open or secret voting. The voting procedure is established by the meeting. The decision is considered to be made if more than half the meeting participants have voted for it. The results of the discussion of the candidates for election as deputies are reflected in the meeting minutes.

The meeting's decision can be appealed to the district electoral commission or to the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies within three days.

#### **Article 36. Procedure of Nominating Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations**

Candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are nominated at plenums of their republic agencies in conformity with the requirements of this Law. The plenums to nominate candidates for election as deputies are held no later than 30 days before the election in the appropriate public organization.

When nominating candidates for election as deputies, the conditions are created for nominating an unlimited number of candidates. The plenum participants can recommend for discussion as a candidate for election as deputy any candidacy, including their own, can participate in the discussion of the candidates for election as deputy, can support the proposed candidacies, or can make recommendations to reject them.

Any member of a public organization can be nominated as a candidate for election as a Belorussian SSR people's deputy from that organization.

The decision to nominate candidates for election as deputies is made by open or secret voting. The voting procedure is established by plenums of the republic agencies of the public organizations. The candidates are considered to be nominated if more than half the members of the particular agencies have voted for them. The decisions made by plenums of the republic agencies of public organizations are made known to the candidates for election as deputy.

At the plenums, decisions are made concerning the convoking of congresses, conferences, or plenums of the republic agencies in order to conduct an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from the particular public organizations.

#### **Article 37. Registration of Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

A candidate for election as a Belorussian SSR people's deputy from the electoral districts is registered by the district electoral commission on the basis of the representation made by the labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, agencies of public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place of residence or of military personnel at their military units concerning the candidates who have been nominated for election as deputies, or the district pre-election meeting, if it has been conducted.

Candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are registered by the electoral commissions for elections from public organizations on the basis of the representation made by their republic agencies.

The registration of the candidates for election as deputies from the electoral districts begins 40 days before the election and ends 30 days before it; the registration of those from the public organizations begins no later than the fifth day after the holding of the plenums of their republic agencies to nominate candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies.

The decision to register candidates for election as deputies is made if the following documents are present: minutes of meetings to nominate candidates for election as deputies for the particular electoral district and the minutes of the district pre-election meeting, if one was held; the decision of the republic agency of the public organizations, as well as the statements made by the candidates for election as deputies concerning their consent to run for election in the particular electoral district or from a public organization. The persons listed in Article 11 of this Law who have been nominated as candidates for election as deputies indicate in their statements their intention to free the positions occupied by them in the event that they are elected as deputies, or report the withdrawal of their candidacies. The electoral commission prepares minutes concerning the registration of candidates for election as deputies; these minutes, together with the statements made by the candidates for election as deputy, are submitted to the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies.

The appropriate electoral commission registers the candidates for election as deputies who have been nominated with the observance of the requirements of this Law. Refusal to register can be appealed within three days to the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies.

A candidate for election as deputy can run for office simultaneously in only one electoral district, or from one public organization. The candidate for election as deputy communicates to the district electoral commission his

consent to run in the electoral district within five days after his nomination as candidate for election as deputy.

A candidate for election as deputy who has been registered in one electoral district or in one public organization cannot be nominated for registration in another electoral district or another public organization, even in the event that he has withdrawn his candidacy from the place where he was originally registered.

A candidate for election as deputy cannot be a member of the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies, or the district or ward electoral commissions of the electoral district or the electoral commission for elections from the public organization where he was nominated as a candidate. A person who was nominated as a candidate for election as deputy and who is a member of one of the commissions mentioned is considered to be released from his duties in the commission as of the moment of his registration as a candidate for election as deputy.

The appropriate electoral commission, no later than the fourth day after the registration of the candidates for election as deputies, publishes in the press a report on the registration, with an indication of the last name, first name, and patronymic, year of birth, position occupied (occupation), and the place of work and residence of every candidate for election as deputy.

**Article 38. Cancellation of the Decision to Nominate a Candidate for Election as a Belorussian SSR Deputy. Withdrawal by the Candidate of His Own Candidacy**

The labor collective, collective of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, agency of a public organization, meeting of voters at their place of residence or military personnel at their military unit, or republic agency of a public organization which has nominated a candidate for election as a Belorussian SSR people's deputy has the right at any time prior to the election to cancel its decision to nominate the candidate for election as deputy. The decision concerning this question is made in the procedure stipulated for nominating candidates for election as deputies, and is submitted to the appropriate electoral commission.

The candidate for election as deputy, at any time prior to the election, can withdraw his own candidacy, by submitting a statement to that effect to the appropriate electoral commission.

**Article 39. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies to Fill Vacancies That Have Been Created**

In the event that a vacancy is created for a Belorussian SSR people's deputy after the expiration of the deadline for registering candidates for election as deputies, if no other candidates remain in the electoral district the

district electoral commission contacts the labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, public organizations, and meetings of voters at their place or residence and of military personnel at their military units, proposing that they nominate new candidates for election as deputies. If vacancies for candidates for election as deputy occur less than 30 days before the election, the election of the deputy from the appropriate electoral district is held within two months after the general election.

In the event that a vacancy is created prior to the election of candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies from a public organization, if the total number of the remaining candidates remains less than the number of mandates the appropriate commission contacts the republic agency of the public organization, proposing the nomination of new candidates for election as deputies.

Candidates for election as deputies to fill vacancies that have been created are nominated in the procedure established by this Law.

**Article 40. Ballot**

The ballot includes in alphabetical order all the registered candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies, with an indication of their last name, first name, and patronymic, position occupied (occupation), and place of work and residence of every candidate for election as deputy. The ballots are printed in the languages used by the population of the electoral district.

**VII. Guarantees of the Activity of the Candidates for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

**Article 41. Right of the Candidate for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputy to Speak at Meetings, to Use the Mass Media, and to Obtain Information**

Candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies, from the time that they are registered by the electoral commissions, have the equal right to speak at pre-election and other meetings, conferences, sessions, in the press, on television, and on the radio.

State and public agencies, the administrators of enterprises, institutions, and agencies, and the public-action agencies are obliged to render to the candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies assistance in organizing meetings with the voters and members of public organizations and in receiving necessary reference and informational materials.

**Article 42. Pre-Election Platform of the Candidate for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputy**

A candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy presents the platform for his future activity, which reflects the interests of the voters in the district. The candidate's platform must not contradict the USSR Constitution, the Belorussian SSR Constitution, or Soviet laws.

**Article 43. Authorized Representatives of the Candidate for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputy**

The candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy can have as many as five authorized representatives who help him to conduct the electoral campaign, who conduct agitation for his election as deputy, and who represent his interests in interrelationships with state and public agencies, the voters, and members of public organizations, and also in the electoral commissions.

The candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy selects his authorized representatives at his own discretion and reports this action for registering them to the district electoral commission or to the electoral commission for elections from a public organization. The electoral commission, after the registration of the authorized representatives, issues identification documents to them.

The authorized representative cannot be a member of the appropriate electoral commission.

**Article 44. Pre-Election Agitation**

Labor collectives, collectives of schoolchildren and students at institutions of higher learning, voters at their place of residence, and military personnel at their military units who have nominated candidates for election as deputies are granted the right to carry out unhindered agitation for their candidates.

The electoral commissions assist the labor collectives, voters at their place of residence, and public organizations in providing well-equipped facilities for holding meetings and rallies, as well as mass-information means for conducting pre-election agitation.

Belorussian SSR citizens, labor collectives, and public organizations are guaranteed the opportunity for the free and complete discussion of the political, on-the-job, and personal qualities of the candidates for election as deputy, as well as the right to agitate for or against the candidate at meetings, in the press, and on television and radio.

The candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies hold meetings with their voters both at meetings and in other forms that are convenient for the voters. The meetings of voters are organized by the district electoral commission jointly with the appropriate soviet of people's deputies or its presidium and public organizations.

The time and place for holding various kinds of meetings are made known to the voters ahead of time. Labor collectives and public organizations inform the district electoral commission ahead of time concerning the meetings, voter rallies, and other pre-election measures to be carried out by them.

Agitation is not allowed on election day.

**Article 45. Releasing of the Candidate for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputy and of the Authorized Representative of the Candidate for Election as Deputy from Production or Official Duties in Order to Participate in Pre-Election Measures**

The candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy, after registration and for the period of time required to conduct meetings with the voters and make statements at pre-election meetings and rallies, and on the television and radio, is released from the fulfillment of production or official duties, with the retention of his average earnings, chargeable to the funds allocated for the conducting of the election.

At the request of the candidate for election as people's deputy, his authorized representative can be released from his production or official duties, with the retention of his average earnings, chargeable to the funds allocated for the conducting of the election.

**Article 46. The Right of the Candidate for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputy to Receive Free Travel**

The candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy, after registration, has the right to receive free travel on all types of passenger transportation (with the exception of taxis) within the confines of the appropriate electoral district. A candidate for election as deputy who lives outside the confines of the electoral district enjoys the same right to travel to the electoral district and return to his place of residence.

The procedure and the payment of the travel of the candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations for participation in pre-election measures are determined by the republic agencies of those organizations.

**Article 47. Inviolability of the Candidate for Election as Belorussian SSR People's Deputy**

The candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy cannot be brought to criminal responsibility, arrested, or subjected to measures of administrative punishment that are impossible in a court procedure, without the consent of the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Tallying the Election Results****Article 48. Time and Place of Voting**

In an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from the electoral districts, the voting is carried out on election day from 0700 to 2000 hours, local time. The ward electoral commission reports the time and place of the voting to the voters no later than ten days before the election.

At electoral wards formed in military units, the ward electoral commission can declare the voting to be completed at any time if all the voters included in the list have voted.

In an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations, the voting is carried out at a congress or conference of the public organization, or at a plenum of its republic agency. At such time, expanded plenums can be held, with the participation of representatives of the other elected agencies of those organizations. In such instances the right to cast the decisive vote is granted to all the plenum participants. An election of Belorussian SSR people's candidates can also be conducted at combined congress or conferences, or at plenums of the republic agencies of several public organizations.

#### **Article 49. Organizing the Voting**

The voting is carried out in facilities that have been specially set aside, which must be equipped with a sufficient number of voting booths or rooms for secret voting, and where the places for turning in the ballots must be indicated and ballot boxes must be set up. The ballot boxes are set up in such a way as to allow the voters, as they approach them, to pass necessarily through the booths or rooms for secret voting.

Responsibility for organizing the voting, for assuring the secrecy of the expression of the voters' will, for equipping the facilities, and maintaining them in the necessary order is borne by the appropriate ward electoral commission or the electoral commission of the public organization.

On election day, before the beginning of the voting, the ballot boxes are checked and are closed with lead or a seal by the chairman of the appropriate electoral commission in the presence of all the commission members.

Every voter, delegate to a congress or conference, and plenum participant votes personally: voting for other persons is not permitted. The ballots are issued by the appropriate electoral commission on the basis of the voter list of the electoral ward, or the list of persons voting at a congress or conference of a public organization or a plenum of its republic agency, upon the presentation of the internal passport or other identification. The issuance of ballots is noted in the voter list or in the list of persons voting.

In events when individual voters, because of their health or for other reasons, are unable to come to the polling place to vote, the ward electoral commission, at their request, gives individual commission members the responsibility of organizing the voting at the place where those voters are situated.

#### **Article 50. Conducting of the Voting**

The ballots are filled out by the persons voting in the booth or room for secret voting. When the ballots are being filled out, it is forbidden to have anyone else present except the person voting. A voter who is incapable of filling out his ballot independently has the right

to invite into the booth or the room another person at his discretion, other than a member of the electoral commission.

During an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies, the person voting crosses out on the ballot the names of the candidates against whom he is voting.

The person voting drops the completed ballot into the ballot box.

#### **Article 51. Tallying of the Votes at the Electoral Ward**

During an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from the electoral districts, the votes at the electoral ward are tallied separately for each candidate for election as deputy.

The ballot boxes are opened by the ward electoral commission after the commission chairman has announced the end of the voting. It is prohibited to open the ballot boxes prior to the end of the voting. Before the ballot boxes are opened, all the unused ballots are counted and are invalidated by the ward electoral commission.

The ward electoral commission, by referring to the basic and supplementary lists of voters, establishes the total number of voters in the ward, as well as the number of voters who received ballots. On the basis of the ballots contained in the ballot boxes, the commission establishes: the total number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes cast for and the number of votes cast against each candidate for election as deputy; and the number of ballots deemed to be invalid. The votes cast for citizens whose names were written in on the ballot by the voters are not tallied.

Ballots are deemed to be invalid if they are not of the established form. If any doubts arise concerning the validity of the ballot, the question is resolved by the ward electoral commission by means of a vote.

The results of the vote tally are reviewed at a session of the ward electoral commission and are entered in the minutes that are drawn up separately for each electoral district. The minutes are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members, and are sent to the appropriate district electoral commission in the procedure established by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies.

#### **Article 52. Establishment of the Election Results for the Electoral District**

On the basis of the minutes from the ward electoral commissions, the district electoral commission determines: the total number of voters for the district; the number of voters who received ballots; the number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes cast for and the number of those cast against each candidate for election as deputy; and the number of ballots deemed to be invalid.



A candidate for election as a Belorussian SSR people's deputy is considered to be elected if he has received during the election more than half the votes of the voters who took part in the voting.

The district electoral commission can deem the election to be invalid if any violations of this Law occurred during the course of the election or the tallying of the votes.

The election is deemed to be void if less than half the voters whose names are on the voter list did not participate in it.

The election results for the electoral district are established at a session of the district electoral commission and are entered in the minutes. The minutes are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members and are sent to the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies in the procedures established by that commission.

A report on the election results for the electoral district is published in the press by the appropriate district electoral commission within the deadlines established by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies. The report contains an indication of the total number of citizens whose names are contained on the voter lists; the number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes cast for and the number of votes cast against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; the last name, first name, patronymic, position occupied (occupation), party membership, and the place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **Article 53. Tallying the Votes and Establishing the Results of the Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations**

The votes during an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are tallied by the electoral commissions for elections from public organizations, for each candidate for election as a deputy, in the procedure established by this Law for the ward electoral commissions.

Ballots that are not of the established form are deemed to be invalid. If any doubts arise concerning the validity of the ballot, the question is resolved by the electoral commission by means of a vote.

Candidates are considered to be elected if they have received the largest number of votes in conformity with the number of mandates, and more than half the votes of delegates to congresses or conferences of public organizations, or the participants in plenums of their republic agencies who have taken part in the voting.

The election is deemed to be void if the persons who took part in it constituted less than half the delegates to the congresses or conferences of the public organizations, or the participants in the plenums of their republic agencies, who were included in the lists of those voting.

The election results are established at a session of the electoral commission and are recorded in the minutes. The minutes are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the electoral commission and are sent to the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies in the procedure established by that commission.

Reports on the results of the election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations are published in the press by the electoral commissions for elections from public organizations within the deadlines established by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies. The report indicates the number of delegates to the congress or conference of the public organization, or the participants in the plenum of its republic agency, who took part in the election; the last name, first name, patronymic, positions occupied (occupation), party membership, and place of work and residence of each elected deputy; the number of votes cast for him and the number of votes cast against him.

#### **IX. Procedure for Tallying and Publishing the Results of an Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

##### **Article 54. Registration of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

The Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies, on the basis of the minutes that it has received from the electoral commissions, registers the elected Belorussian SSR people's deputies.

The Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies can deem the election to be invalid if, in the course of the election or the tallying of the votes, or during the determination of the election results, violations of this Law occurred, and can refuse to register the Belorussian SSR people's deputy.

##### **Article 55. Publishing the Results of an Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies**

A report on the election results for the republic and a list of the elected Belorussian SSR people's deputies are published in the press by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies within seven days, in alphabetical order with an indication of the last name, first name, patronymic, position occupied (occupation), party membership, and deputy's place of work and residence, and the electoral district or public organization from which he was elected deputy.

##### **Article 56. Identification Card and Lapel Pin of the Belorussian SSR People's Deputy**

The district electoral commission and the electoral commission for elections from public organizations, after the publication in the press of the list of Belorussian SSR people's deputies who have been registered by the electoral commission for electing Belorussian SSR people's deputies, issue to each elected deputy an identification card concerning his election.

After the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet has approved the powers of the elected deputies, the identification cards issued to them concerning their election as deputy are replaced by an identification card for a Belorussian SSR people's deputy. The deputy is also issued a lapel pin with the words "Belorussian SSR People's Deputy."

#### **X. Runoff Voting, Runoff Elections, and Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies to Fill Vacancies That Have Been Created**

##### **Article 57. Runoff Voting**

If more than two candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies have run for election in an electoral district and none of them have been elected, the district electoral commission makes a decision concerning the conducting in the district of a runoff voting for the two candidates for election as deputies who received the largest number of votes. The district electoral commission reports this decision to the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies and informs the voters in the district. The runoff voting in the electoral district is conducted within two weeks, with the observance of the requirements of this Law.

A runoff voting in an election of Belorussian SSR people's deputies from public organizations is held in the event that there has been an equal number of votes cast for individual candidates for election as deputies, thus making it impossible to determine the elected deputies. The runoff voting for these candidates for election as deputies is held at congresses or conferences of the public organizations, or at plenums of their republic agency on the same or next day, with the observance of the requirements of this Law.

A candidate for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputy is considered to be elected if he has received, during the runoff voting, the largest number of votes cast by the voters, delegates to the congress or conference of a public organization, or participants in a plenum of its republic agency, who have taken part in the voting, with respect to the other candidates. In the event that one candidate has run for election in the electoral district, he is considered to be elected if more than half the voters who took part in the voting voted for him.

##### **Article 58. Runoff Election**

If no more than two candidates for election as Belorussian SSR people's deputies have run for election in the electoral district and none of them has been elected, or if the election in the electoral district has been deemed to be void or invalid, or if the runoff voting did not make it possible to determine the elected deputy, the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies gives the district electoral commission the responsibility of conducting a runoff election in the electoral district. At such time it can make a decision about the need to have the election conducted by a

district electoral commission and ward electoral commissions with a new makeup. The voting is carried out at the same electoral districts and with the same voter lists that were drawn up for conducting the general election.

A runoff election is held within two months after the general election. The formation of electoral commissions, the registration of candidates for election as deputies, and the other measures are carried out in the procedure established by this Law. In the event that a runoff election is held, Belorussian SSR citizens who did not receive the necessary number of votes in the general election cannot run again as candidates for election as people's deputies.

If the number of elected deputies has proven to be less than the number of mandates or if the election from the public organization has been deemed to be invalid, the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies makes a decision about the conducting of a runoff election from the particular public organization. During the runoff election, the missing number of deputies or all the deputies from the particular public organization are elected if the previously conducted election was deemed to be invalid. At such time the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies can give the appropriate electoral commission the responsibility of conducting an election in its previous makeup or can propose to the republic agency of the public organization that it form an electoral commission in a new makeup.

##### **Article 59. Conducting of an Election of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies to Fill Vacancies That Have Been Created**

In the event that the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet has deemed the powers of individual Belorussian SSR people's deputies to be invalid, and also in the event that a deputy has been recalled or that his deputy powers have ceased before the expiration of his term for any other reasons, a new election is held in the appropriate electoral districts or in the public organizations within three months after the deputy vacancy has been created. The election is scheduled by the Central Electoral Commission for Electing Belorussian SSR People's Deputies within two months prior to its being held, and is organized with the observance of the requirements stated in this Law. At such time the district electoral commission or the electoral commission for elections from a public organization is formed 50 days prior to the election, and ward commissions one month prior to election, and the registration of candidates ends one month before the election.

In the event that a vacancy has been created for a Belorussian SSR people's deputy within no less than six months before the expiration of his term of office as a Belorussian SSR people's deputy, no election is held to elect a new Belorussian SSR people's deputy to fill the vacancy.

# **Belorussian SSR Election Law Comparison** 905A0009A

[Editorial Report] Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUS-SIYA in Russian on 5 November 1989 carries on pages 5 and 6 under the heading "Law of Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of People's Deputies of Belorussian SSR." Comparison of this version with draft law carried in SOVETSKAYA BELORUSIYA on 19 August 1989 reveals the following variations:

Page 5, Section I, Article 1, paragraph one, first sentence substitutes "...50 people's deputies... for "...one-fourth of the people's deputies..."; and reads: "...will be elected from the following social organizations: the Belorussian Republic Organization of War and Labor Veterans, the Belorussian Society of Invalids, the Belorussian Society of the Blind, and the Belorussian Society of the Deaf. Elections of..." (changing names of organizations); second sentence substitutes "...from these social organizations..." for "...from social organizations..."

Article 2, paragraph four substitutes "...people held in places of detention by court order or by authority of public prosecutor, as well as..." for "...people held in places of detention or under arrest, as well as..."

Article 2, paragraph five reads: "Citizens of other union republics within the territory of the Belorussian SSR will have the same election rights as citizens of the Belorussian SSR" (adding entire paragraph);

Article 6, paragraph one substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions" for "...collectives of students and pupils..."

Article 7, paragraphs one, first and second sentences of paragraph three, and paragraph four add words "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." after "...labor collectives..."

Article 7, paragraph three, first sentence reads: "...results of district elections, summing up..." (substitutes comma for "and");

Article 8, title and paragraph two add "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." after "...labor collectives..."

Article 8, paragraph one substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils..."

Article 9, paragraph one substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils..."

Article 12, paragraph three omits second sentence;

Article 13, paragraph one, first sentence reads: "...public organs and other people forging election documents..." (adding words "and other people"); reads: "...or committing other violations..." (changing "any" to "other");

Article 13, paragraph one, second sentence substitutes "...false information discrediting candidates for deputy or publicly advising boycotting..." for "...false information about candidate for deputy and advising or urging boycotting..."

Article 13, paragraph two substitutes "...Central Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Belorussian SSR..." for "...Central Election Commission..."

Section II, Article 15, paragraph one substitutes "...310..." for "...272..."

Article 15, paragraph three substitutes "...with an approximately equal number..." for "...with essentially the same number..."

Article 16, paragraph one substitutes "...50..." for "...88..."

Article 16, paragraphs two, three, four, and five are new: paragraph two reads: "29 deputies from the Belorussian Republic Organization of War and Labor Veterans"; paragraph three reads: "7 deputies from the Belorussian Society of Invalids"; paragraph four reads: "7 deputies from the Belorussian Society of the Blind"; paragraph five reads: "7 deputies from the Belorussian Society of the Deaf"; paragraphs 2-12 of earlier version are omitted;

Section III, Article 17, paragraph two reads: "Election centers can be established in sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment facilities" (changing word order);

Article 18, paragraph two omits second sentence referring to military units;

Section IV, Article 19, title and paragraph two substitute "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission..."

Article 20, title and paragraphs one and two substitute "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission..."

Article 20, paragraph one substitutes "...in line with the proposals..." for "...with consideration for the proposals..."

Article 21, title and paragraph one substitute "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission..."

Article 22, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and

pupils..."; second sentence adds "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." twice after words "...labor collectives...";

Article 23, paragraphs 7-13 (points 6-14) correspond to earlier paragraphs 8-14 (points 9-15), omitting earlier paragraph seven about district campaign assemblies; paragraph seven adds "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." twice after "...labor collectives...";

Article 24, paragraph two substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils..."; and "...organs of social territorial self-government..." for "...public initiative organs...";

Article 28, paragraph five substitutes "By a decision of the election commission, some of its members can be..." for "A member of the election commission, by its decision, can be...";

Section VI, Article 34, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils..."; second sentence reads: "A candidate for deputy can be nominated by several small collectives with a total number of at least 300 workers or students" (providing alternate translation);

Article 34, paragraph three reads: "...are conducted by their republic, oblast, rayon, city, and municipal rayon organs" (providing alternate translation);

Article 34, paragraph four, first sentence reads: "...district election commissions jointly with the presidiums (or executive committees) of appropriate soviets of people's deputies on their own initiative and on the initiative of organs of social territorial self-government" (changing word order, adding parenthetical note, and omitting reference to "at least 300 voters"); second sentence reads: "...election commission jointly with the presidiums (or executive committees) of the appropriate soviets of people's deputies within 3 days" (changing word order and adding parenthetical note); sixth sentence substitutes "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission...";

Page 6, Article 34, paragraph five reads "...military units, and will be official if they are attended by at least 300 voters" (adding new phrase after "units");

Article 34, paragraph six, first sentence substitutes "...conditions for unlimited nominations and discussion of candidates..." for "...conditions for nomination of unlimited number of candidates..."; fourth sentence substitutes "...collective of secondary specialized or higher academic institution..." for "...collective of students and pupils...";

Articles 35-58 correspond to earlier articles 36-59, omitting title and seven paragraphs of earlier Article 35 about district campaign assembly;

Article 36, paragraph one substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils..."; paragraphs one and four omit reference to district campaign assembly;

Article 36, paragraph four reads: "...district; decision of appropriate organ of social organization..." (changing "republic" to "appropriate"); substitutes "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission...";

Article 36, paragraph five reads: "Any number of candidates for deputy can be registered" (adding new paragraph);

Article 36, paragraphs 7-11 correspond to earlier paragraphs 6-10; paragraph seven substitutes "...no later than 5 days after..." for "...during the 5 days after...";

Article 36, paragraph nine substitutes "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission...";

Article 37, paragraph one, and Article 38, paragraph one substitute "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils..."; Article 37, paragraph one, second sentence reads: "The candidate for deputy will be informed of the time of the meeting or session called to withdraw the nomination" (adding new sentence);

Article 39, paragraph one, second sentence substitutes "...language used by the majority of the population..." for "...languages used by the population...";

Section VII, Article 40, paragraph one, second sentence reads: "Violations of this right can be appealed to the Central Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Belorussian SSR" (adding new sentence);

Article 40, paragraph two, first sentence substitutes "...organs of social territorial self-government..." for "...public initiative organs..."; and reads: "...obligated to secure the organization of meetings with voters and members of social organizations for candidates for people's deputies of the Belorussian SSR as well as to provide them with the reference and informational materials they need" (providing alternate translation);

Article 41, paragraph one, first sentence reads: "...program of his future activity" (omitting stipulation that it reflect district interests);

Article 43, paragraph one substitutes "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." for "...collectives of students and pupils...";

Article 43, paragraphs two, three, and five add "...collectives of secondary specialized and higher academic institutions..." after "...labor collectives...";

Article 43, paragraph four combines two sentences and reads: "...jointly with presidiums (or executive committees) of appropriate soviets of people's deputies, social

organizations, and organs of social territorial self-government" (providing alternate translation);

Article 43, paragraph five, second sentence adds "...organs of social territorial self-government..." after "...social organizations...";

Article 44, paragraph one, second sentence reads: "A candidate for deputy cannot be sent on a long business trip or be called up for military training without his consent" (adding new sentence);

Article 46, paragraph one substitutes "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission...";

Section VIII, Article 47, paragraph two substitutes "...military units, sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment facilities, the district..." for "...military units, the district...";

Article 47, paragraph three ends "...or a plenum of its republic organ" (omitting earlier second, third, and fourth sentences about extended plenums);

Article 50, paragraph four, first sentence reads: "unofficial election ballots, as well as ballots on which the voter has left the name of more than one candidate" (adding phrase following comma); second sentence substitutes "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission...";

Article 50, paragraph five, first sentence ends "...and entered in the protocol" (omitting phrase following comma);

Article 51, paragraphs five and six, Article 52, paragraphs five and six, Article 53, paragraphs one and two, Article 54, paragraph one, and Article 55, paragraph one substitute "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission...";

Section X, Article 56, paragraph one, Article 57, paragraph one and first and second sentences of paragraph three, and Article 58, paragraph one substitute "...Central Commission..." for "...Central Election Commission..."; Article 56, paragraph three ends: "...republic organization who voted in the election" (omitting phrase "in relation to other candidates" and second sentence);

Adds signatures of Chairman of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium N. Dementey and Secretary of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium L. Syroyegina and date and place: 27 October 1989, Minsk.

## **Estonian SSR**

### **Estonian SSR Draft Law on Supreme Soviet Elections**

90UN0110A Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA  
in Russian 10 Oct 89 pp 1-2

["Draft Law of the Estonian SSR on Elections to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet"]

## **[Text] I. General Provisions**

### **Article 1. Fundamentals of the Electoral System**

The deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are elected by the citizens of the Estonian SSR on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

### **Article 2. Universal Suffrage**

(1) Citizens of the Estonian SSR who have reached the age of 18 years and reside in the Estonian SSR have the right to vote.

(2) A citizen of the Estonian SSR has the right to vote only in the electoral okrug for his place of residence.

(3) Each citizen of the Estonian SSR who has reached the age of 18 years and resided in the Estonian SSR for at least the last 5 years can be a candidate for deputy.

(4) Mentally ill citizens legally declared incompetent by the court and also citizens who have been convicted and are serving their sentence in a place of imprisonment or by decision of the court are in an institution for compulsory treatment cannot participate in the elections.

(5) Any direct or indirect restriction of voting rights of a citizen of the Estonian SSR on grounds not indicated in parts 1, 2, 3, or 4 of this article is prohibited.

### **Article 3. Equal Suffrage**

A voter has one vote in elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, and voters participate in the elections on equal grounds.

### **Article 4. Direct Suffrage**

Citizens elect deputies directly.

### **Article 5. Secret Ballot**

Voting in elections for deputies is by secret ballot. Any control over expression of the voters' will is forbidden.

### **Article 6. Holding of Elections by Electoral Commissions**

The holding of elections is supported by electoral commissions, which are formed from representatives of labor collectives having the right to nominate deputy candidates, social organizations and social movements, and meetings of voters according to their place of residence.

### **Article 7. Incompatibility of the Status of Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and Official Position**

Individuals who are part of the Estonian SSR Council of Ministers, except for the chairman of the Estonian SSR Council of Ministers, and also the chairman, members and people's assessors of the Estonian SSR Supreme Court, people's judges of rayons, cities, and rayons in the city of Tallinn, the chief state arbiter and arbiters of the

Estonian SSR cannot simultaneously be deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

**Article 8. Participation in Elections by Service Members Residing on the Territory of Military Units**

(1) Service members and their family members residing on the territory of military units who have reached the age of 18 years, regardless of the length of residence on the territory of the military unit, may elect four deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR in single-mandate electoral okrugs formed in military units located on the territory of the Estonian SSR.

In order to carry out the tasks assigned to the territorial electoral commissions in the electoral okrug formed in military units, the Supreme Soviet shall form a okrug electoral commission no later than three months before election day.

(2) Formation of an electoral okrug, electoral districts, and district electoral commissions in the military units, nomination of candidates, and other measures for the elections are carried out at the times and as prescribed by this law.

(3) Electorate meetings in military units nominate their representatives to the electoral commission of the Estonian SSR, representatives to the electoral commission formed in military units of the electoral okrug, and representatives to the district electoral commission formed in the military unit. The first meeting of the district electoral commission is convened by the military unit commander.

Candidate for the electoral okrug formed in military units are nominated at the electorate meetings in the military units taking into account the requirements of this law.

(4) The district electoral commission can declare voting over at any time at the electoral districts formed in military units if all voters entered on the lists have voted.

**Article 9. Responsibility for Violation of the Law on Elections**

An individual using force, deception, threats, or other means to prevent a voter from freely exercising his right to vote or be elected deputy or to campaign, and also a member of the electoral commission, an official of a state or public body, or a citizen who forges election documents, knowingly miscounts votes, violates the secrecy of voting, or commits other violations of this law bears responsibility as prescribed by law.

An individual who knowingly spreads lies or other fabrications disgracing a nominee and by whatever means degrades his honor and dignity will be called to account.

**II. Ordering Elections and Forming Electoral Okrugs**

**Article 10. Ordering Elections**

(1) Elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet are ordered by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR no later than four months before the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet.

(2) The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR may order early elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

(3) The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is elected to a 5-year term.

**Article 11. Forming Electoral Okrugs**

(1) Electoral okrugs for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are formed as single- or multiple-mandate okrugs.

**Variant 1**

(2) The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR consists of 105 deputies. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR forms not later than three months prior to election day, in addition to the four single-mandate okrugs formed in accordance with Article 8 of this law encompassing military units, taking into account proposals of rayon and city (republic-subordinate cities) soviets of people's deputies, electoral okrugs for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR in such a way that each rayon and republic-subordinate city receives two deputy mandates, and the remaining deputy mandates are distributed according to the principle of a simple quota and the greatest remains, based on the approximate number of voters residing in the corresponding rayon or republic-subordinate city.

**Variant 2**

(2) The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR consists of 105 deputies. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR forms not later than three months prior to election day, in addition to the four single-mandate okrugs formed in accordance with Article 8 of this law encompassing military units, taking into account the proposals of rayon and city (republic-subordinate cities) soviets of people's deputies, electoral okrugs for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR in such a way that each rayon and republic-subordinate city, and in Tallinn each city rayon, receives two deputy mandates, and the remaining deputy mandates are distributed according to the principle of a simple quota and the greatest remains, based on the approximate number of voters residing in the corresponding rayon or republic-subordinate city.

(3) Electoral okrugs are formed, as far as possible, with an equal number of voters per mandate, taking into account the administrative division of the territory and other particular features.

(4) A report on the formation of electoral okrugs indicating their boundaries and the proposed number of voters in each electoral okrug is published by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR no later than 85 days prior to election day.

### III. Electoral Districts

#### Article 12. Formation of Electoral Districts

(1) The territory of rayons and republic-subordinate cities is divided into electoral districts for conducting the voting and counting up the votes in the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR. When forming the electoral districts, the electoral district is located entirely within one electoral okrug.

(2) An electoral district can also be formed on vessels located at sea on election day. These electoral districts are part of the electoral okrug of the ship's port of registration.

#### Article 13. Procedures and Norms for Forming Electoral Districts

(1) Electoral districts are formed by rayon and city (republic-subordinate cities) soviets of people's deputies or by their ispolkoms. On vessels at sea on election day, electoral districts are formed by these soviets of people's deputies or by their ispolkoms of the territory of the ship's port of registration.

(2) Electoral districts are formed no later than 75 days prior to election day. A report on the formation of electoral districts and on their boundaries is published no later than two months prior to election day in the newspaper of the corresponding rayon or city, indicating the location of the district electoral commission and the polling place. This report is published again no later than 15 days prior to election day.

(3) Electoral districts are formed with at least 20 and not more than 3,000 voters. In exceptional cases, by authorization of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR, electoral districts may be formed with less than 20 or more than 3,000 voters.

### IV. Voters' Lists

#### Article 14. Compiling Voters' Lists

(1) A voters' list is compiled for each electoral district of the corresponding district electoral commission jointly with the ispolkom of the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies for holding the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR. This is done in a form prescribed by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR on forms printed for this purpose or using a computer. The voters' list is compiled based on available data; if necessary, the correctness of these data is checked by the district electoral commission with the help of the aktiv.

(2) The chairman and secretary of the district electoral commission, who certify the correctness of the voters' list by their signatures at the end, are responsible for the correctness of compilation of the voters' list.

#### Article 15. Procedure for Including Voters on the Voters' List

The voters' list includes all citizens of the Estonian SSR eligible to vote who have reached the age of 18 years before or on election day and reside on the territory of the given electoral district during the time the list is compiled.

In the event of a dispute over the question of a voter's residence, he is included on the voters' list according to the entry on residency permit in his passport.

A voter may be included on only one voters' list.

#### Article 16. Familiarizing Voters with the Voters' List and Making Changes to It

(1) Familiarizing voters with the voters' list begins in the facilities of the district electoral commission 15 days prior to the elections. Upon detecting mistakes in the voters' list, each voter may request they be corrected by the district electoral commission. Mistakes should be corrected immediately. If additional verification is required to correct a mistake, this must be done within two days from the time of the request. If there are no grounds for making a correction, this is reported to the requester within two days. This decision may be appealed no later than 5 days before election day to the appropriate rayon or city (republic-subordinate city) electoral commission, which is obligated to consider the complaint and whose decision is final. The district electoral commission immediately makes the correction to the voters' list in accordance with this decision.

(2) Individuals included on the voters' list are not excluded from the list on election day.

(3) Voters left off the voters' list by mistake are included by the district electoral commission in an attachment to the list, which is signed by the chairman and secretary of the district commission on election day after voting is over.

### V. Electoral Commissions

#### Article 17. The System of Electoral Commissions

(1) Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are prepared and held by:

1. The Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.
2. Rayon and city (republic-subordinate cities) electoral commissions (territorial electoral commissions).
3. District electoral commissions.

(2) The term of office of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR and territorial electoral commissions is 5 years.

**Article 18. Formation of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR**

(1) The Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR is formed and changes to its composition are made by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR. The commission includes a chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and 15 members.

(2) The Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR is formed no later than three months prior to election day. Proposals on the personnel composition of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR are submitted by the soviets of people's deputies of the rayons and republic-subordinate cities or their ispolkoms and republic representative meetings of social organizations and social movements having the right to nominate candidates.

(3) Organizational and technical servicing of the activities of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR are provided by the secretariat.

**Article 19. Formation of Rayon and City (Republic-Subordinate Cities) Electoral Commissions**

(1) Rayon and city (republic-subordinate cities) electoral commissions (territorial electoral commissions) are formed and changes to their composition made by the appropriate soviets of people's deputies. The commission is made up of 5-18 (in the Tallinn City Electoral Commission—up to 30) members.

(2) Territorial electoral commissions are formed no later than three months prior to election day. Representatives to make up the rayon and city (republic-subordinate cities) electoral commissions are nominated by the labor collectives located on their territory or their soviets and subdivisions of labor collectives, rayon or city bodies of social organizations and social movements having the right to nominate candidates.

**Article 20. Powers of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR**

The Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR:

1. Monitors execution of this law on the territory of the Estonian SSR and ensures its uniform application; gives instructions and clarifications concerning its execution.
2. Directs the activities of other electoral commissions.
3. Resolves issues of material and technical support of the elections.
4. Establishes the forms of election documents for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and procedures for their safekeeping, and samples of ballot boxes and seals.
5. Registers the nominees for deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

6. Hears reports from the electoral commissions and, if necessary, reports from any state or social body, enterprise, institution, or organization located on the territory of the Estonian SSR on questions of organizing the elections.

7. Monitors the correctness of holding elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

8. Sums up the results of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and publishes a report on the election results; registers the elected deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and publishes a list of them.

9. Makes proposals on recognizing and suspending the deputy powers of individuals elected to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

10. Resolves questions of holding repeat elections and elections to replace deputies who have quit.

11. Considers declarations and appeals of decisions and the activities of territorial commissions for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and makes decisions on them.

12. Exercises other powers in accordance with this law.

**Article 21. Powers of Territorial Electoral Commissions**

The territorial electoral commission:

1. Operates under the supervision of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR and monitors the execution of this law on the territory of the corresponding rayon or republic-subordinate city.
2. Hears reports from district electoral commissions, state and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, and organizations on questions of organizing elections.
3. Resolves issues of material and technical support of elections within the limits of the sums allotted by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.
4. Registers candidates nominated for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR on the territory of the corresponding rayon or republic-subordinate city and reports their nomination to the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.
5. Registers candidates nominated for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and also the persons presenting them, and issues them the appropriate credentials.
6. Addresses voters with proposals to nominate candidates for deputy in those electoral okrugs where nominations have not yet been made 5 days before expiration of the deadline.
7. Approves the text of voting ballots and ensures that they are made and supplied to the district electoral commissions.



8. Monitors the correctness of holding elections and determines the results of elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR on its territory.

9. Forms district electoral commissions, makes changes to their composition, and guides their activities.

10. Considers declarations and appeals of decisions and the activities of district electoral commissions and makes decisions on them.

11. Organizes repeat elections and elections to replace deputies who have quit.

12. Exercises other powers in accordance with this law.

#### **Article 22. Formation of District Electoral Commissions**

(1) District electoral commissions are formed by the appropriate rayon or city (republic-subordinate city) electoral commission no later than 45 days prior to election day. The commission includes 3-15 members.

(2) Representatives to make up the district electoral commissions are nominated by the labor collectives or their soviets and subdivisions of labor collectives located on the territory of the corresponding rayon or republic-subordinate city, rayon or city bodies and primary organizations of social organizations and social movements having the right to nominate candidates, and meetings of voters by place of residence.

#### **Article 23. Powers of District Electoral Commissions**

(1) The district electoral commission:

1. Compiles a voters' list.

2. Provides voters an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the voters' list; accepts and considers proposals on making corrections to the voters' list.

3. Notifies voters of the location and operating hours of the district commission and of the election day and the place of voting.

4. Up until election day, accepts ballots in a closed envelope from voters absent on election day.

5. Ensures preparation of the polling stations and ballot boxes.

6. Organizes voting on election day.

7. Takes a count of votes cast at the electoral district.

8. Considers declarations and complaints associated with preparation of the elections and conduct of the voting, and makes decisions on them.

9. Exercises other powers in accordance with this law.

(2) The powers of the district electoral commission are suspended with recognition of the powers of the elected deputies.

#### **Article 24. Organizing the Work of Electoral Commissions**

(1) The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of an electoral commission are elected at a meeting of the commission. A commission with less than 5 members elects a chairman and secretary.

(2) Meetings of the electoral commission are convened by its chairman, and they are empowered by law if at least two-thirds of the commission membership is present.

The first meeting of the district electoral commission is convened by the appropriate territorial electoral commission.

Decisions of the commission are made by open or secret ballot by a simple majority of votes. Commission members not agreeing with a decision of the commission have the right to state a special opinion, which is attached in written form to the minutes of the electoral commission meeting.

(3) Decisions of the electoral commissions made within the limits of their powers are binding for all state and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

(4) The decisions and activities of the district electoral commission may be appealed to the appropriate rayon or city (republic-subordinate city) electoral commission, and the decisions of the territorial electoral commission may be appealed to the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.

(5) One of the members of the electoral commission, by decision of the commission, may be excused from performing production or service duties for the period of organizing the elections, retaining his average salary using the funds allocated for holding the elections.

(6) A member of the electoral commission does not have the right to campaign for or against deputy candidates.

#### **Article 25. Making Changes to the Composition of the Electoral Commission**

A member of the electoral commission may be excused from performing duties on the commission by the body that approved the composition of this commission on the grounds of personal declaration by the commission member or on recommendation by the nominating labor collective, social organization, social movement or meeting of voters for the residence, and also if he does not participate in the commission's work. Nomination of a new representative to the electoral commission and his approval are accomplished in the procedures prescribed by this law.

## **Article 26. Openness in the Work of Electoral Commissions**

The electoral commissions inform the population about their meetings, decisions made, and measures being conducted. The meetings of the commissions are open.

## **Article 27. Assisting Electoral Commissions in Execution of Their Powers**

(1) State and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obligated to assist electoral commissions in executing their powers and to submit to them the necessary data and material for their work.

(2) Electoral commissions have the right to consult state and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials on questions of organizing the elections; they are obligated to consider the question raised and give the electoral commission an answer within three days.

## **VI. Nomination and Registration of Deputy Candidates**

### **Article 28. Nomination of Deputy Candidates**

(1) Nomination of deputy candidates begins 75 days and ends 45 days before election day.

(2) The Communist Party of Estonia, trade unions, cooperative organizations, the Komsomol of Estonia, associations of women, veterans of war and labor, and scientific workers, creative unions, labor collectives, and also legally registered social organizations and social movements, formed or elected unions, meetings of voters by place of residence, and voters united to nominate deputy candidates as a civic initiative have the right to nominate deputy candidates.

(3) Meetings of labor collectives or their subdivisions, located on the territory of a given electoral okrug, may nominate deputy candidates for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR if at least 150 workers participate in these meetings. Small labor collectives may nominate candidates jointly under the same conditions.

Republic representative meetings (conferences, meetings of authorized agents, plenary meetings) of social organizations and social movements have the right to nominate deputy candidates in electoral okrugs.

A deputy candidate may also be nominated in a electoral okrug at a meeting by place of residence of voters if at least 150 take part in it.

Each labor collective and its subdivision located in another rayon or republic-subordinate city, a republic representative meeting of a social organization and social movement, and also a meeting of voters by place of residence may nominate one deputy candidate in one electoral okrug.

Voters of an electoral okrug who have united by place of residence for nominating a deputy candidate as a civic initiative may nominate one deputy candidate in this electoral okrug.

The meeting for nominating a deputy candidate is open, and the territorial electoral commission is informed of its convening.

(4) Any voter can nominate a deputy candidate (and he can nominate himself).

(5) The nomination of a deputy candidate is made official as minutes, corresponding to the format prescribed by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR, of the meeting of a labor collective or its subdivision, a social organization, or social movement, or as minutes of a meeting of voters by place of residence. Nomination of a deputy candidate as a civic initiative is made official as a recommendation according to the format prescribed by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.

(6) A deputy candidate is considered nominated if more than half of the meeting participants or more than half of the composition of a representative meeting vote for him; when nominating a deputy candidate as a civic initiative, he is considered nominated if 75 voters sign the form recommending his nomination.

(7) When nominating a deputy candidate as a civic initiative, a representative of the voters organizes the gathering of voter signatures and is responsible for their authenticity. The representative may be a citizen who has nominated the deputy candidate.

(8) When nominating a deputy candidate as a civic initiative, on expiration of the deadline for nominating deputy candidates, the correctness of the voter signatures is verified by the territorial electoral commissions on their own initiative either on the basis of a written complaint submitted by deputy candidates running for office in a given electoral okrug, representatives of voters who nominated them, or by proxies of these deputy candidates. If the assumed author of a signature does not recognize it as his own, the signature is voided.

(9) The minutes of a meeting of a labor collective or its subdivision, a representative meeting, or a meeting of a social organization or social movement and the minutes of a meeting of voters by place of residence are submitted to the appropriate territorial electoral commission within three days after the nomination of a deputy candidate.

When nominating a deputy candidate as a civic initiative, the recommendation on the nomination is submitted to the appropriate territorial electoral commission no later than the end of the nomination period.

(10) When transmitting the minutes or recommendation to the territorial electoral commission, the commission member receiving the document checks it for conformity

to the requirements of the prescribed format. If violations of these requirements are detected, the entity making the nomination is given 72 hours to correct the mistakes. If mistakes are found in the filling out of documents after they have been accepted by the electoral commission, the nomination documents are considered valid.

(11) Based on the minutes and recommendations sent to the territorial electoral commission, the commission compiles continually updated lists of deputy candidates nominated and provides the opportunity to become familiar with them to anyone who wishes to do so.

#### **Article 29. Consent To Run as a Deputy Candidate**

(1) Individuals nominated as deputy candidates give the appropriate electoral commission written consent to be a candidate no later than the deadline for the start of registration. In his declaration of consent to be a candidate, the deputy candidate must indicate precisely in which electoral okrug he agrees to run and how many years he has resided in the Estonian SSR.

(2) A citizen of the Estonian SSR cannot be a deputy of more than two soviets of people's deputies simultaneously. He cannot run for more than two soviets of people's deputies simultaneously. A deputy candidate cannot consent to run as a candidate for one soviet of people's deputies for more than one electoral okrug.

(3) If a nominated deputy candidate has not submitted his declaration of consent to run to the appropriate electoral commission by the deadline, or if he refuses to run, his name is crossed off the list of nominated deputy candidates that is kept by the electoral commission.

#### **Article 30. Withdrawal of Candidacy by a Deputy Candidate**

A registered deputy candidate has the right to withdraw his candidacy, but no later than 20 days prior to election day, notifying the appropriate electoral commission in writing and informing those who nominated him of this fact.

#### **Article 31. Supplemental Nomination of Deputy Candidates**

(1) If the number of deputy candidates nominated turns out to be equal to or less than the number of mandates, or if a deputy candidate has dropped out after the end of the candidate registration period and the number of candidates remaining does not exceed the number of mandates for an electoral okrug, the appropriate territorial electoral commission proposes that the voters nominate new deputy candidates. If a deputy candidate drops out less than 15 days before election day and the number of remaining candidates does not exceed the number of mandates for an electoral okrug, the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR designates new periods for supplemental nomination and registration of deputy

candidates and holds elections in the corresponding electoral okrug no later than one month after the general elections.

(2) Supplemental nomination of deputy candidates is done as prescribed by this law.

#### **Article 32. Registration of Deputy Candidates**

(1) Registration of a deputy candidate requires minutes in the appropriate format or a recommendation of nomination and written consent of the deputy candidate to run for office.

(2) Deputy candidates are registered by the corresponding territorial electoral commission. Registration of deputy candidates begins 40 days and ends 30 days prior to election day.

(3) The corresponding territorial electoral commission cannot refuse to register a nominated deputy candidate if the candidate has been nominated in accordance with the requirements of this law or if the shortcomings in the nomination documents were corrected within the required time. Registration refusal may be appealed within three days to the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR, whose decision, made within two days, is final and binding for the corresponding territorial electoral commission.

(4) If a violation of this law is discovered, the registration of a deputy candidate may be annulled only by the territorial electoral commission that registered the candidate. This decision may be appealed to the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR, whose decision, made within two days, is final.

(5) Each registered deputy candidate is issued the appropriate credentials by the appropriate territorial electoral commission.

(6) No later than the third day after the end of the registration period, the territorial electoral commission makes public data on the registered deputy candidates, indicating the first and last names of each candidate, his date of birth, position (occupation), place of employment and residence, and time of residence in the Estonian SSR.

(7) A deputy candidate may not be a member of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR or a member of the territorial or district electoral commission of the electoral okrug in which he was nominated. An individual nominated who is a member of one of the named commissions is considered relieved of his duties on the commission at the time of his registration as a deputy candidate.

#### **Article 33. Election Ballot**

(1) Election ballots are printed separately in the Estonian and Russian languages, and this is organized by the appropriate territorial electoral commission. Election

ballots are passed to the district electoral commission no later than 16 days prior to election day.

(2) The Estonian-language election ballot indicates the first and last names of deputy candidates; Russian-language ballots indicate the first, patronymic, and last names of the candidates.

(3) Registered deputy candidates are listed in alphabetical order on the election ballot.

## **VII. Basic Guarantees of the Activities of a Deputy Candidate**

### **Article 34. Right of a Candidate To Speak at Meetings, Use the Mass Media, and Receive Information**

(1) After registration by the territorial electoral commission, conditions are created for a deputy candidate to speak at campaign meetings, in the press, and on radio and television.

(2) State and social bodies and directors of enterprises, institutions, and organizations are obligated to assist the deputy candidate in organizing meetings with voters and in obtaining necessary information materials.

### **Article 35. Proxies of a Deputy Candidate**

(1) A deputy candidate may have up to 10 proxies who, after their registration by the appropriate territorial electoral commission, help the candidate conduct the election campaign and represent his interests in relations with state and social bodies, voters, and electoral commissions.

(2) A deputy candidate appoints proxies at his own discretion and informs the territorial electoral commission about them for their registration. After registering the proxies, the electoral commission issues them credentials.

(3) A proxy may not be a member of the territorial or district electoral commission for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR that organizes and holds the elections of the deputy candidate represented by him.

### **Article 36. Campaigning**

(1) Citizens of the Estonian SSR, labor collectives, social organizations, and social movements are ensured free and comprehensive discussion of the political, business, and personal qualities of the deputy candidates, and also the right to campaign at meetings, in the press and on radio and television.

(2) Electoral commissions arrange to provide the deputy candidates appropriately equipped facilities for holding meetings and rallies, and also the opportunity to campaign in the mass media.

(3) Deputy candidates hold meetings with their constituents in a form convenient for them. Meetings of voters are organized by the candidate's proxies jointly with the

ispolkom of the appropriate Soviet of People's Deputies, labor collectives, social organizations, and social movements. The electoral commission and voters are informed in advance about the time and place of the meetings.

(4) Campaigning is not permitted on election day, except for previously posted printed materials outside the polling place.

### **Article 37. Excusing a Deputy Candidate from Production or Official Duties To Participate in Election Measures**

After being registered, a deputy candidate is excused from production or official duties for the time he holds meetings with voters and speaks at meetings, rallies, and on radio and television. He retains his average salary using funds allocated for holding elections.

### **Article 38. A Deputy Candidate's Right to Free Travel**

After being registered, a deputy candidate has the right to free travel in passenger transport of any type (except taxis) within the appropriate electoral okrug.

A deputy candidate residing outside the electoral okrug also has the same right for travel to and from the electoral okrug and to his place of residence.

### **Article 39. Election Expenditures**

(1) Expenditures for organizing elections are covered by state monetary funds established by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.

(2) A deputy candidate's expenditures for conducting an election campaign are reimbursed by the appropriate territorial electoral commission in the amount and as prescribed by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR. Citizens of the Estonian SSR, labor collectives, social organizations, and social movements may use their own money for campaigning within limits established by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.

(3) Enterprises, institutions, organizations, and state bodies place at the disposal of electoral commissions the facilities and equipment necessary for organizing elections.

### **Article 40. Immunity of a Deputy Candidate**

(1) A deputy candidate cannot have legal actions taken against him, cannot be arrested, and cannot have administrative penalties imposed by a court without the consent of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.

(2) In the event of a threat to the personal safety of a deputy candidate and members of his family or to the inviolability of his property, law enforcement agencies provide the necessary protection at the request of the candidate.

**VIII. Procedures for Voting and Summing Up Election Results****Article 41. Time and Place of Voting**

(1) Voting begins at 7:00 AM and ends at 8:00 PM on election day.

(2) The district electoral commission notifies all voters of the time and place of voting no later than 15 days prior to election day.

(3) At election districts formed on ships located at sea on election day or on islands that are difficult to reach due to communication conditions, the district electoral commission may announce voting is ended at any time if all voters on the list have voted.

(4) A voter, departing his place of residence for a time during the period after the beginning of familiarization with the voters' lists and absent on election day, may request a ballot from the district electoral commission for his place of residence, decide on the deputy candidates, and leave his completed ballot in a sealed envelope at the district commission. During the counting up of votes on election day, the commission adds the ballot contained in the envelope to the other election ballots. The voter signs the voters' list to show that he has received the ballot.

**Article 42. Voting**

(1) Voting takes place in each electoral district in a facility specially set aside which must have booths for secret voting, a place for issuing election ballots, and ballot boxes.

(2) The district electoral commission is responsible for ensuring order in the facility.

(3) Prior to the start of voting, the chairman of the district electoral commission checks and seals the ballot boxes in the presence of all members of the commission.

(4) Each voter votes in person. The district electoral commission issues the ballot to the voter based on the voters' list upon presentation of a passport or other identification. The voter signs the voters' list in receipt of the ballot.

(5) Voters erroneously left off the voters' list are included on an attachment to the list based on a document attesting to their identity and place of residence.

(6) As an exception, at the request of individual voters, who for health or other legitimate reasons, cannot vote in person, the district electoral commission may assign at least two commission members to arrange voting at these voters' residence based on the individual list compiled for them.

**Article 43. Procedure for Filling Out Ballots**

(1) A voter goes into the secret voting booth alone and fills out the ballot independently. A voter who is unable

to fill out the ballot independently has the right to invite another person into the booth.

(2) When filling out the ballot, the voter fills in the blanks opposite the names of the candidates in the following manner: the number "1" for the most preferable candidate; he may also note with numbers "2", "3", "4", and so forth the names of the candidates to whom he agrees to transfer his vote should it become necessary to transfer votes.

(3) If a voter ruins his ballot due to carelessness, he has the right to return the ruined ballot to the chairman or secretary of the district electoral commission and receive a new one.

(4) A voter votes by dropping his ballot in the ballot box.

**Article 44. Counting Votes at the Electoral District**

(1) The district electoral commission counts the votes separately for each electoral okrug and each deputy candidate.

(2) The ballot boxes are opened by the district electoral commission after the voting has ended. Opening of the ballot boxes before voting has ended is prohibited. Before opening the ballot boxes, all ballots not issued to voters must be counted and canceled by the district electoral commission. After this, the ballots dropped into ballot boxes outside the polling place are counted, and envelopes with ballots left at the district commission prior to election day are opened and added to the ballots from the voting.

(3) The district electoral commission uses the voters' list and attachments to it to determine the total number of voters in the electoral district and also the number of voters who received ballots. Based on the ballots in the ballot boxes and absentee ballots left at the district commission, the district electoral commission determines the total number of voters who participated in the voting, the number of votes cast for each candidate, and the number of ballots considered invalid.

(4) Ballots are considered invalid that do not conforming to the sample prescribed by the Election Commission of the Estonian SSR, which do not have a candidate marked with the number "1", which have two or more candidates marked with the number "1", or which have a candidate marked with the number "1" and some other number as well. When doubts arise as to the validity of a ballot, the district electoral commission decides the issue by voting.

(5) The results of the vote count are considered at a meeting of the district electoral commission and recorded in the minutes, which are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and immediately sent to the territorial electoral commission.

Special opinions of commission members, declarations and complaints received by the commission concerning

violations of the Election Law that took place during the course of voting or the vote count, and a document on the disturbing of the seal on the ballot box are attached to the minutes.

- (6) The vote count is conducted openly.

**Article 45. Determining the Election Results for an Electoral Okrug**

(1) The election results for an electoral okrug are determined by the appropriate territorial electoral commission by the method of transmitting a separate vote in accordance with instructions of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR.

(2) Territorial electoral commissions may form working groups from the members of district electoral commissions to determine the result of elections by electoral okrugs.

(3) Elections in an electoral okrug are considered invalid if less than half of the voters on the voters' list participated, and also in connection with the death of a deputy candidate if the remaining number of candidates does not exceed the number of mandates in the electoral okrug.

(4) The election results are determined at a meeting of the territorial electoral commission and recorded in the minutes, which are signed by the chairman of the electoral commission, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members. Special opinions of the commission members, declarations and complaints received by the commission concerning violations of the Election Law that took place during the course of voting, during the vote count, or during determination of the election results are attached to the minutes.

- (5) Determination of the election results is done openly.

**Article 46. Registration of Deputies. Publication of Election Results.**

(1) Based on the minutes of the territorial commissions, the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR sums up the results of elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and registers the elected deputies.

(2) The Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR may refuse to register a deputy and invalidate the elections if this law was violated during the course of the elections, during the vote count, or during determination of the election results.

(3) A report on the results of elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and a list of elected deputies is published by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR no later than 5 days after election day.

**IX. Repeat Elections and Elections To Replace Deputies Who Have Quit**

**Article 47. Repeat Elections**

(1) If elections in an electoral okrug were invalidated, repeat elections are held. The decision to hold them is made by the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR. If necessary, it recommends to the appropriate territorial electoral commission to establish new district electoral commissions of the given electoral okrug.

(2) Repeat elections are held observing the requirements of this law in a 45-day period. For this purpose, the district electoral commissions are formed within 40 days; nomination of deputy candidates begins 45 days and ends 30 days prior to election day; registration of them begins 25 days and ends 15 days prior to election day; and familiarization of voters with the voters' lists begins 10 days prior to election day. Voting is held at the same electoral districts according to the voters' lists compiled for holding the general elections.

**Article 48. Elections To Replace Deputies Who Have Quit**

(1) If the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR invalidates the powers of any deputy to the Supreme Soviet or if a deputy quits during the term of office in the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the appropriate territorial electoral commission organizes elections in this electoral okrug to replace the deputy who has quit. These elections are held annually on the third Sunday in March in accordance with this law. Elections to replace a deputy who has quit are held in a 45-day period. In doing so, district electoral commissions are formed no later than 40 days prior to election day; nomination of candidates begins 45 days and ends 30 days prior to election day; registration of candidates begins 25 days and ends 15 days prior to election day; and familiarization of voters with voters' lists begins 10 days prior to election day.

(2) One of the members of the district electoral commission may, by decision of the commission, be excused from performing production or official duties and retain the average salary using funds allocated for holding the elections, for the time of preparing and holding repeat elections and elections to replace deputies who have quit.

**X. Final Provisions**

**Article 49. Certification of Election as a Deputy**

(1) Five days after publishing of the list of registered deputies and in the case of repeat elections and elections to replace deputies who have quit, after publishing of the report on the election results for the electoral okrug, the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR presents the elected deputy certification of his election.

(2) After recognition of the powers of deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR at the recommendation of the Electoral Commission of the Estonian SSR, the certification on election as a deputy is replaced by deputy credentials.

### **Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Election Law Comparison**

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[Editorial Report] Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian on 23 Nov 89 carries on pp 2-3 the Estonian SSR Law on Elections to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet. Comparison of the text of the law to the text of the draft Estonian SSR Law on Elections to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet as published in SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA 10 October 1989 pp 1-2 reveals the following changes in the draft to have been incorporated in the law as adopted:

In Article 1, the words "as the standing supreme body of state authority" are inserted following the words "Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet."

In Article 2:

In paragraph (3), the final phrase, "at least the past five years," is changed to: "at least 10 years."

In paragraph (4), the words "by a court" are inserted after the word "convicted"; the words "or by decision of a court are in a mandatory-treatment institution" are changed to: "or have been sent by a court to a medical institution."

In Article 7, the first word in the paragraph, "Persons," is changed to "Citizens"; the words "chairman, members and people's assessors of the Estonian SSR Supreme Court" are changed to: "chairman of the Estonian SSR Supreme Court, his deputies, and the members and people's assessors of the Estonian SSR Supreme Court"; following the words "in the city of Tallin" and preceding the words "Estonian SSR chief state arbitrator," the words "Estonian SSR procurator and his deputies, chairman of the Estonian SSR People's Control Committee and his deputies" are inserted; following the words "chief state arbitrator," the words "and arbitrators" are changed to "his deputies and state arbitrators."

In Article 8:

After paragraph (1), the indentation before the second, unnumbered paragraph is deleted, joining it with paragraph (1).

After paragraph (3), the indentation before the following, unnumbered paragraph is deleted, joining it with paragraph (3).

In Article 9:

In the first paragraph, the number "(1)" is inserted before the paragraph; the initial phrase "A person" is

changed to "A citizen"; following the words "forgery of election documents," the words "or election results" are inserted.

The number "(2)" is inserted before the second paragraph.

In Article 11:

"Variant II" of paragraph (2) is eliminated and "Variant I" is retained (minus the designation "Variant I"), with the following changes: the words "and their ispolkoms" are inserted following the words "soviets of people's deputies" and before the words "election okrugs"; following the words "in such a way that every rayon and city under republic jurisdiction," the words "and every city rayon in Tallinn" are inserted; the words "approximate number of voters" are changed to: "estimated number of voters."

Paragraph (3) is deleted, and paragraph (4) is renumbered as paragraph (3).

In Article 12, following the words "ships that are at sea on election day," the words "and have set out from their port of registration no earlier than 14 days before election day" are inserted.

In Article 15, the numbers "(1)," "(2)" and "(3)" are inserted before the first, second and third paragraphs, respectively.

In Article 16, paragraph (2), the first word, "Persons," is changed to "Citizens."

In Article 19, paragraph (1), following the words "by the appropriate soviets of people's deputies," the words "or their ispolkoms" are inserted.

In Article 20:

In part 9, the words "to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet" are inserted following the word "submits"; the words "recognition and termination" are changed to "recognition or termination."

In Article 22:

In paragraph (2), the words "no later than 50 days before election day" are inserted following the words "are nominated" and before the words "by labor collectives."

The following paragraph (3) is added:

"(3) If by the deadline for the formation of district election commissions, the required number of representatives has not been nominated to serve on any district election commission, the territorial election commission submits to labor collectives or their councils and the subdivisions of labor collectives, to rayon or city agencies and the primary organizations of public organizations and public movements having the right to nominate candidates for deputy, and to meetings of voters by

place of residence a proposal for the additional nomination of representatives to serve on that district election commission."

In Article 24, the indentation of the two paragraphs following the paragraph numbered (2) is eliminated, forming a single paragraph (2).

In Article 28:

In paragraph (2), following the words "public organizations and public movements that have been registered according to procedures stipulated by law," the clause "and that in accordance with their registered statutes have the right to nominate candidates for deputies in elections to soviets of people's deputies" is inserted.

The paragraph numbered (3) in the draft is replaced by the following paragraph:

"(3) Candidates for deputy may be nominated by labor collectives or their subdivisions located in the given election okrug. A candidate for deputy is nominated at a meeting of a labor collective or its subdivision in which more than half of the employees of the labor collective or its subdivision, but no fewer than 100 employees, take part. Small labor collectives or subdivisions of labor collectives may nominate candidates for deputy jointly. Candidates for deputy are nominated at a common meeting in which more than half of the employees of each labor collective or subdivision of a labor collective, but altogether no fewer than 100 employees, take part. In large labor collectives, where the large number of employees makes it impossible to convene an authorized meeting of the labor collective, candidates for deputy may be nominated in authorized conferences of labor collectives (at meetings of delegates). Meetings for the nomination of candidates for deputy are open."

The first unnumbered paragraph following the paragraph numbered (3) in the draft is numbered (4); in the first sentence of this paragraph, the phrase "in election okrugs" is changed to "in all election okrugs"; at the end of the paragraph as it appears in the draft, the following words are added: "Rayon and city (for cities under republic jurisdiction) authorized representative meetings of public organizations and public movements also have the right to nominate candidates for deputy in election okrugs formed within the territory of a respective rayon or city under republic jurisdiction."

The second unnumbered paragraph following the paragraph numbered (3) in the draft is numbered (5).

The third unnumbered paragraph following the paragraph numbered (3) in the draft is numbered (6). In this paragraph: following the words "Every labor collective," the words "or its subdivision located in a different rayon or city under republic jurisdiction" are changed to read: "or its subdivision, or a subdivision of the labor collective located in a different rayon or city under republic jurisdiction"; the words "republic representative meeting" are changed to: "republic, rayon or city (for cities

under republic jurisdiction) representative meeting"; the words "nominate one candidate for deputy" are changed to: "nominate no more candidates for deputy than the number of seats in that election okrug."

The fourth unnumbered paragraph following the paragraph numbered (3) is numbered (7). In this paragraph: the words "in that election okrug" are changed to: "in the given election okrug"; the words "nominate one candidate for deputy" are changed to: "nominate no more candidates for deputy than the number of seats in that election okrug."

The paragraph numbered (4) in the draft is renumbered (8).

Before the paragraph numbered (5) in the draft, a new article heading is added: "Article 29. The official registration of the nomination of candidates for deputy."

In Article 28, paragraphs (5) through (11), which become paragraphs (1) through (7) of the new Article 29:

The indentation of the unnumbered paragraph following paragraph (9) of the draft is eliminated to make it part of the single paragraph that is renumbered as (5).

In paragraph (9) (renumbered as paragraph (5) of new Article 29): in the first sentence, following the words "labor collective or its subdivision, the words "in large labor collectives—a conference (meeting of delegates)" are inserted; the words "representative meeting or meeting of a public organization" are changed to: "representative meeting of a public organization"; the words "within a three-day period following the nomination" are changed to: "within three working days following the nomination."

Articles 29 through 49 are renumbered as Articles 30 through 50, respectively.

In Article 29 (renumbered as Article 30):

In paragraph (1): in the first sentence, the word "person" is changed to "citizen"; following the first sentence, the remainder of the paragraph is deleted and is replaced by a new, unnumbered paragraph that reads as follows:

"A candidate for deputy may not give his consent to run for the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet in more than one election okrug. A citizen who is nominated as a candidate for deputy to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet must either reside permanently or have his principal place of employment within the territory of the rayon or city under republic jurisdiction where he has given his consent to run."

In Article 32 (renumbered as Article 33):

In paragraphs (3) and (4), the words "the decision of which, made within a two-day period" are changed to: "the decision of which, made within two working days."

In paragraph (7), the word "person" is changed to "citizen."



In Article 34 (renumbered as Article 35), paragraph (2), the words "necessary informational materials" are changed to: "necessary reference and informational materials."

In Article 38 (renumbered as Article 39), the indentation of the second paragraph is deleted, making it part of the first paragraph.

In Article 39 (renumbered as Article 40), the first sentence of paragraph (2), "The expenses of a candidate for deputy...Estonian SSR Election Commission," is deleted.

In Article 43 (renumbered as Article 44), the words "at his discretion" are added to the last sentence in paragraph (1).

In Article 44 (renumbered as Article 45):

In paragraph (3), the phrase "ballots filled out by voters who are temporarily absent on election day" is changed to: "ballots filled out prior to election day by voters who are temporarily absent."

The indentation of the unnumbered paragraph following paragraph (5) is deleted to make a single paragraph (5).

In Article 45 (renumbered as Article 46):

A new paragraph (2) is inserted, as follows:

"(2) The candidate (or, depending on the number of seats, candidates) who has (have) received the greatest number of votes in a given election okrug according to the method of transmitting the individual vote is (are) deemed elected."

Paragraphs (2) through (5) of the draft are renumbered as paragraphs (3) through (6), respectively.

In Article 48 (renumbered as Article 49), in paragraph (1), the sentence "Elections to fill seats vacated by deputies are conducted annually on the third Sunday in March in accordance with this law" is changed to: "Elections to fill seats vacated by deputies are organized in accordance with this law no later than six months following a deputy's vacating his seat in the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet."

The law as passed is signed by A. Ruutel, chairman of the Presidium of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet, and A. Almann, secretary of the Presidium of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet, and dated Tallinn, 17 November 1989.

## Georgian SSR

### Georgian SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

90US0127A Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian  
20 Sep 89 pp 3-4, 21 Sep 89 p 4

["Draft Law of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR"]

[20 Sep 89, pp 3-4]

### [Text] I. General Provisions

#### Article 1. Principles of Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR

Elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be held in single-mandate election okrugs on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage, by secret ballot.

People's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be elected for a term of five years.

#### Article 2. Universal Suffrage

Elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be universal: the right to vote shall pertain to citizens of the Georgian SSR who have attained the age of 18; the right to be elected shall pertain to citizens of the Georgian SSR who have attained the age of 21, regardless of origin, social and property status, racial and ethnic affiliation, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, length of residence in a given locality, or type and character of occupation.

A citizen of the Georgian SSR may not serve simultaneously as a people's deputy in more than two soviets.

Elections shall not be participated in by mentally ill citizens judged by a court to be incompetent, persons in places of incarceration, or persons in places of compulsory medical treatment by court order.

#### Article 3. Equal Suffrage

Elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be equal: a voter shall have one vote in each election okrug; citizens of the Georgian SSR shall take part in elections on the basis of equality.

#### Article 4. The Right to Vote

Elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be direct: people's deputies shall be elected directly by citizens.

#### Article 5. Secret Ballot

Voting in elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be secret: any monitoring of voters' expression of their will shall not be permitted.

#### Article 6. The Holding of Elections by Election Commissions

The holding of elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be carried out by election commissions made up by representatives made up of labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, social organizations and movements, assemblies of voters in places of residence, and servicemen in military units.

#### **Article 7. Glasnost in the Preparation and Holding of Elections**

The preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be carried out by election commissions, labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and social organizations and movements, in an open and public manner.

Election commissions shall inform citizens about their work and about the formation of election okrugs and districts, and the composition, location, and operating hours of election commissions, and voters' lists. Election commissions shall provide citizens with information about the nomination of deputy candidates, the results of registration of deputy candidates, biographical data concerning the registered deputy candidates and the basic provisions of their pre-election programs, the results of the balloting with respect to each candidate, and the results of the elections.

Meetings of the election commissions, and voting places, may be attended by representatives of labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, social organizations and movements, voters' assemblies, accredited representatives [doverennyye litsa], and representatives of the press, television, and radio; on election day, a representative of the deputy candidate may be present in the election districts.

Representatives' credentials must be verified by the appropriate document or by excerpts from the minutes of assemblies (conferences) of labor collectives, assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units; for a representative of a deputy candidate, by the deputy candidate's declaration addressed to the district election commission. The excerpt from the minutes as well as the declaration shall be submitted to the applicable election commission not later than three days prior to the applicable meeting. The election commission shall make a decision within 24 hours. In the event of refusal, the election commission shall issue a substantiated answer in written form, which may be appealed to the next higher election commission.

The mass media shall publicize the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR and shall be guaranteed unimpeded access to all assemblies and meetings relating to the elections. The election commissions, state and social organs, and labor collectives shall provide them with information relating to the preparation and holding of the elections.

#### **Article 8. Participation in the Preparation and Holding of Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR by Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Social Organizations and Movements**

Citizens of the Georgian SSR shall take part in the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR both directly and through the labor

collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, social organizations and movements, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units.

Labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and social organizations and movements shall participate in the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR both directly and through their representatives on the election commissions.

#### **Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

The right to nominate candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall pertain to labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, social organizations and movements, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units.

#### **Article 10. Voters' Mandates [nakazy] to People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

Voters shall give mandates to their deputies.

The procedure for submitting, generalizing, examining, and organizing the implementation of mandates shall be established by the law of the Georgian SSR.

#### **Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR and Official Position**

Persons who are members of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers (with the exception of the Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers and the chairmen of the councils of ministers of the autonomous republics), deputy ministers, chairmen of state committees, heads of departments and their deputies, the chairman and members of the Georgian SSR Supreme Court, the Chief State Arbiter and the state arbiters of the Georgian SSR, and the chairman and members of the Georgian SSR Constitutional Oversight Committee may not serve simultaneously as people's deputies of the Georgian SSR.

#### **Article 12. Expenses Connected with Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR. Material Support of Elections**

Expenses connected with the preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be paid by the state. Financing of an election campaign from other sources shall be prohibited.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations, and state and social organs shall provide the election commissions with facilities and equipment necessary for preparing and holding elections.

Neither candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR nor the voters shall incur expenses connected with the preparation and holding of elections.

#### **Article 13. Responsibility for Violating Legislation Concerning Elections**

Persons who, through force, deception, threats, bribery, or any other means hinder a citizen of the Georgian SSR in exercising his right to elect or be elected a people's deputy of the USSR, to conduct pre-election agitation, and also members of election commissions and officials of state and social organs guilty of forging election documents, knowingly miscounting votes, violating the secret ballot, or committing other violations of the present Law, shall bear responsibility as stipulated by the law. Proceedings shall also be instituted against persons who publish or otherwise disseminate false information about a deputy candidate.

### **II. Procedure for the Scheduling of Elections and the Formation of Election Okrugs**

#### **Article 14. Scheduling of Elections**

Elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be scheduled by the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet not later than four months prior to the expiration of the term of office of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR.

Announcement of election day shall be published in the press.

#### **Article 15. Formation of Election Okrugs**

Three hundred-fifty election okrugs shall be formed for elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR.

Election okrugs shall be formed by the Georgian SSR Central Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies at the request of the Abkhazian ASSR Supreme Soviet, the Adzharian ASSR Supreme Soviet, the South Ossetian Oblast, and rayon and city Soviets of People's Deputies, or their presidiums.

Election okrugs shall be formed on the basis of administrative-territorial divisions and other territorial features in basic conformity with the principle of equal numbers of voters calculated per election okrug.

One people's deputy of the Georgian SSR shall be elected from each election okrug.

#### **Article 16. Lists of Election Okrugs**

Lists of election okrugs, indicating their boundaries, number of voters, and locations of okrug election commissions, shall be published by the Central Election Commission not later than 10 days after the scheduling of the elections.

### **III. Election Districts**

#### **Article 17. Formation of Election Districts**

For the holding of voting and counting of the votes in the elections of people's deputies of the USSR, the territory of rayons, cities, and city rayons making up election okrugs shall be divided into election districts. Election districts shall also be formed in military units and constitute part of the election okrugs where such units are stationed.

In hospitals and other permanent medical treatment facilities, in places where citizens are staying that are located in remote areas, and also on ships which are at sea on election day, election districts may be formed which are part of election okrugs where they are located or in the port of registration of the vessel. Election districts may also be formed in institutions of the Georgian SSR which are located outside the republic.

#### **Article 18. Procedure and Norm of Formation of Election Districts**

Election districts shall be formed by rayon, city (except for cities under rayon jurisdiction), and city-rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums in consultation with okrug election commissions. On ships which are at sea on election day, election districts shall be formed by the applicable Soviets of People's Deputies, or their presidiums, in the port of registration of the vessel. In military units, election districts shall be formed by local Soviets of People's Deputies, or their presidiums, at the request of commanders of units or troop formations.

Election districts shall be formed not later than two months prior to the elections. In military units as well as remote areas, on vessels which are at sea on election day, election districts shall be formed within the same time period or, in exceptional cases, not later than five days prior to the elections.

Election districts shall be formed to consist of not less than 20 and not more than 3000 voters.

The applicable local Soviet of People's Deputies, or its presidium, shall inform voters about the boundaries of each election district, indicating the location of the district election commission and the voting place.

### **IV. Election Commissions**

#### **Article 19. System of Election Commissions**

For holding elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, the following election commissions shall be formed:

- the Central Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR;
- okrug election commissions for elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR;
- district election commissions.

## **Article 20. Formation of the Central Election Commission**

The Central Election Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be formed by the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet on the basis of proposals of the presidiums of the Abkhazian ASSR Supreme Soviet, the Adzharian ASSR Supreme Soviet, the South Ossetian Oblast, and rayon and city Soviets of People's Deputies of the republic and republic organs of social organizations and movements, not later than five days after the scheduling of elections, to consist of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary, and 13 commission members.

The term of office of the Central Election Commission shall be five years.

## **Article 21. Powers of the Central Election Commission**

The Central Election Commission for Election of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR shall:

- 1) monitor the execution of the present Law over the entire Georgian SSR and see to its uniform application; where necessary, submit requests to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to interpret the present Law;
- 2) form election okrugs;
- 3) direct the activities of the election commissions and hear their reports; determine the procedure for making changes in the membership of the election commissions;
- 4) decide questions as to the assignment of election districts formed outside the Georgian SSR to election okrugs within the Georgian SSR;
- 5) distribute monies to the election commissions; see that election commissions are provided with facilities, transport, and communications, and oversee other matters relating to the material-technical support of the elections;
- 6) establish the forms for the ballots for elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, voters' lists, minutes of meetings of election commissions, and other election documents, models of ballot boxes and the seals of election commissions, and procedures for safeguarding election documents;
- 7) hear reports of ministries, state committees, and departments of the Georgian SSR as well as other state and social organs having to do with matters relating to the preparation and holding of elections;
- 8) register the elected deputies, tally the results of the elections throughout the republic as a whole, and publish information about the results of the elections and lists of elected people's deputies of the Georgian SSR;

9) submit to the Mandate Commission of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet the documentation necessary to verify deputies' credentials;

10) decide questions relating to the holding of repeat elections;

11) decide questions relating to the organization of the recall of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR;

12) schedule elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR to replace deputies who have been removed, and see to the holding of the elections;

13) review declarations and complaints regarding decisions and actions of election commissions and hand down final decisions regarding them;

14) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law and other laws of the Georgian SSR.

## **Article 22. Formation of Okrug Election Commissions**

A okrug election commission shall be formed in each election okrug for the election of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, not later than three and one-half months prior to the elections, consisting of 9 to 13 members.

Representatives on a okrug election commission shall be nominated by labor collectives and their councils, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, republic, oblast, rayon, city, and city-rayon organs of social organizations and movements, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units.

An assembly of voters in their place of residence shall be authorized [pravomochno] if at least 200 voters are in attendance. Assemblies of labor collectives shall be authorized if they are attended by more than half of the members of the labor collective. Meetings (conferences) shall be authorized if they are attended by at least two thirds of the members of the applicable organ. In labor collectives, assemblies shall be convened by their councils and by trade union committees jointly with the administration, on their own initiative or at the request of one third of the members of the collective. Assemblies of voters in their place of residence shall be convened by the applicable Soviet of People's Deputies, or its Presidium, on its own initiative or on the initiative of voters, supported by at least 100 voters of the okrug.

A representative shall be considered nominated if he was voted for by more than half of the participants of the assembly or a majority of the total membership of the applicable elective organ.

Okrug election commissions for elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be formed by the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet or its Presidium.

The term of office of a okrug election commission shall be five years.

**Article 23. Powers of a Okrug Election Commission**

A okrug election commission for elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall:

- 1) monitor the execution of the present Law within the okrug;
- 2) direct the activities of the district election commissions;
- 3) hear reports by executive and administrative organs of the local Soviets of People's Deputies and heads of enterprises, institutions, and organizations regarding questions relating to the preparation and holding of elections;
- 4) oversee the compilation of voters' lists and their presentation for public inspection;
- 5) assist in the organization of the nomination of candidates for deputy;
- 6) register the nominated candidates for deputy and issue them the appropriate credentials; see to the publication of posters presenting the biographical data concerning deputy candidates;
- 7) register deputy candidates' accredited representatives and issue them the appropriate credentials;
- 8) ensure equal conditions for candidates' participation in the election campaign and, in the event that the balloting in one of the election districts is judged to be invalid, schedule a new balloting [peregolosovaniye] in that election district alone;
- 9) render assistance to labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and social organizations and movements in arranging meetings between deputy candidates and voters both in the labor collectives and in the voters' place of residence;
- 10) approve the text of the ballots for the election okrug, see to the preparation of the ballots, and see that they are supplied to the district election commission;
- 11) determine and publish the results of the elections in the election okrug and issue credentials to the elected deputy;
- 12) organize the holding of a runoff or repeat election, also the election of a deputy to replace one removed;
- 13) decide questions relating to the holding of a recall of a deputy;
- 14) review declarations and complaints regarding decisions and actions of district election commissions and make decisions concerning them;

15) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law.

**Article 24. Formation of District Election Commissions**

A district election commission shall be formed not later than 45 days prior to the elections, consisting of 5-15 members. In case of necessity, the membership of a district election commission may be increased or reduced.

Representatives on a district election commission shall be nominated by labor collectives at general assemblies (conferences), or by their councils, or by organs equivalent to them, by collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, by rayon, city, and city-rayon organs of social organizations and movements and their primary organizations, by organs of public social initiative [obshchestvennaya samodeyatelnost naseleniya], by assemblies of voters in their place of residence, and servicemen in military units. An assembly of voters in their place of residence shall be authorized to nominate representatives to the district election commission if the assembly is attended by at least 50 voters. An assembly of voters in their place of residence shall be convened by the applicable Soviet of People's Deputies or organ of public social initiative, also on the initiative of at least 30 voters of the election district.

District election commissions shall be formed by rayon, city (except for cities under rayon jurisdiction), and city-rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums.

**Article 25. Powers of a District Election Commission**

A district election commission shall:

- 1) draw up voters' lists in the district;
- 2) allow voters to inspect the voters' list, receive and review declarations of inaccuracies in the list and decide whether to make relevant changes in it;
- 3) issue voters certificates of the right to vote;
- 4) notify the public of the location of the election district and its hours of operation, also the day of the elections and the voting place;
- 5) see to the preparation of the voting facilities, ballot boxes, and booths;
- 6) organize the voting in the election district on election day;
- 7) count the votes in the election district;
- 8) review declarations and complaints regarding questions of the preparation of the elections and the organization of the voting and make decisions regarding them;
- 9) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law.

## **Article 26. Organization of the Work of the Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairmen, and secretary of the election commission shall be elected at the first meeting of the applicable commission.

A meeting of the election commission shall be authorized provided it is participated in by at least two thirds of the membership of the commission. The decisions of the commission shall be taken by an open vote, by a majority of the votes of the total membership of the commission. Members of the commission who do not agree with its decision have the right to express a separate opinion which shall be attached to the minutes in written form and submitted for review to the next higher election commission.

Decisions made by election commissions within their jurisdiction shall be binding on all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Decisions and actions by an election commission may be appealed to the next higher election commission and, in cases stipulated by the present Law, also in court.

A member of an election commission, including the chairman, deputy chairmen, and secretary, may, by the commission's decision, be released from the performance of his production or office duties during the period of preparation and holding of the elections, while retaining average wages, paid for by funds allocated for the holding of the elections.

Persons serving on election commissions, including the chairman and his deputies, shall not have the right to participate in campaigning for or against a candidate for deputy.

## **Article 27. Assistance to Election Commissions in the Exercise of Their Powers**

State and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials shall be obligated to assist election commissions in the exercise of their powers and provide them with the information and materials necessary for their work.

An election commission shall have the right to address inquiries connected with the preparation and holding of elections to state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials, who shall be obligated to review the inquiries and give the election commission a response not later than within three days.

## **Article 28. Procedure for Changing the Membership of Election Commissions**

Any member of an election commission may be released from the performance of his duties on the commission by the organ which formed the commission. The relevant decision shall be taken on the basis of the personal request of the commission member or on recommendations of the labor collective, collective of school students

and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, social organization or movement, or assembly of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units that nominated him.

When necessary, the nomination and approval of a new representative on the election commission shall be held on the basis of the applicable decision of the organ which formed the commission, according to the procedure stipulated by the present Law.

## **V. Voters' Lists**

### **Article 29. The Voters' List and the Procedure for Compiling It**

A voters' list shall be compiled for each election district and signed by the chairman and secretary of the district election commission. The district election commission may enlist representatives of the public to take part in compiling the list.

The executive committees of city, city-rayon, settlement, and village Soviets of People's Deputies shall maintain a record of voters and submit to the district election commissions information concerning the voters living in the applicable territory, as necessary to compile the voters' lists.

Lists of servicemen in military units, and other voters living in areas where military units are located, shall be compiled on the basis of data supplied by the commanders of the military units.

Voters' lists of election districts formed in hospitals and other permanent medical facilities as well as on ships at sea on election day, also in institutions of the Georgian SSR located outside the republic, shall be compiled on the basis of data supplied by the heads of such institutions and by ships' captains.

The surnames of voters shall be indicated in the voters' list in an order that is convenient for organization of the voting.

### **Article 30. Procedure for Including Citizens on Voters' Lists**

A voters' list shall include all citizens of the Georgian SSR who have attained the age of 18 by election day, who reside within the territory of the election district at the time the list is compiled, and who have the right to take part in the voting.

A voter may not be included on voters' lists in other election districts.

### **Article 31. Citizens' Inspection of Voters' Lists and the Right to Protest Inaccuracies on a Voters' List**

Voters' lists shall be made available to public inspection 15 days prior to the elections or, in election districts formed in hospitals and other permanent medical facilities, two days prior to elections.

Citizens shall have the opportunity to inspect the voters' list and check the correctness of its compilation in the facilities of the district election commission.

Every citizen shall have the right to appeal failure of inclusion or incorrect inclusion on the list or exclusion from the voters' list as well as other inaccuracies on the list. A declaration concerning inaccuracies on the list shall be reviewed by the district election commission, which shall be obligated to review the declaration not later than within two days, or immediately on the eve of or on election day, make the necessary corrections on the list, or issue the declarer a copy of its substantiated decision to reject the declaration. This decision may be appealed in the rayon (city) people's court not later than five days prior to elections, and said court shall be obligated to review the appeal within three days. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court shall be final. Any correction on the voters' list in accordance with the court's decision shall be made immediately by the district election commission.

#### **Article 32. Certificate of the Right to Vote. Supplementary Voters' List**

In the event that a voter changes his place of residence during the interval between the time voters' lists are made available for public inspection and election day, the district election commission shall, at the voter's request and on presentation of a passport or other document confirming his identity, issue the voter a certificate of the right to vote. In addition, the appropriate notation shall be made on the voters' list.

On the basis of his certificate of the right to vote, the voter shall be included on the supplementary voters' list on election day in the election district of place he is staying.

#### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

##### **Article 33. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

The nomination of candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall commence three months and end 45 days prior to the elections.

The nomination of candidates for people's deputies shall be held at assemblies (conferences) of labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions. Candidates for deputies from social organizations and movements shall be nominated within election okrugs by their republic, oblast, rayon, city, and city-rayon organs.

Assemblies of voters in their place of residence to nominate candidates for deputies shall be convened by the applicable Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums jointly with okrug election commissions, either on their own initiative or on the initiative of organs of public social initiative, or at the request of at least 100 voters of the given election okrug. An assembly

shall be authorized if it is attended by at least 200 voters living within the election okrug.

Assemblies of servicemen to nominate candidates for people's deputies shall be convened by the commanders of military units.

Assemblies shall be provided with conditions for nominating an unlimited number of candidates and for broad and free discussion of them. Every participant in an assembly shall have the right to make proposals concerning candidates for deputies, take part in discussing them, support the proposed candidacies, or propose that they be withdrawn. A participant in an assembly may propose his own candidacy for discussion as candidate for deputy. A decision to nominate a candidate for deputy shall be taken at the assembly by means of open or secret ballot. The procedure for the balloting shall be established by the assembly.

An assembly may nominate just one deputy candidate for each okrug.

A candidate shall be considered nominated if he received the votes of more than half of the assembly participants or the majority of the total membership of the applicable organ of a social organization; moreover, each participant in the assembly or meeting shall have the right to vote for just one candidate. A document shall be drawn up concerning the nomination of the deputy candidate. The deputy candidate shall be informed of the decision not later than within two days.

Citizens of the Georgian SSR who work or live within the republic may be nominated candidates for deputies of the Georgian SSR.

##### **Article 34. Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

Candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall be registered by the okrug election commission on recommendations of labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, organs of social organizations and movements, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units that nominated the deputy candidates.

The registration of deputy candidates shall commence 45 days and end one month prior to the elections.

The decision to register deputy candidates shall be taken in the presence of the following documents: minutes of assemblies (meetings) for the nomination of candidates for deputies in the election okrug, also deputy candidates' declarations of consent to run within the given election okrug.

Persons listed in Part 2 of Article 2 of the present Law shall, on being nominated as deputy candidates, include in their declarations a statement of their intention to vacate their posts in the event that they are elected as

deputies, or shall report the withdrawal of their candidacies. In accordance with Part 2 of Article 2 of the present Law, on being nominated, deputy candidates shall indicate in their declarations which soviet (deputy duties) they intend to withdraw from in the event they are elected people's deputies of the Georgian SSR.

The election commission shall draw up a protocol concerning the registration of deputy candidates, which, together with the candidates' declarations, shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission within the period stipulated by it.

A okrug election commission shall register deputy candidates nominated in accordance with the stipulations of the present Law. Denial of registration may be appealed to the Central Election Commission within three days.

A deputy candidate may be registered and run in only one election okrug at a time.

A deputy candidate may not serve on the Central Election Commission or on the okrug or district election commission of the election okrug where he has been nominated as a candidate for deputy. A person who has been nominated as a deputy candidate and who serves on one of the indicated commissions shall be considered as released from his duties on the commission from the time he was registered as a deputy candidate.

Not later than four days after the registration of deputy candidates, the okrug election commission shall publish an announcement of the registration, indicating the surname, name, father's name, year of birth, position (occupation), and place of work and residence of each deputy candidate.

**Article 35. Reversal of a Decision to Nominate a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR. Candidate's Withdrawal of his Own Candidacy for People's Deputy**

A labor collective, collective of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, organ of a social organization or movement, or assembly of voters in their place of residence or servicemen in military units that nominated a candidate for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR shall have the right, at any time prior to the elections, to reverse their decision concerning the nomination of the deputy candidate. A decision on this matter shall be taken in accordance with procedures stipulated for nominating deputy candidates and shall be submitted to the applicable election commission.

A deputy candidate may at any time prior to the elections withdraw his candidacy by submitting a declaration concerning same to the applicable election commission.

**Article 36. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR to Replace Ones Removed**

In the event of the removal of candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR after the end of the period of registration of deputy candidates, if there are no other candidates remaining in the election okrug, the okrug election commission shall propose to the labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, social organizations and movements, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units that they nominate new deputy candidates. In the event of the removal of candidates for deputies less than one month prior to the elections, the election of a deputy from the applicable election okrug shall be held within a two-month period after the general elections.

The nomination of deputy candidates to replace ones removed shall be conducted according to the procedure stipulated in the present Law.

**Article 37. The Election Ballot**

The ballot shall include all the registered candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR in alphabetical order, indicating the surname, name, father's name, position (occupation), and place of work and residence of each candidate. The election ballot shall be printed in Georgian and in the languages of the population of the election okrug.

**VII. Guarantees of the Activities of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR**

**Article 38. The Right of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR to Speak at Meetings, Make Use of the Mass Media and Obtain Information**

From the time they are registered by election commissions, candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall have equal rights and be given equal opportunities to speak at meetings, conferences, sittings [zasedaniya], and rallies, and to make statements in the press, on television, and radio.

State and social organs, heads of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, organs of public social initiative, and commanders of military units shall be obligated to render assistance to candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR in organizing meetings with voters and in obtaining the necessary reference and informational materials.

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**[Text] Article 39. The Pre-Election Program of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR shall present a program of his future activities. The deputy candidate's program must not be oriented against



the principles of the state and social structure stipulated in the USSR Constitution and the Georgian SSR Constitution or contain war propaganda or calls for national hatred or the suppression of the constitutional rights of citizens.

The okrug election commission shall see to the publication of the theses of the program of candidates for people's deputies.

**Article 40. Accredited Representatives of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR may have up to 10 accredited representatives to help him conduct the election campaign, agitate for his election as deputy, and represent his interests in relations with state and social organs, voters, and also on election commissions.

A candidate for people's deputy shall choose his accredited representatives and notify the okrug election commission about them. The okrug election commission shall register the accredited representatives and issue them credentials.

At any time prior to the elections, a candidate for deputy may rescind the authority of his accredited representative, having notified the okrug election commission of this. An accredited representative may resign his appointment at any time prior to the elections. At the request of the deputy candidate, an accredited representative may be excused from the performance of production and office duties for the period of the election campaign. He may retain average wages, to be paid from funds allocated for the holding of the elections.

An accredited representative may not serve on the Central Election Commission or the election commissions of the applicable election okrug.

**Article 41. Pre-Election Agitation**

The labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, voters in their place of residence, and social organizations and movements that nominated candidates for deputies, as well as accredited representatives, shall have the right to conduct unimpeded agitation in favor of their candidates. Election commissions shall provide them with furnished facilities for assemblies and rallies and make available the mass media for conducting pre-election agitation.

Citizens of the Georgian SSR, labor collectives, collectives of school students and students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and social organizations and movements shall be guaranteed the opportunity for free and comprehensive discussion of the political, practical, and personal qualities of deputy candidates, also the right to agitate for or against candidates at assemblies, rallies, in the press, and on television and radio.

Candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall hold meetings with their constituents at assemblies and in other forms convenient to the voters. The election commission shall collaborate with the applicable Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, with social organizations and movements, in assisting the holding of such meetings. Voters shall be informed in good time about the times and places of such assemblies and meetings.

Agitation shall not be permitted on election day.

**Article 42. Release of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR from His Production or Office Duties in Order to Take Part in Pre-Election Measures**

After registration, a candidate for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR shall be excused from the performance of production or office duties during time spent holding meetings with voters, speaking at pre-election assemblies and rallies, and on television and radio, while retaining average wages paid from funds allocated for the holding of the elections.

**Article 43. The Right of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR to Free Transport**

After registration, a candidate for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR shall have the right to free transport on all types of passenger transport (except for taxis) within the applicable election okrug. A candidate for deputy who lives outside the election okrug shall have the same right to transport to the election okrug and back to his place of residence.

**Article 44. Immunity of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR may not be subject to criminal proceedings, arrest, or measures of administrative penalty imposed by court order without the consent of the Central Election Commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Tallying the Results of Elections**

**Article 45. Time and Place of Voting**

In elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, the voting is held from 7:00 to 20:00 local time on election day. The time and place of the voting shall be announced to voters by the district election commission not later than 10 days prior to the elections.

In election districts formed in hospitals and other permanent medical facilities, on ships at sea on election day, in military units, and in remote areas, the district election commission may declare the voting closed at any time if all the voters on the list have voted.

**Article 46. Organization of the Voting**

The voting shall be conducted in specially designated facilities which must be furnished with a sufficient

number of booths or chambers for secret balloting, with designated places for issuing the election ballots and the installation of ballot boxes. The ballot boxes shall be installed in such a manner that in approaching them the voters must necessarily pass through the booths or chambers for secret voting.

Responsibility for organizing the voting and ensuring the voters' secret expression of their will, for furnishing the facilities and maintaining the necessary order there, shall rest with the district election commission.

Prior to the voting on election day, the ballot boxes shall be checked and sealed by the chairman of the applicable election commission in the presence of all members of the commission.

Every voter shall vote personally. Voting for other persons shall not be permitted. Election ballots shall be issued by the applicable election commission on the basis of the voters' list of the election district and certificates of the right to vote on presentation of a passport or other identification. A voter shall certify receipt of the election ballot by signing the voters' list. Certificates of the right to vote shall be attached to the supplementary voters' list.

Voters who were erroneously left off the voters' list shall be included on the supplementary voters' list on the basis of a document verifying his identity and place of residence.

In cases where, for reasons of health or other factors, voters cannot get to the voting place, the district election commission shall, at their request, assign individual members of the commission to organize voting in the place of residence of such voters on the basis of a supplement to the voters' list, with the appropriate notation being made on the voters' list. In such cases, the organization of the voting shall be participated in by at least two members of the commission. In conducting voting in this manner, use shall be made of one portable ballot box.

#### **Article 47. Conduct of the Voting**

Voters shall fill out the election ballot in the booth or chamber for secret voting. While filling out the ballot, the presence of anyone else besides the voter shall be prohibited. A voter who is incapable of filling out the ballot himself shall have the right to invite another person into the booth or chamber, at his discretion, except for a member of the election commission or an accredited representative of the deputy candidate.

In elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, the voter shall cross off the ballot the surnames of the candidates against whom he is voting.

The voter shall drop the filled-out ballot into the ballot box.

#### **Article 48. Counting the Votes in an Election District**

In elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, the counting of votes in the election district shall be conducted separately for each okrug and for each deputy candidate.

Ballot boxes shall be opened by the district election commission after the commission chairman has announced the voting closed. Opening of the ballot boxes prior to the close of the voting shall be prohibited. Before the ballot boxes are opened, all unused ballots shall be counted and canceled by the district election commission. After that, ballots dropped into election boxes outside the voting place shall be counted.

On the basis of the main and supplementary voters' lists, the district election commission shall determine the total number of voters in the district as well as the number of voters who were given ballots. On the basis of the ballots in the ballot boxes, the district election commission shall determine: the total number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes given for and against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots ruled invalid. Votes shall not be counted for surnames of citizens written in additionally on the ballots by voters.

Ballots of nonstandard form as well as ballots on which more than one candidate has been left in the voting shall be ruled invalid.

In the event of any doubt regarding the validity of a ballot, the question shall be decided by the district election commission, through a vote.

The results of the counting of the votes shall be reviewed at a meeting of the district election commission and entered on the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary, and the members of the commission and sent over to the applicable okrug election commission in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 49. Determining the Results of Elections in an Election Okrug**

On the basis of the protocols of the district election commissions, the okrug election commission shall determine: the total number of voters in the okrug; the number of voters who were given ballots; the number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes for and against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots ruled invalid.

Those candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR who received more than half of the votes of voters taking part in the voting shall be considered as elected.

The okrug election commission may rule the election invalid as a result of violations of the present Law in the course of the elections or the counting of the votes.

The elections shall be ruled inconclusive [nesostoyavshiyesya] if they were participated in by less than half of the voters entered on the voters' lists.

The results of elections for an election okrug shall be determined at a meeting of the okrug election commission and entered on the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and sent over to the Central Election Commission under procedures stipulated by it.

An announcement concerning the results of the elections in the election okrug shall be published in the press by the applicable okrug election commission within the period stipulated by the Central Election Commission. The announcement shall indicate the total number of citizens included on the voters' lists; the number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes for and against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; and the surname, name, father's name, position (occupation), party affiliation, and place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **IX. Procedure for Tallying and Publishing the Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

##### **Article 50. Registration of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

The Central Election Commission for elections of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR shall register the elected people's deputies of the Georgian SSR on the basis of the protocols submitted to it by the election commissions.

The Central Election Commission may rule the elections invalid if there were any violations of the present Law in the course of the elections or in counting the votes or determining the results of the elections, and refuse to register the people's deputy of the Georgian SSR.

##### **Article 51. Publication of the Results of the Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR**

The Central Election Commission shall publish an announcement about the results of the elections throughout the Georgian SSR as a whole and a list of the elected people's deputies of the Georgian SSR in the press not later than within a 10-day period, in alphabetical order, indicating the surname, name, father's name, position (occupation), party affiliation, the place of work and residence of the deputy, and the election okrug.

##### **Article 52. Certificate and Chest Badge of the People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR**

After the publication in the press of the list of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR registered by the Central Election Commission, the okrug election commission shall issue each deputy a certificate of his election.

After confirmation of the credentials of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, the certificates of election issued to them shall be replaced with a certificate of people's deputy of the Georgian SSR. The deputy shall also be issued a badge inscribed "People's Deputy of the Georgian SSR."

#### **X. Runoffs, Repeat Elections, and Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR to Replace Deputies Removed**

##### **Article 53. Runoffs**

If more than two candidates for people's deputy of the Georgian SSR were running in an election okrug and neither one of them was elected, the okrug election commission shall make a decision as to holding a runoff in the okrug for the two deputy candidates who received the greatest number of votes. The okrug election commission shall inform the Central Election Commission and the voters of the okrug of this decision. A runoff in the election okrug shall be held not later than within a two-week period, in conformity with the stipulations of the present Law. An announcement of the runoff shall be published in the press.

A deputy candidate shall be considered elected if he has received a greater number of votes than the other candidate.

##### **Article 54. Repeat Elections**

If not more than two candidates for people's deputies of the Georgian SSR ran in an election okrug and neither one of them was elected, or if the elections in the election okrug were ruled inconclusive or invalid, or if a runoff failed to determine an elected deputy, the Central Election Commission shall direct the okrug election commission to conduct a repeat election in the election okrug. In doing so, it may decide that the elections are to be conducted by district election commissions made up of new members. The voting shall be conducted in the same election districts and on the basis of the same voters' lists that were compiled to hold the general elections.

Repeat elections shall be held not later than two months after the general elections. The formation of election commissions, registration of deputy candidates, and other measures shall be carried out under procedures stipulated by the present Law within periods stipulated by the Central Election Commission. An announcement of the repeat elections shall be published in the press.

##### **Article 55. Holding of Elections of People's Deputies of the Georgian SSR to Replace Ones Removed**

In the event that the credentials of particular people's deputies of the Georgian SSR are ruled invalid, also in the event of a recall of a deputy or cancellation of his deputy credentials prior to expiration of term for other reasons, new elections shall be held in the applicable election okrugs within three months from the time of the deputy's removal. Elections shall be scheduled by the Central Election Commission not later than two months prior to the time they are to be held and organized in conformity with the stipulations of the present Law. In the process, district election commissions shall be formed one month prior to the elections, and the registration of deputy candidates shall be completed one month prior to the elections.

In the event of the removal of a people's deputy of the Georgian SSR less than six months prior to the expiration of the term of office of people's deputies of the Georgian SSR, an election of a people's deputy of the Georgian SSR to replace the one removed shall not be held.

### **Georgian SSR Law on Elections of Supreme Soviet Deputies**

90US0318A Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA  
in Russian 3 Dec 89 pp 1-3

["Law of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet"]

#### **[Text] I. General Provisions**

##### **Article 1. Principles of Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

Elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be held in single-mandate election districts on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage, with secret ballot.

Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be elected for a term of five years.

##### **Article 2. Universal Suffrage**

Elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be universal: citizens of the Georgian SSR who have attained the age of 18 shall have the right to vote, and those who have attained the age of 21 shall have the right to be elected, regardless of origin, social and property status, racial and national affiliation, sex, education, language, political views, attitudes toward religion, time of residence in a given locality, or type and character of occupation.

A citizen of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet may not serve simultaneously as a deputy to more than two soviets.

Elections shall not be participated in by mentally ill citizens judged incompetent by a court, persons held in places of incarceration, or persons held in places of compulsory medical treatment by court order.

##### **Article 3. Equal Voting Rights**

Elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be equal: each voter shall have one vote; citizens of the Georgian SSR shall take part in elections on the basis of equality.

##### **Article 4. Direct Voting Rights**

Elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be direct: the deputies to the Supreme Soviet shall be elected directly by voters.

##### **Article 5. Secret Ballot**

Voting in elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be secret: no monitoring of voters' expression of their will shall be permitted.

##### **Article 6. Holding of Elections by Election Commissions**

Holding of elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be administered by election commissions made up of representatives elected by labor collectives, elective organs of social organizations and movements registered according to established procedures, assemblies (conferences) of collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and assemblies of voters in places of residence and servicemen in military units.

##### **Article 7. Glasnost in the Preparation and Holding of Elections**

The preparation and holding of elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be carried out by election commissions, labor collectives, social organizations and movements, and collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions in an open and public manner.

Election commissions shall keep citizens informed about their work, about the formation of election districts and precincts, and about the composition, location, and operating hours of election commissions and voters' lists. Election commissions shall keep citizens informed about nominations of deputy candidates, the results of registration of deputy candidates, biographical data concerning registered deputy candidates and the basic provisions of their pre-election programs, the results of balloting for each candidate, and the results of the elections. The right to attend meetings of election commissions and visit voting facilities shall pertain to representatives of labor collectives, social organizations and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, assemblies of voters in places of residence and servicemen in military units, accredited representatives, representatives of the press, television, and radio, and, on election day in the election precincts, a representative of the deputy candidate from the moment the ballot boxes are sealed until the tallying of the results of the balloting is completed.

The credentials of representatives must be validated by the applicable documents or excerpts from the minutes of assemblies (conferences) of labor collectives, assemblies of social organizations and movements or meetings of their elective organs, assemblies of collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, voters in places of residence and servicemen in military units, or, in the case of a representative of a deputy candidate, by a declaration of the deputy candidate addressed to the precinct election commission. An

excerpt from the minutes or, appropriately, a declaration, shall be submitted to the applicable election commission not later than three days prior to the meeting. The election commission shall make a decision within 24 hours. In the event of refusal, the election commission shall issue an explanatory response in written form, which may be appealed to the next-higher election commission.

The mass media shall publicize the course of preparations and holding of elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet and shall be guaranteed unimpeded access to all assemblies and meetings related to the elections. Election commissions, state and social organs, and labor collectives shall provide them with information relating to the preparation and holding of the elections.

**Article 8. Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Social Organizations and Movements in the Preparation and Holding of Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

Citizens of the Georgian SSR shall take part in the preparation and holding of elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet both directly and through labor collectives, social organizations and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and assemblies of voters in places of residence and servicemen in military units.

Labor collectives, social organizations and movements, and collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions shall take part in the preparation and holding of elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet both directly and through their representatives on the election commissions.

**Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

The right to nominate candidates for deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall pertain to labor collectives, social organizations and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and assemblies of voters in place of residence and servicemen in military units.

**Article 10. Voters' Mandates to Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

Voters shall give mandates to their deputies.

The procedure for submitting, generalizing, discussing, and organizing the implementation of mandates shall be established by the Law of the Georgian SSR.

**Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet with Official Position**

Persons who are members of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers (with the exception of the Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers and Chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of the autonomous republics),

deputy ministers and deputy chairmen of state committees, officials of departments [vedomstva] and their deputies, the chairmen and members of the Georgian SSR Supreme Court, the chief state arbiter and the state arbiters of the Georgian SSR, the chairman and members of the Georgian SSR Constitutional Oversight Committee, may not simultaneously serve as deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

**Article 12. Expenses Relating to Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet. Material Support of Elections**

Expenses relating to the preparation and holding of elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be covered by the applicable election commissions from a unified fund which shall be contributed to by the state, enterprises, social and other organizations, and also groups of citizens for purposes of ensuring equal conditions for each deputy.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations, and state and social organs shall provide election commissions with the facilities and equipment necessary for preparing and holding elections.

**Article 13. Responsibility for violation of Laws on Elections**

Persons who, through coercion, deception, threats, bribery, or other means, impede the Georgian SSR citizen's free exercise of the right to vote or to be elected a deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet and conduct pre-election agitation, also members of election commissions and officials of state and social organs guilty of forging election documents, knowingly miscounting votes, violating the right to secret ballot, or committing other violations of the present Law, shall bear responsibility under the Law. Proceedings shall also be instituted against persons who publish or otherwise disseminate false information about any deputy candidate.

**II. Procedure for Scheduling Elections and Formation of Election Districts**

**Article 14. Scheduling of Elections**

Elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be scheduled by the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet not later than four months before the expiration of the term of office of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Announcement of election day shall be published in the press.

**Article 15. Formation of Election Districts**

Three hundred election districts shall be formed for the election of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Election districts shall be formed by the Central Election Commission for Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet at the direction of the Abkhazian SSR Supreme Soviet, the Adzharian SSR Supreme Soviet, and the South Ossetian Oblast and rayon and city Soviets of People's Deputies of the Republic, or their presidiums.

Election districts shall be formed on the basis of administrative-territorial divisions and other characteristics of the territory, while conforming basically to the principle of an equal number of voters per election district.

One deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be elected from each election district.

#### **Article 16. Lists of Election Districts**

Lists of election districts shall be published by the Central Election Commission, showing their boundaries, number of voters, and locations of district election commissions, not later than ten days after the scheduling of elections.

### **III. Election Precincts**

#### **Article 17. Formation of Election Precincts**

For purposes of conducting the voting and counting the votes in elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the territory of election districts shall be divided into election precincts.

In hospitals and other in-patient medical institutions, as well as places where citizens are located that are difficult of access, election precincts may be formed in their place of location; in the case of ships at sea on election day, election precincts may be formed in their port of registration. Election precincts may also be formed in institutions of the Georgian SSR that are located outside the republic.

#### **Article 18. Procedure and Norm for the Formation of Election Precincts**

Election precincts shall be formed by rayon, city (except for cities under rayon jurisdiction), and city-rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums in consultation with district election commissions. In the case of ships at sea on election day, election precincts shall be formed by the applicable Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums located in the ship's port of registration. In military units, election precincts shall be formed by the local Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums at the direction of unit or troop formation commanders.

Election precincts shall be formed not later than two months before the elections. In areas that are difficult of access and on vessels which are at sea on election day, election precincts shall be formed during the same period or, in exceptional cases, not later than five days before the elections.

Election precincts shall be formed to include not less than 20 and not more than 3000 voters.

The applicable local Soviet of People's Deputies, or its presidium, shall notify voters about the boundaries of each election precinct, indicating the location of the precinct election commission and the voting facility.

### **IV. Election Commissions**

#### **Article 19. System of Election Commissions**

For conducting elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the following election commissions shall be formed:

- the Central Election Commission for Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet;
- district election commissions for elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet;
- precinct election commissions.

#### **Article 20. Formation of the Central Election Commission**

The Central Election Commission for Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be formed by the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet on the basis of proposals of the Presidiums of the Abkhazian SSR Supreme Soviet, the Adzharian SSR Supreme Soviet, the South Ossetian Oblast, rayon, and city Soviets of People's Deputies of the republic, or their presidiums, and republic organs of social organizations and movements, not later than five days after the scheduling of the elections, made up of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary, and 13 commission members.

The term of office of the Central Election Commission shall be five years.

#### **Article 21. Powers of the Central Election Commission**

The Central Election Commission for Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall:

- 1) monitor the implementation of the present Law and see to its uniform enforcement throughout the territory of the Georgian SSR; if necessary, submit proposals to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet concerning interpretation of the present Law;
- 2) form election districts;
- 3) direct the activities of the election commissions and hear their reports; establish the procedure for making changes in the composition of election commissions;
- 4) decide questions as to the registration assignment of election precincts formed outside the Georgian SSR to election districts within the Georgian SSR;

5) distribute monies to the election districts; monitor to see that election commissions are provided with facilities, transport, and communications, and examine other questions regarding the material-technical support of the elections;

6) establish the forms of ballots for the election of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, voters' lists, minutes of meetings of the election commissions, and other election documents, also models of ballot boxes and the seals of election commissions, and the procedure for the safekeeping of election documents;

7) hear the reports of ministries, state committees and departments of the Georgian SSR as well as other state and social organs regarding questions relating to the preparation and holding of elections;

8) register elected deputies and tally the results of elections throughout the whole republic; publish announcements concerning the results of elections and the list of elected deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet;

9) submit to the Mandate Commission of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet the documentation necessary to verify deputies' credentials;

10) decide questions relating to the holding of repeat elections;

11) decide questions relating to the organization of the recall of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet;

12) schedule the election of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to replace recalled deputies, and ensure that they are carried out;

13) review applications and complaints about decisions and actions of election commissions and hand down final decisions regarding them;

14) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law and other laws of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

#### **Article 22. Formation of District Election Commissions**

District election commissions for elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be formed by the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet or its Presidium.

A district election commission shall be formed in each election district for elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, not earlier than five days after the publication of the list of districts and not later than three and one-half months before elections, to consist of 9 to 13 members.

Representatives to a district election commission shall be nominated by labor collectives or their councils, by republic, oblast, rayon, city, and city-rayon organs of social organization and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and assemblies of voters in places of residence and servicemen in military units.

An assembly of voters in a place of residence shall be authorized if it is attended by at least 200 voters. Assemblies of labor collectives shall be authorized if they are attended by more than half of the total number of members of the labor collective. Meetings (conferences) shall be valid if they are attended by at least two thirds of the members of the applicable organ. In labor collectives, assemblies (conferences) shall be convened by their councils and trade-union committees jointly with the administration, at their own initiative or on demand by one fifth of the members of the collective. Assemblies of voters in a place of residence shall be convened by the applicable Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, on its own initiative or on the initiative of the voters, supported by at least 50 voters in the district.

A representative shall be considered nominated if he receives the votes of more than one half the participants in the assembly or the majority of the total membership of the applicable elective organ.

The term of office of a district election commission shall be five years.

#### **Article 23. Powers of a District Election Commission**

A district election commission for elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall:

1) monitor the enforcement of the present Law within the district;

2) direct the activities of the precinct election commissions;

3) hear reports from the executive and directive [rasporiaditelnyye] organs of the local Soviets of People's Deputies and officials of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, regarding questions relating to the preparation and holding of elections;

4) monitor the compilation of voters' lists and see that they are made available for public inspection;

5) assist in the organization of the nomination of candidates for deputy;

6) register the nominated candidates for deputy and issue them the appropriate identification; see to the publication of posters carrying biographical information concerning deputy candidates;

7) register candidates' accredited representatives and issue them the appropriate identification;

8) provide equal conditions for candidates' participation in the election campaign; in the event that the balloting in one of the election precincts is ruled inconclusive, schedule a re-vote in that election precinct alone;

9) render aid to labor collectives, social organizations and movements, and collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions in organizing meetings between deputy candidates and voters both in the labor collectives and in the voters' place of residence;

10) approve the text of the ballots within the election district; see to the preparation of ballots and supply them to the precinct election commissions;

11) determine and publish the results of the elections in the election district; issue credentials to the elected deputy;

12) organize the holding of run-offs and repeat elections as well as the election of a deputy to replace one removed;

13) decide questions relating to the holding of a deputy recall;

14) review applications and complaints concerning decisions and actions of precinct election commissions, and make decisions regarding them;

15) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 24. Formation of Precinct Election Commissions**

Precinct election commissions shall be formed by rayon, city (except for cities of rayon jurisdiction), and city-rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums.

A precinct election commission shall be formed not later than 45 days before the elections, to consist of 5-15 members. When necessary, the membership of a precinct election commission may be increased or reduced.

Representatives on a precinct election commission shall be nominated by labor collectives at general assemblies (conferences) or by their councils, by rayon, city, and city-rayon organs of social organizations and movements and their primary organizations, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, organs of public social initiative, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units.

An assembly of voters in their place of residence shall be authorized to nominate representatives to the precinct election commission if the assembly is attended by at least 50 voters. An assembly of voters in their place of residence shall be convened by the applicable Soviet of People's Deputies or organ of public social initiative, also on the initiative of at least 20 voters in the given election precinct.

#### **Article 25. Powers of a Precinct Election Commission**

A precinct election commission shall:

- 1) compile lists of voters in the precinct;
- 2) allow voters to inspect the voters' list; receive and review complaints of inaccuracies in the list and decide whether to make the relevant changes in it;
- 3) issue voters certificates of the right to vote;
- 4) notify the public of the location of the precinct election commission and its hours of operation, also the day of elections and the voting place;

5) see to the preparation of the voting facilities, ballot boxes, and voting booths;

6) organize the voting on election day in the election precinct;

7) conduct a count of the votes given in the election precinct;

8) review statements and complaints concerning questions regarding the preparation of the elections and the organization of the voting, and make decisions regarding them;

9) exercise other powers in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 26. Organization of the Work of the Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the election commission shall be elected at the first meeting of the applicable commission.

A meeting of the election commission shall be authorized if it is participated in by at least two thirds of the membership. The commission's decisions shall be made by open balloting by a majority of the votes of the total membership of the commission. Members of the commission who disagree with a decision shall have the right to state a separate opinion, which shall be attached in written form to the minutes and submitted for review to the next-higher election commission.

Decisions made by election commissions within the limits of their powers shall be binding on all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Decisions and actions of an election commission may be appealed to the next-higher election commission or, in cases stipulated by the present Law, in court.

A member of an election commission, including the chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary, may, by decision of the commission, be released during the period of preparation and holding of the elections from the performance of production or office duties while retaining average wages, to be paid out of funds allocated for holding the elections.

Persons serving as members of election commissions shall not have the right to take part in campaigning for or against deputy candidates who are running in those election districts.

#### **Article 27. Assistance to Election Commissions in Exercising Their Powers**

State and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials shall be obligated to assist election commissions in exercising their powers and to supply them with the information and materials necessary for their work.



An election commission shall have the right to submit questions relating to the preparation and holding of the elections to state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials, which entities shall be obligated to review the submitted questions and respond to the election commission not later than within three days.

**Article 28. Procedure for Changing the Membership of Election Commissions**

Any member of an election commission may be released from the performance of his duties on the commission by the organ which formed the commission. The appropriate decision shall be made on the basis of the personal statement of the commission member or the recommendation of the labor collective, social organization or movement, collective of secondary specialized and higher educational institution, or assembly of voters in their place of residence or servicemen in military units that nominated him.

If necessary, the nomination and confirmation of a new representative on the election commission shall proceed on the basis of the applicable decision of the organ which formed the commission, according to the procedure stipulated by the present Law.

**V. Voters' List**

**Article 29. The Voters' List and Procedure for its Compilation**

A voters' list shall be compiled for each election precinct and signed by the chairman and secretary of the precinct election commission. The precinct election commission may invite representatives of the public to take part in the work of compiling the list.

Election committees of city, rayon, city-rayon, settlement, and village Soviets of People's Deputies shall see to the registration of voters and submit to the precinct election commissions information about the voters residing in the applicable territory, necessary for compiling voters' lists.

Lists of servicemen in military units, and other voters residing in areas where military units are located, shall be compiled on the basis of data furnished by military unit commanders.

Voters' lists for election precincts formed in hospitals and other in-patient medical treatment facilities, also on ships which are at sea on election day, and in institutions of the Georgian SSR located outside the republic, shall be compiled on the basis of data furnished by the officials of said institutions and by ships' captains.

The surnames of voters shall be arranged on the voters' list in an order that is convenient for organizing the voting.

**Article 30. Procedure for Including Citizens on Voters' Lists**

All citizens of the Georgian SSR who have attained the age of 18, reside within the territory of the election precinct at the time the list is compiled, and have the right to participate in the voting, shall be entered on the voters' list.

A voter may not be included on voters' lists in other election precincts.

**Article 31. Citizens' Inspection of Voters' Lists and the Right to Complain of Inaccuracies in the Voters' List**

Voters' lists shall be submitted for public inspection 15 days before the elections or, in the case of election precincts formed in hospitals and other in-patient medical treatment facilities, two days before the elections.

Citizens shall be given the opportunity to inspect the voters' list and to verify the accuracy of its compilation in the facilities of the precinct election commission.

Every citizen shall be given the right to appeal his non-inclusion, incorrect inclusion, or exclusion from the voters' list, as well as other inaccuracies on the list. A complaint about inaccuracies on a list shall be reviewed by the precinct election commission, which shall be obligated to review the complaint not later than within two days (or immediately if on the eve of election day), to make the necessary corrections on the list, or to issue the complainant a copy of the explanatory decision to reject his complaint. The decision may be appealed in the rayon (city) people's court not later than five days before the elections, and the court shall be obligated to review the complaint within a three-day period. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court shall be final. A change on the voters' list in accordance with a court's decision shall be made immediately by the precinct election commission.

**Article 32. Certificate of the Right to Vote. Supplementary Voters' List**

In the event that a voter changes his place of residence within the republic in the period between the time the voters' lists are made available for public inspection and the day of elections, the precinct election commission shall, at his request and submission of his passport or other document confirming his identity, issue the voter a certificate of the right to vote. In addition, the appropriate notation shall be made on the voters' list.

On the basis of the certificate of the right to vote, on election day the voter shall be included on a supplementary voters' list in the election precinct in the location of his residence.

## **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

### **Article 33. Procedure for the Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

The nomination of candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall commence three months and end 45 days before the elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall take place at assemblies (conferences) of labor collectives, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions. Assemblies (conferences) shall be convened by councils of labor collectives, their trade union committees, or the administration on their own initiative or on the demand of one fifth of the labor collective. An assembly shall be authorized if it is participated in by the majority of members of the labor collective. A conference shall be authorized if it is participated in by at least two thirds of the delegates. A labor collective or collective of an educational institution shall each have the right to nominate one candidate for deputy in the election districts within which they are located.

Deputy candidates from social organizations and movements shall be nominated by their republic, oblast, rayon, city, or city-rayon organs or, if such organs have not been formed, by oblast, rayon, city, or city-rayon conferences of their primary organizations. Such organs or conferences shall be authorized if they are participated in by at least two thirds of the members or delegates. They shall each have the right to nominate one candidate or deputy for each election district formed within the territory of the republic, oblast, rayon, city, or city-rayon, respectively.

Assemblies of voters in their place of residence shall be convened for the nomination of deputy candidates by the Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidiums, jointly with the applicable election districts, on their own initiative or on the demand of at least 50 voters in the given election district. An assembly shall be authorized if it is attended by at least 200 voters living within the election district. An assembly shall have the right to nominate one candidate for deputy for the given election district.

Assemblies of servicemen shall be convened for the nomination of candidates for deputy by the command headquarters of military units jointly with the applicable election commissions. An assembly shall have the right to nominate one candidate for deputy within the election district in which such units are located.

Conditions shall be provided at assemblies (meetings, conferences) for nominating an unlimited number of candidates and engaging in extensive, free discussion of them. Every participant in an assembly (meeting, conference) shall have the right to make proposals about deputy candidates, take part in their discussion, and

support nominated candidates or propose that they be removed. A participant in an assembly (meeting, conference) may nominate himself as a candidate for deputy and move that the question be discussed. The decision on the nomination of candidates for deputy at an assembly (meeting, conference) shall be taken by open or secret ballot. The procedure for voting shall be established by the assembly (meeting, conference).

A candidate shall be considered nominated if he was voted for by more than half the participants in the assembly (conference) or the greater part of the total membership of the applicable organ of the social organization. At the same time, each participant in an assembly (meeting, conference) shall have the right to vote for just one candidate.

A protocol shall be drawn up concerning the nomination of a deputy candidate. The protocol shall indicate the name of the organ which nominated the deputy candidate, the place and time the assembly (meeting, conference) was held, the number of members of the collective (organ), the number of participants in the assembly (conference), the number of votes for the deputy candidate, and his surname, name, father's name, the year, month, and date of his birth, his position (occupation), and his place of work and residence.

A candidate for deputy shall be notified of the decision that was taken not later than within two days.

Citizens of the Georgian SSR who work or live within the republic shall be nominated as candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

### **Article 34. Registration of Candidates for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

Candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be registered by the district election commission on the recommendation of assemblies of labor collectives, organs of social organizations and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units, which entities nominated the candidates for deputy.

The registration of candidates for deputy shall commence 45 days and end 30 days before the elections.

A decision to register candidates for deputy shall be taken given the presence of the following documents: the protocols of assemblies (conferences, meeting) for the nomination of candidates for deputy within the given election district, also deputy candidates' declarations consenting to run within the given election district.

Persons listed in Article 11 of the present Law shall, on being nominated as candidates for deputy, indicate in their declarations their intentions to vacate their positions in the event they are elected deputies, or shall announce their withdrawal as candidates. In accordance with Part 2 of Article 2 of the present Law, candidates for deputy, on being nominated, shall indicate in their

declarations the particular soviet in which they intend to renounce their duties as deputy in the event that they are elected deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The election commission shall draw up a protocol concerning the registration of deputy candidates, which protocol shall be submitted along with the deputy candidates' declarations to the Central Election Commission within the period stipulated by it.

A district election commission shall register deputy candidates nominated in compliance with the requirements of the present Law. A refusal to register may be appealed within a three-day period to the Central Election Commission.

A candidate for deputy may be registered and run for office only in one election district simultaneously.

A candidate for deputy may not serve on the Central Election Commission or on the district or precinct election commission of the election district in which he was nominated a candidate. A person who has been nominated as a deputy candidate and serves on one of the above-mentioned commissions shall be considered released from his duties on the commission from the time he is registered as a deputy candidate.

Not later than four days after the registration of candidates for deputy, the district election commission shall publish an announcement about the registration, indicating the surname, name, father's name, year of birth, position (occupation), and place of work and residence of each candidate for deputy.

**Article 35. Revocation of a Decision to Nominate a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet. Candidate's Withdrawal of his Candidacy**

A labor collective, organ of a social organization or movement, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and assemblies of voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units who have nominated a candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall, at any time before the elections, have the right to revoke their decision to nominate the candidate for deputy. A decision on this matter shall be taken according to the procedure stipulated for nominating candidates for deputy and shall be submitted to the applicable election commission.

A candidate for deputy may, at any time before the elections, withdraw his candidacy, by submitting a declaration about it to the applicable election commission.

**Article 36. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to Replace Ones Removed**

In the event of the removal of a candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet after the end of the period for registering candidates for deputy, if there are

no other candidates in the election district, the district election commission shall publicly propose to the organizations and voters having the appropriate right thereto that they nominate new candidates for deputy. In case candidates for deputy are removed less than one month before the elections, the election of deputies from the applicable election district shall be held within a two-month period after the general elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputy to replace ones removed shall be conducted according to the procedure established by the present Law.

**Article 37. The Election Ballot**

The election ballot shall include, in alphabetical order, all the registered candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, indicating the surname, name, father's name, position (occupation) and place of work and residence of each candidate for deputy.

Election ballots shall be printed in Georgian and in the languages of the population of the election district.

**VII. Guarantees of Activities of Candidates for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

**Article 38. The Right of a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to Speak at Meetings, Make Use of the Mass Media, and Obtain Information**

Candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall take part in the pre-election campaign, on an equal footing, from the time they are nominated.

Candidates for deputy shall have the right to speak at assemblies, conferences, meetings, rallies, in the press, and on television and radio.

State and social organs, officials of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, organs of public social initiative, and commanders of troop units shall be obligated to render assistance to candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet in organizing meetings with voters and obtaining the necessary reference and informational materials.

**Article 39. The Pre-Election Program of a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

A candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall have the right to make public the program of his future activities. The program of a candidate for deputy shall not contain war propaganda, calls for the violent change or overthrow of the state and social structure as embodied in the Constitution of the USSR and the Constitution of the Georgian SSR, national hatred and hostility, or encroachment on the constitutional rights of citizens.

The district election commission shall see to the publication of the thesis of the program of the candidate for deputy.

**Article 40. Accredited Representatives of a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

A candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet may have up to ten accredited representatives to help him in conducting his election campaign, conduct agitation to elect him deputy, represent his interests in relations with state and social organs and voters, and also in the election commissions.

A candidate for deputy shall choose his accredited representatives and notify the district election commission about them. After registering the accredited representatives, the district election commission shall issue them credentials.

At any time before the elections, a candidate for deputy may revoke the powers of his accredited representative by notifying the district election commission of it. At any time before the elections, an accredited representative may relinquish his powers. An accredited representative may, at the request of the deputy candidate, be released from the performance of his production or office duties during the period of the election campaign. He shall retain his average wages, paid from funds allocated for the holding of the elections.

An accredited representative may not serve on the Central Election Commission or the election commissions of the applicable election district.

**Article 41. Pre-Election Agitation**

Citizens of the Georgian SSR, labor collectives, social organizations and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units shall be guaranteed the opportunity freely and comprehensively to discuss the political, practical, and personal qualities of candidates for deputy, also the right to agitate for or against candidates at assemblies, rallies, in the press, and on television and radio.

Election commissions shall provide furnished facilities for assemblies and rallies to labor collectives, social organizations and movements, collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and voters in their place of residence and servicemen in military units, which entities nominated candidates for deputy, and accredited representatives.

Candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall hold meetings with their voters at assemblies and in other forms convenient for the voters. The election commission and applicable organizations and movements shall assist in the holding of such meetings. Voters shall be notified about the time and place of such assemblies and meetings in good time.

Agitation shall not be permitted on election day.

**Article 42. Release of a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet from His Production or Office Duties in Order to Participate in Pre-Election Events**

After being registered, a candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be released from the performance of production or office duties for the time spent in meetings with voters, making speeches at pre-election assemblies and rallies, and on television and radio, while retaining average wages, to be paid out of funds allocated for the holding of the elections.

**Article 43. The Right of a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to Free Transportation**

After being registered, a candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall have the right to free transportation on all types of passenger transport (except for taxis) within the applicable election district. A candidate for deputy living outside the election district shall enjoy the same right to transportation to the election district and back to his place of residence.

**Article 44. Immunity of a Candidate for Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

A candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet may not be subjected to criminal proceedings, arrested, or subjected to measures of administrative penalty imposed by court procedure, without the consent of the Central Election Commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Tallying the Results of Elections**

**Article 45. Time and Place of Voting**

In elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the voting shall be held on election day from 7:00 to 20:00 local time. The election commission shall notify voters of the time and place of the voting not later than ten days before the elections.

In election precincts formed in hospitals and other in-patient medical treatment facilities, on ships which are at sea on election day, in military units, and in areas that are difficult of access, the precinct election commission may declare the voting closed at any time if all the voters included on the list have voted.

**Article 46. Organization of the Voting**

The voting shall be conducted in specially provided facilities which must be furnished with a sufficient number of booths or secret voting chambers, with places designated for issuing ballots and ballot boxes installed. Ballot boxes shall be installed in such a manner that in order to approach them voters must necessarily pass through the booth or secret voting chamber.

Responsibility for organizing the voting, ensuring the voters' secret expression of their will, furnishing the

facilities, and maintaining the necessary order in them shall be borne by the precinct election commission.

Before the start of the voting on election day, the ballot boxes shall be checked and sealed by the chairman of the applicable election commission in the presence of all members of the commission.

Each voter shall do his own voting. Voting for other persons shall not be permitted. Election ballots shall be issued by the precinct election commission on the basis of the voters' list or a certificate of the right to vote on presentation of a passport or other identification. Voters shall acknowledge receipt of a voting ballot by signing the voters' list. A certificate of the right to vote shall be attached to the supplementary voters' list.

Voters who have been mistakenly left off the voters' list shall be entered on the supplementary voters' list on the basis of a document certifying his identity and place of residence.

In cases where individual voters are not able to come to the voting facility on account of health or other reasons, the precinct election commission shall, at their request, direct particular members of the commission to organize voting in the place where such voters are staying, on the basis of an appendix to the voters' list, with an appropriate notation being made to the voters' list. In such cases, the organization of the voting shall be participated in by at least two commission members. One portable ballot box shall be used in conducting the voting in that manner.

#### **Article 47. Conduct of the Voting**

The election ballot shall be filled out by the voter in the booth or the secret voting chamber. While the ballot is being filled out, the presence of anyone except the voter shall be prohibited. A voter who is unable to fill out the ballot himself shall have the right to invite another person into the booth or chamber, as he wishes, except a member of the election commission or a representative or accredited representative of the candidate for deputy.

In electing deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the voter shall cross out the surnames of the candidates against whom he is voting on the ballot.

The voter shall drop the filled-out ballot into the ballot box.

#### **Article 48. Counting the Votes in an Election Precinct**

In the elections of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the counting of votes in the election precinct shall be conducted separately for each deputy candidate.

The election boxes shall be opened by the precinct election commission after the chairman of the commission has declared the voting closed. Opening of the ballot boxes before the voting has been closed shall be prohibited. Before the ballot boxes are opened, all the unused

ballots shall be counted and canceled by the precinct election commission. After that, the ballots placed in election boxes outside the voting place shall be counted.

The precinct election commission shall, on the basis of the main and supplementary voters' lists, determine the total number of voters in the precinct as well as the number of voters who received ballots. On the basis of the ballots in the ballot boxes, the precinct election commission shall determine: the total number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes against and for each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots ruled invalid. Votes shall not be counted for the surnames of citizens who were written in by voters on the ballots.

Ballots of nonstandard form, also ballots on which more than one candidate was left during the voting, shall be ruled invalid.

In the event of any doubt regarding the validity of an election ballot, the matter shall be resolved by a vote of the precinct election commission.

The results of the counting of the votes shall be reviewed at a meeting of the precinct election commission and entered on the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary, and the members of the commission and sent to the applicable district election commission in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 49. Determination of the Results of Elections in an Election District**

On the basis of the protocols of the precinct election commissions, the district election commission shall determine: the total number of voters in the district; the number of voters who received ballots; the number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes for and against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots ruled invalid.

Candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet who have received more than half the votes of voters taking part in the voting shall be considered as elected.

The district election commission may rule the elections invalid because of violations of the present Law in the course of the elections or in the counting of the votes.

The elections shall be ruled inconclusive [nesostoyavshiyesya] if they were participated in by less than half the voters on the voters' lists.

The results of the elections in the election district shall be determined at a meeting of the district election commission and entered on the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and sent to the Central Election Commission according to the procedure stipulated by it.

An announcement about the results of the elections in the election district shall be published in the press by the applicable district election commission within a time period stipulated by the Central Election Commission. The announcement shall include the total number of citizens included on the voters' list; the number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes for and against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; and the surname, name, father's name, position (occupation), party status, and place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **IX. Procedure for Tallying and Publishing the Results of Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

##### **Article 50. Registration of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

On the basis of protocols from the election commissions, the Central Election Commission for Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet shall register the elected deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The Central Election Commission may rule the elections invalid if any violations of the present Law took place in the course of the election or in the counting of the votes or the determination of the results of the elections, and refuse to register the deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet.

##### **Article 51. Publication of the Results of Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

The Central Election Commission shall publish an announcement of the results of the elections in the Georgian SSR and the list of elected deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, not later than within a ten-day period, in alphabetical order, indicating the surname, name, father's name, position (occupation), party status, and place of work and residence of the deputy, and the election district.

##### **Article 52. Certificate and Badge of the Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet**

After publishing the list of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet as registered by the Central Election Commission, the district election commission shall issue a certificate of election to each elected deputy.

After confirmation of the credentials of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the certificates of election that were issued to them shall be replaced by a certificate of deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet. Deputies shall also be issued the badge, "Deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet."

#### **X. Run-off Election, Repeat Elections, and the Election of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to Replace Deputies Removed**

##### **Article 53. Run-Off Election**

If more than one candidate for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet ran in an election district and none of them was elected, the district election commission shall decide whether to hold a run-off in the district between the two candidates for deputy who received the greater number of votes. The district election commission shall notify the Central Election Commission of this and inform voters of the district. A run-off election shall be held in the election district not later than within two days, in compliance with the stipulations of the present Law. An announcement concerning the run-off election shall be published in the press.

A candidate for deputy shall be considered elected if he receives a greater number of votes than the other candidate.

##### **Article 54. Repeat Elections**

If no more than two candidates for deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet ran in the election district and neither one was elected, or if the elections in the election district were ruled inconclusive or invalid, or if a run-off election failed to determine an elected deputy, the Central Election Commission shall direct the district election commission to hold repeat elections in the election district. In doing so, it may decide to hold the elections with precinct election commissions having new membership. The voting shall be conducted in the same election precincts and on the basis of the voters' lists that were compiled for the general elections.

Repeat elections shall be held not later than within a two-month period after the general elections. The formation of election commissions, the nomination of candidates for deputy, registration, and other measures shall be conducted according to procedures stipulated by the present Law and within time periods stipulated by the Central Election Commission. An announcement about the repeat elections shall be published in the press.

##### **Article 55. Holding of Elections of Deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to Replace Ones Removed**

In the event that the credentials of individual deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet are ruled invalid, and also in the event of the recall of a deputy or the revocation of the deputy's credentials prior to the expiration of his term for other reasons, new elections shall be held in the applicable election districts within a three-month period from the time of removal of the deputy. The elections shall be scheduled by the Central Election Commission not later than two months prior to the time they are held and organized in compliance with the stipulations of the present Law. Moreover, precinct election commissions shall be formed one month prior to the elections.

In the event that a deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet is removed less than a year before the expiration of the term of office of deputies to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the election of a deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to replace one removed shall not be held.

G. Gumbaridze, chairman,  
Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium;  
V. Kvaratskheliya, secretary,  
Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium  
Tbilisi. 18 November 1989

[Georgian SSR Law on Supreme Soviet Elections  
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## Kazakh SSR

### Kazakh SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

18300815A Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA  
in Russian 23 Aug 89 pp 1-3

["Draft Law of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic on  
Elections of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies"]

#### [Text] I. General Statutes

#### Article 1. The Foundations of Elections of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.

In single-seat electoral okrugs, elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies are held on the basis of a universal, equal, and direct electoral right by secret ballot. For the purpose of providing representation of public organizations according to the norms established by this Law, one-quarter of the people's deputies of the Kazakh SSR is elected from public organizations—the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, trade unions, cooperative organizations, the Leninist Communist Youth League of Kazakhstan, associations of women, war veterans, labor veterans, and scientific workers, creative unions, the Kazakh SSR Lawyers' Union, public organizations in the foreign relations sphere, and other organizations created in the manner established by law, and possessing republic organs. Elections of people's deputies from public organizations are held at the congresses, conferences or plenums of their republic organs.

#### Article 2. The Universal Electoral Right

The elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from the electoral okrugs are universal; residents of the Kazakh SSR who have reached the age of 18 have the right to elect and be elected. All delegates to the congresses, conferences or plenum participants of the republic organs of public organizations have the right to elect Kazakh SSR people's deputies from the public organizations.

Any direct or indirect limitations of Kazakh SSR residents' electoral rights dependent upon origin, social or

property status, racial or national affiliation, sex, education, attitude toward religion, length of residency in a given locality, or type or nature of occupation, is forbidden.

Mentally ill citizens who have been declared legally incompetent, individuals detained in locations and deprived of their liberty, and those sent for forced treatment by a court order do not participate in elections.

#### Article 3. The Equal Electoral Right.

The elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from the electoral okrugs are equal: The elector has one vote in the electoral okrug; voters participate in elections on an equal basis.

In Kazakh SSR people's deputy elections from public organizations, each delegate to its congress, conference, or plenum participant has one vote, and they all participate in elections on an equal basis.

Men and women have equal electoral rights. Military servicemen have election rights equal to those of all citizens.

Servicemen enjoy suffrage on a level with all citizens.

#### Article 4. Direct Suffrage

Elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from the constituencies are direct: Kazakh people's deputies are elected directly by the citizens.

Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations are directly elected by the delegates to their congresses, conferences, or plenum participants of their republic organs.

#### Article 5. Secret Balloting.

Balloting for Kazakh SSR elections to people's deputies is secret; control over the manifestation of the will of the voters is not permitted.

#### Article 6. The Conduct of Elections by Electoral Commissions.

Electoral commissions ensure the conduct of elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies; they are formed of representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, residence-based voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings.

#### Article 7. Glasnost While Preparing for and Holding Elections to Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.

The preparation for and holding of elections to Kazakh SSR people's deputies is performed by electoral commissions, labor collectives, and public organizations, openly and publicly.

The electoral commissions inform the citizens of their work, of their formation of electoral okrugs; the composition, location, and term of work of the electoral commissions; the list of voters; the course of the nomination,

the results of the registration of candidates for deputy, biographic data on registered candidates, and the results of the balloting for each candidate, and the results of the elections.

Representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, residence voters' meetings, servicemen in military units, organs of state power, authorized officials, as well as representatives of the press, television, and radio have the right to be present at electoral commission meetings, including the registration of candidates for deputy, the sealing and opening of ballot boxes, during the voting, while tallying votes, and ascertaining election results. The authority of the indicated representatives is identified by the appropriate document, or by the decision of the labor collective, the residence voters' meeting, or the military unit servicemen's meeting. The appropriate electoral commissions must be informed no less than two days before elections of the representatives' intention to be in attendance on election day during balloting or at the electoral commissions' meetings. Interference in the electoral commissions' work on the part of the representatives indicated is not permitted.

The mass information media cast light upon the preparations for and conduct of the elections to Kazakh SSR people's deputy in the Kazakh, Russian, and other languages used by the population; their representatives are guaranteed free access to all meetings and sessions associated with the elections. Electoral commissions, state and public organizations, and labor collectives present them with the information associated with preparing for and holding the elections.

**Article 8. The Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Public Organizations in Preparing for and Holding Elections for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

Kazakh SSR citizens participate in preparing for and holding elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies both through labor collectives, collectives of students and those training in higher and secondary special educational institutions, public organizations, residence voters' meetings, military unit servicemen meetings, conferences of okrug voters, and directly as well.

Labor collectives and public organizations participate in preparing for and holding the elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies both through their electoral commissions and directly.

**Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

The right to nominate candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from electoral okrugs belongs to the labor collectives, collectives of students and those training in higher and secondary special educational institutions, public organizations, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings, and the nomination of candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations, to their republic organs, which

consider the proposals for candidates for deputy coming from the local organs, subordinate collectives, and members of these organizations.

**Article 10. The Incompatibility of Kazakh SSR People's Deputy Status with an Official Position.**

Individuals in the body of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers, with the exception of the Kazakh Council of Ministers chairman, chiefs of Kazakh SSR departments, deputy chiefs of ministries, state committees, and Kazakh SSR departments, the chairman and members of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Court, the Kazakh SSR chief state arbitrator and state arbitrators, the chairman and members of the Kazakh SSR committee for constitutional oversight, cannot be Kazakh SSR people's deputies at the same time.

**Article 11. Expenditures Associated with the Election of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies. The Material Provisions for the Elections.**

Expenditures associated with the preparation for and conduct of the elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies are incurred only at state expense. Enterprises, institutions, and organizations, state and public organs allocate to electoral commissions the rooms and equipment necessary for the preparation for and conduct of the elections.

Candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies, their proxies, and voters will not bear expenses associated with preparing for and holding the elections.

**Article 12. Accountability for Violation of the Legislation on the Election of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

Those individuals who hinder means of force, deceit, threat or any other means the Kazakh SSR citizen's free exercise of his right to elect or be elected a Kazakh SSR people's deputy, to conduct a pre-electoral campaign, as well as electoral commission members, officials of state and public organs who forge electoral documents, are witting of incorrect vote tallies, violate secret balloting, or have allowed other violations of this Law, bear the responsibility established by law. Individuals who publish or otherwise disseminate false information concerning a candidate for deputy, or commit illegal acts to destroy the candidate's dignity will also be held accountable.

**II. The Order of Designating Elections and the Formation of Electoral Okrugs**

**Article 13. The Designation of Elections for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

Elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies are begun by the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet no later than four months before the expiration date of the authority of the Kazakh SSR people's deputies.

Election of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations are conducted at congresses, conferences,



or plenums of their republic organs no earlier than 20 days before election day, and no later than the day of the elections in the electoral okrugs.

Reports on the day of elections in the electoral okrugs, the date and location of the congresses and conferences of public organizations or their republic organs' plenums are published in the press.

#### **Article 14. Formation of Electoral Okrugs**

A total of 270 electoral okrugs are formed for the election of Kazakh SSR people's deputies.

Electoral okrugs are formed by the Central Electoral Commission for the election of Kazakh SSR people's deputies for the representation of oblast, Alma-Ata, and Leninskiy city soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

The electoral okrugs for election of Kazakh SSR people's deputies are formed across the entire Kazakh SSR territory in units with approximately equal populations of voters, with consideration for the administrative-territorial division. The norm of voters for the electoral okrug for all elections is determined by the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet.

The list of electoral okrugs with the indication of their borders, voter population, and location of okrug electoral commissions is published by the Central Electoral Commission no less than 110 days before election day.

#### **Article 15. Norms of Representation of Public Organizations During Election of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

A total of 90 Kazakh SSR people's deputies are elected from the republic's public organizations:

- from the Communist Party of Kazakhstan—18 deputies;
- from the trade unions of Kazakhstan—18 deputies;
- from cooperative organizations (kolkhozes, consumer societies, and other citizens' cooperative associations)—10 deputies;
- from the Leninist Communist Youth League of Kazakhstan—10 deputies;
- from the women's councils uniting the Kazakh republic council of women—6 deputies;
- from associations of scientific workers (of academic institutions, scientific societies, and associations), the unions of Kazakh SSR scientific and engineering societies, and the Kazakh society of inventors and rationalizers—8 deputies;
- from the Kazakh creative unions (the Architects' Union, the Designers' Union, the Journalists' Union, the Cinematographers' Union, the Composers' Union, the Writers' Union, the Theatrical Workers' Union, the Artists' Union)—8 deputies;

—from the Kazakh SSR Lawyers' Union, public organizations from the field of foreign relations, and others created under the order established by law and having general republic organs of public organizations—6 deputies.

Within the limits of the indicated norms, the representation of each public organization is established at a joint meeting of these organizations' leading electoral organs or their authorized representatives, convened by the Central Electoral Commission, and, in the event of disagreement, by the Central Electoral Commission.

Public organizations in the form of their republic organs inform the Central Electoral Commission of their intention to participate in elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies no later than on the 7th day following the designation of elections.

### **III. Election Districts.**

#### **Article 16. Formation of Election Districts.**

Election districts are formed from electoral okrugs in rayons and cities in order to conduct voting and tallying of votes during elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies.

Election districts are also formed in military units and are part of the electoral okrugs based upon the units' location.

In sanatoriums, rest homes, and other in-patient treatment institutions, in locations where citizens are situated in remote regions with difficult access, as well as on ships situated at sea on election day, election districts may be formed which are part of the electoral okrugs according to their location, or according to the ship's port of record. The okrug electoral commission for elections to Kazakh SSR people's deputies resolves the issue of treatment of election districts formed on ships at sea on election day.

#### **Article 17. The Order and Norm for Formation of Election Districts.**

Election districts are formed by rayon, city (except cities with rayon subdivisions), and city rayon soviets of people's deputies, or by their presidiums, in accordance with the okrug electoral commissions. On ships located at sea on election day, election districts are formed by the appropriate soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums according to the ship's port of record. In military units, election districts are formed by local soviets of people's deputies or by their presidiums at the discretion of the units' or combined forces' commanders.

Election districts are formed no later than two months before the election. In military districts, and well as in regions with difficult access, on ships located at sea on election day, election districts are formed within that same time period, and in exceptional cases, no later than five days before the election.

Election districts are formed with a quantity of no fewer than 20 and no more than 3,000 voters.

The appropriate local soviet of people's deputies or its presidium informs the voters as to the boundaries of each election district, with an indication of the location of the district electoral commission and the polling place.

#### IV. Electoral Commissions.

##### Article 18. The System of Electoral Commissions

—electoral commissions are formed in order to conduct elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies, their review and conduct of elections to replace departed deputies:

—the Central Electoral Commission for elections and review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies;

—the okrug electoral commissions for elections and review of Kazakh SSR People's deputies;

—election district commissions;

—electoral commissions for elections and review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations.

##### Article 19. The Formation of the Central Electoral Commission for Elections and Review of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.

The Central Electoral Commission for elections and review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies is formed of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary, and 21 members by the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet upon the recommendations of the oblast, Alma-Ata and Leninskiy city soviets of people's deputies, or their presidiums, and the republic organs of public organizations, with consideration of the opinions of labor collectives, residence voters' meetings, military unit servicemen's meetings, and public organizations, no later than four months before elections.

The Central Electoral Commission is authorized for a term of five years.

##### Article 20. The Authorization of the Central Electoral Commission for Elections and Review of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.

The Central Electoral Commission:

1) Organizes the preparation for and conduct of the elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies;

2) Exercises control within the entire Kazakh SSR territory over the execution of this Law, and provides for its explication and uniform application; as needed, it presents the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet with concepts of interpretations of this Law;

3) Directs the activity of the electoral commissions; it determines the order for introducing changes into the body of the electoral commission;

4) Forms electoral okrugs;

5) Allocates financial resources among electoral commissions; it controls the provision of space, transportation, and communications to the electoral commissions, and considers other matters of the elections' material and and technical support;

6) Establishes formats of election ballots for elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies, rosters of voters, minutes for pre-election meetings and electoral commission sessions, and other electoral documents, model ballot boxes, electoral commission seals, and the order for preserving electoral documents;

7) Hears the reports of Kazakh SSR ministries, state committees, departments, and other state and public organizations on the issues associated with preparing for and conducting the elections;

8) Controls the provision of equal rights for candidates for deputy;

9) Registers the elected deputies, tallies the final election results throughout the entire republic, publishes a report in the press about the election results and the list of elected Kazakh SSR people's deputies;

10) Reports on its work to the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet;

11) Turns over to the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet mandate commission the documentation necessary to verify the authority of the elected deputies;

12) Resolves matters associated with holding run-off voting and repeat elections;

13) Resolves matters associated with the organization of review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies;

14) Designates elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies to replace departed deputies and ensures their conduct;

15) Considers announcements and grievances concerning the decisions and activities of the electoral commissions, and carries them through to final resolution;

16) Exercises other authority in accordance with this Law and other laws of the Kazakh SSR.

##### Article 21. The Formation of Okrug Electoral Commissions for Elections and Review of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.

An okrug electoral commission is formed of 15 members in each electoral okrug no later than three and 1/2 months before elections.

Labor collectives and their councils, oblast, rayon, city, and city rayon organs of public organizations, residence

voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings or conferences nominate representatives to the body of the okrug electoral commission.

Okrug electoral commissions are formed by the appropriate oblast, Alma-Ata, Leninskiy city soviets of people's deputies, or by their presidiums.

The term of the okrug electoral commissions' authority is five years.

**Article 22. The Authority of the Okrug Electoral Commission for Elections and Review of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

The okrug electoral commission:

- 1) Exercises control over the execution of this Law within the territory of the okrug;
- 2) Aids the organization in the nomination of candidates for deputy;
- 3) Directs the activity of the election district commissions;
- 4) Hears the reports of the executive and managerial organs of the local soviets of people's deputies, and enterprise, institution, and organization managers concerning matters of preparing for and conducting the elections;
- 5) Observes the compilation of lists of voters and their presentation for general familiarization;
- 6) Convenes and conducts conferences of the okrug's voters;
- 7) Informs the voters of the nomination of candidates for deputy;
- 8) Registers candidates nominated for deputy, their proxies, issues them the appropriate identification, and publishes reports about registered candidates in the press;
- 9) Ensures equal rights for candidates for deputy;
- 10) Ensures the publication of posters with biographical data of the candidates for deputy;
- 11) Organizes, together with the labor collectives and public organizations, meetings of candidates for deputies with the voters both in labor collectives and at residences;
- 12) Confirms the text of the election ballot for the electoral okrug, ensures the preparation of ballots, and provides the election district commissions with them;
- 13) Resolves matters of the participation of representatives of labor collectives and public organizations in the work of the electoral commissions;

14) Establishes and publishes in the press the election results from the electoral okrug, and issues identification to the deputies elected;

15) Organizes conduct of run-off voting and repeat elections, as well as elections for a deputy to replace a departed one;

16) Resolves matters associated with conducting a review of a deputy;

17) Considers announcements and grievances against decisions and actions of district electoral commissions, and makes decisions on them;

18) Exercises other authority in accordance with this Law.

**Article 23. The Formation of District Electoral Commissions.**

The district electoral commission is formed of 5-19 members no later than 45 days before the elections.

Representatives to the body of the district electoral commission are nominated by labor collectives or their councils, rayon, city, and city rayon organs of public organizations, their primary organizations, organs of the population's social independent activity, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings. Within large labor collectives, nomination may take place within shops, units, shifts, and other subdivisions.

District electoral commissions are formed by rayon, city, (except in cities with rayon subdivisions), and city rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums. The term of authority of the district electoral commissions expires after the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet recognizes the authority of the elected people's deputies.

**Article 24. The Authority of the District Electoral Commission.**

The District electoral commissions:

- 1) Compiles a list of the district's voters;
- 2) Familiarizes the voters with the list of voters, accepts and considers irregularities on the list, and resolves matters of introducing the appropriate changes on it;
- 3) Informs the voters of registered candidates for deputy, the election day, and the polling place;
- 4) Ensures the preparation of rooms for voting, the making of the voting booth and boxes;
- 5) Organizes the voting in the election district on election day;
- 6) Tallies the votes cast in the election district;
- 7) Considers announcements and grievances on issues of election preparations and balloting organization, and makes decisions on them;
- 8) Exercises other authority in accordance with this Law.

**Article 25. The Formation of Electoral Commissions for Elections and Review of the Kazakh SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations.**

Electoral commissions for elections and review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations are formed of 5-11 members by the republic organs of these organizations in the electoral okrugs no later than three and 1/2 months before election day.

If necessary, several public organizations may form a general electoral commission.

The term of authority of the electoral commission is five years.

**Article 26. The Authority of the Electoral Commission for Elections and Review of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations.**

The electoral commission for elections and review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations:

- 1) Registers the candidates nominated for deputy and their proxies, and issues them the appropriate identification;
- 2) Publishes a list of candidates for deputy;
- 3) Summarizes proposals and comments expressed to the candidates for deputy by local organs, local collectives, and members of public organizations, and by citizens, and reports on the proposals and comments to the public organization's congress or conference, or to the plenum of its republic organ;
- 4) Confirms the text of the election ballot for the elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies;
- 5) Ensures the preparation of rooms, booths, and boxes for balloting, and organizes voting at the public organization's congress or conference, or at the plenum of its republic organ;
- 6) Tallies the votes, determines and publishes the election results, and issues identification to the candidates elected;
- 7) Organizes run-off voting, repeat elections, and elections of deputies to replace those departed;
- 8) Resolves matters related to conducting a review of the deputies;
- 9) Exercises other authority in accordance with this Law.

**Article 27. The Organization of the Work of the Electoral Commissions.**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the electoral commission are elected at the first meeting of the corresponding commission.

The voters are made aware of the decision to form an electoral commission and the commission's decision on

the choice of a leader. Electoral commission meetings are competent if no less than two-thirds of the commission's general membership are present at them. Commission members disagreeing with its decision have the right to express their own opinion, which is appended to the minutes of the electoral commission meeting in written form.

The decisions of the electoral commissions adopted within the limits of their competence are binding upon all state and public organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

The decisions and actions of the electoral commissions may be appealed to a superior electoral commission, and in cases provided for by this Law, they may also be appealed in court.

At the resolution of the commission, during the period of preparing for and holding the elections, one of the members of the okrug electoral commission, including the chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary may be freed from execution of production or service obligations while retaining his average monthly salary at the expense of the resources allocated for conducting the elections; for the district election commission, for a period of one month before election day, at the resolution of the appropriate electoral commission.

If the need arises, changes may be made in the commission's composition by the organ which formed it.

**Article 28. Assistance to the Electoral Commissions in the Execution of Their Authority.**

State and public organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obligated to assist electoral commissions in the exercise of their authority, and to grant them the information and materials necessary for their work.

The electoral commission has the right to address matters associated with preparing for holding elections to state and public organs, to enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials, who are obligated to consider the matter raised and give the electoral commission a reply within a three day period.

**V. Lists of Voters.**

**Article 29. The Lists of Voters and the Order for Compiling Them.**

A list of voters is compiled in each electoral district and is signed by the chairman and secretary of the district electoral commission. Representatives of labor collectives and the public may be brought in to participate in the compilation of the list.

The executive committees of the city, rayon, city rayon, settlement, village and aul [village] soviets of people's deputies ensure the inventory of voters, and transfer to

the district electoral commissions the information concerning the voters living in the corresponding territory necessary for the compilation of the lists of voters.

Lists of servicemen-voters posted to military units, as well as family members of servicemen and other voters living in regions situated in military units are compiled on the basis of the data provided by the commanders of the military units. Military servicemen living off military units are included in residence-based lists of voters on a general basis.

Lists of voters in election districts formed in sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment institutions, as well as on ships located at sea on election day are compiled on the basis of data presented by the managers of the institutions indicated and the ships' captains.

The list indicates voters' surnames in an order convenient for the organization of balloting.

#### **Article 30. The Order of Citizens' Inclusion in the List of Voters**

All Kazakh SSR citizens who have reached age 18 by or on election day, and who are living permanently or temporarily in the given election district at the moment the list is compiled and who have the right to vote are included on the list of voters.

A voter may be included in the list of voters only in one election district.

Citizens who arrive in the election district after the list of voters is presented for general familiarization are included in a supplemental list.

#### **Article 31. Citizens' Familiarization With the List of Voters and the Right to Appeal Irregularities on the List of Voters**

The lists of voters are presented for general familiarization 15 days before the elections, and in election districts formed in sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment institutions, two days before the elections.

Citizens are ensured the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the list of voters in the room of the district electoral commission, and to verify that the record of surname, name, and patronymic and other information is correct.

Each citizen has the right to appeal non-inclusion or incorrect inclusion in the list, or exclusion from the list, as well as any inaccuracies concerning the voter's data as indicated on the list. An application on irregularity on the list is examined by the district election commission, which is obligated to immediately review the application, make the necessary changes in the list, or give the applicant a copy of the grounds for the decision to reject his application within a two-day period, up to the eve of election day, and election day. This decision may be

appealed in the rayon (city) people's court no later than five days before the election; the court is obligated to review the appeal within a three-day period. The decision of the rayon (city) court is final. The correction to the list of voters is immediately implemented by the district electoral commission in accordance with the court's decision.

#### **Article 32. The List of Those Voting in the Elections of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations, and the Order of its Compilation.**

The list of those voting in the elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations is compiled by the public organization's republic organ, and is given to the electoral commission no later than three days before the elections.

The list of those voting includes delegates of the public organization's congress or conference, or the participants in the plenum of its republic organ. All questions associated with inclusion in the list of those voting are decided by the electoral commission. The list indicates the surnames of those voting in alphabetical order.

#### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies**

##### **Article 33. The Order of Nominating Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies in Electoral Okrugs.**

The nomination of candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies in electoral okrugs begins three months before the elections and ends two months before the election.

The nomination of candidates for deputy is conducted at the meetings (conferences) of labor collectives, collectives of students and those training in secondary and higher educational institutions which number no fewer than 300 persons. By agreement, and in accordance with the appropriate okrug electoral commission, labor collectives having a lesser number of workers conduct nomination of candidates for deputy at joint meetings (conferences) with other small labor collectives.

The nomination of candidates for deputy in electoral okrugs from public organizations is implemented at conferences and plenums of their oblast, rayon, city, and city rayon organs.

Residence voters' meetings for nomination of candidates for deputy are convened by okrug electoral commissions jointly with the appropriate soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

Servicemen's meetings (conferences) for nomination of candidates for deputy are convened by the military units' command. Nomination of candidates for deputy is conducted in military units numbering no fewer than 300 servicemen.

The meeting is considered competent if more than half of the total number of members of the labor collective, student and trainee collective or servicemen participate

in it. A residence voters' meeting is competent if no fewer than 300 voters living in the territory of the electoral okrug are in attendance.

At the meetings (conferences), conditions are created for the discussion of an unlimited number of candidacies. Each participant in the meeting (conference) has the right to introduce a proposal on the candidates for deputy, to participate in their discussion, to support the proposed candidacies, or to introduce objections.

One candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy is nominated from the labor collective, collective of students and trainees, public organization, residence voters' meeting, and military unit servicemen's voters' meeting.

The decision on the nomination of candidates for deputy is made at the meeting either by open or secret ballot. The meeting (conference) determines the system of voting and other procedural matters.

The candidate is considered to have been nominated if over one-half of the meeting's (conference's) participants or the majority of the entire body of the corresponding organ of the public organization voted for him. Minutes are kept on the nomination of the candidate for deputy. The candidate for deputy is informed of the meeting's (conference's decision) within two days.

As a rule, citizens working or residing in the territory of the corresponding electoral okrug are nominated as candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies.

A Kazakh SSR citizen cannot be a deputy in more than two soviets of people's deputies simultaneously.

#### **Article 34. The Conference of the Electoral Okrug**

Voters' conferences may be conducted as convened by the appropriate soviet of people's deputies, its presidium, or the okrug electoral commission in order to nominate representatives to the body of the okrug electoral commission, discuss the candidates nominated for Kazakh SSR people's deputy in the okrug, to make decisions on their presentation for registration, to develop mandates for the candidates, to allow the candidates to account for themselves to the voters, and to resolve matters of initiating a recall of a people's deputy.

An okrug voters' conference is convened by the okrug electoral commission for the discussion of candidates nominated for Kazakh SSR people's deputy and the decision to register them; this conference is conducted after the nomination to candidates for deputy has finished.

The delegation of representatives to the conference is implemented by the labor collectives, collectives of students and trainees, organs of public organizations, residence voters' meetings, military unit servicemen's meetings, and by the nominated candidates for deputy, in equal quantities in the norms established by the okrug electoral commission, with each candidate for deputy

having the same number of representatives. At least half conference's participants must be voters of the given electoral okrug.

The voters' conference delegates are presented with a list of all the candidates for deputy nominated in the given okrug, and basic information about them.

At the conference, the candidates for deputy are presented with the opportunity to speak on the program for their future activity. Any conference participant has the right to discuss the candidates for deputy and to make his proposals about them.

Any number of candidates for deputy are presented for registration. The system of voting (open or secret) is determined by the conference. A decision is considered to have been accepted if over one-half of the of the conference participants vote for it. The conference minutes reflect the results of the discussion of the candidates. The decision of the conference may be appealed to the either the okrug electoral commission or the Central Electoral Commission within three days.

The delegation of representatives to a okrug voters' conference convened to consider other matters in its competence is implemented according to the norms established by the okrug electoral commission or the appropriate soviet of people's deputies or its presidium, of a proportional voter population residing in localities in the electoral okrug.

#### **Article 35. The Order of Nominating Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations.**

The nomination of candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations is conducted at the plenums of their republic organs in accordance with the requirements of this Law. Plenums for nomination of candidates for deputy are held in the appropriate public organization no later than two months before election day.

Conditions for the nomination of an unlimited number of candidacies are created during the nomination of candidates for deputy. The plenum's participants may offer any candidacy for discussion as a candidate for deputy, may participate in the discussion of candidates for deputy, may support the proposed candidacies or may introduce proposals to challenge them.

Any member of a public organization may be nominated as a candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy from a public organization, including religious figures.

The decision on the nomination of candidates for deputy is made by open or secret ballot. The system of voting is determined by the plenums of the public organizations' republic organs. The candidates are considered to have been nominated if more than one-half of the members of the corresponding organs vote for them. The candidates for deputy are informed of the decision made by the plenums of the public organizations' republic organs.

Decisions are made at the plenums concerning the convocation of republic organ congresses, conferences, or plenums for holding elections of Kazakh SSR people's deputies from the given public organizations.

**Article 36. Registration of Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

Candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from electoral okrugs are registered by the okrug electoral commission as nominated by the labor collectives, collectives of students and trainees, organs of public organizations, residence voters' meetings and military unit servicemen's meetings which have nominated candidates for deputy, or conference of the okrugs' voters, if one has been held.

Candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations are registered by electoral commissions for elections from public organizations at the nomination of their republic organs.

Any number of candidates for deputy are presented for registration in the electoral okrug.

Registration of candidates for deputy from the electoral okrugs begins two months before election day and ends one month before election day, and registration for candidates from public organizations, no later than on the fifth day after the plenums of their republic organs are held for the nomination of candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies.

A decision is made to register candidates for deputy if the following documents are present: the minutes of the meetings (conferences) or the decision of the public organization's organ on the nomination of candidates for deputy for the given electoral okrug, the minutes of the okrug voters' conference, if one was held, as well as the declarations of the candidates for deputy of their consent to be on the ballot in the given electoral okrug or from the public organization. If they are nominated as candidates for deputy, individuals enumerated in Article 10 of this Law indicate in their declarations their intent to vacate posts held by them in the event of their election as deputies, or they will give notice of the withdrawal of their candidacy.

The electoral commission compiles minutes of the registration of candidates for deputy, which are presented, together with the declarations of the candidates for deputy, to the Central Electoral Commission within five days.

Rejection of registration may be appealed to the Central Electoral Commission within three days.

A candidate for deputy may be on the ballot in only one electoral okrug or from one public organization at any time.

A candidate for deputy cannot be a member of the Central Electoral Commission, nor of an okrug or district electoral commission, nor in the electoral commission for elections from a public organization. An individual nominated as candidate for deputy who is a member of one of the aforementioned commissions is considered to be relieved of his responsibilities in the commission from the moment of his registration as a candidate for deputy.

The appropriate electoral commission publishes in the press no later than on the fourth day following registration of candidates for deputy a report on the registration indicating the surname, name, patronymic, year of birth, party status, education, position held (occupation), workplace and residence of each candidate for deputy.

The registered candidates for deputy are issued identification.

**Article 37. Revocation of the Decision to Nominate a Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy. The Candidate's Withdrawal of his Candidacy.**

The labor collective, the collective of students and trainees, the organ of a public organization, a residence voters' meeting, a military unit servicemen's meeting, or a public organization's republic organ which have nominated a candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy have the right at any time before the elections to revoke their decision on the nomination of a candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy. The decision in this matter is made in the order stipulated for the nomination of candidates for deputy, and is presented to the appropriate electoral commission.

At any time before the elections, the candidate for deputy may withdraw his candidacy, having declared this to the appropriate electoral commission.

The appropriate electoral commission informs the population of the electoral okrug or organ of the public organization of the revocation of the decision to nominate a candidate for deputy or of the candidate's withdrawal of his candidacy.

**Article 38. The Order of Nominating Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies to Replace Departing Deputies.**

In the event of the departure of a candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy after the end of the registration period, if no other candidates remain in the electoral okrug, the okrug electoral commission appeals to the labor collectives, collectives of students and trainees, public organizations, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings with a proposal to nominate new candidates for deputy. If the removal of candidates occurs less than 15 days before the elections, the elections of the deputy from the corresponding electoral okrug is held two months after the regular elections.

In the event of the departure of the candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy from a public organization, if the total number of remaining candidates falls below the number of seats, the corresponding electoral commission appeals to the public organization's republic organ with a proposal on the nomination of new candidates for deputy.

The nomination of candidates for deputy to replace those departed is conducted in the order established by this Law.

#### **Article 39. The Election Ballot.**

The ballot includes in alphabetical order all registered candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputy, indicating the surname, name, patronymic, position held (occupation), workplace, and residence of each candidate for deputy. The election ballot is printed in the languages used by the population of the electoral okrug, and is distributed to district electoral commissions no later than five days before the election.

### **VII. Guarantees of the Activity of the Candidates for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy.**

#### **Article 40. The Right of the Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy to Participate in the Election Campaign.**

From the moment of their nomination, candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputy participate in the pre-election campaign on an equal basis.

Candidates for people's deputies have the right to speak at pre-election and other meetings, conferences, sessions, in the press and on television and radio.

State and public organs, managers of enterprises, institutions, organizations, and organs of the population's social independent action are obligated to render the candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy assistance in organizing meetings with voters and members of public organizations, and in receiving the necessary reference and informational materials.

#### **Article 41. The Pre-election Program of the Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy.**

The candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy speaks on the program of his future activity. The program of the candidate for deputy must not contradict the USSR Constitution or the Kazakh SSR Constitution, or other USSR and Kazakh SSR Laws. In the event that he is elected, the candidate for deputy is responsible to the voters for the execution of his pre-election program.

#### **Article 42. The Proxies of the Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy.**

A candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy may have up to five proxies to help him conduct his pre-election program, campaign for his election as deputy, represent

his interests in mutual relations with state and public organs, voters, members of public organizations, and in electoral commissions.

A candidate for deputy determines his proxies at his discretion, and reports on them for registration in the okrug electoral commission or in the electoral commission for elections from public organizations. After registration, the electoral commission issues the proxies identification.

The proxy may not belong to the corresponding electoral commission.

The proxy's authority may be revoked at any time before the elections, both at the recommendation of the candidate for deputy, and by his own declaration. The okrug electoral commission is informed of this. The proxy's authority expires after the final election results.

#### **Article 43. Pre-election Campaigning.**

Candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputy encounter their voters both at meetings and in other ways convenient for the voters. Voters' meetings are organized by the electoral commission jointly with the corresponding soviet of people's deputies or its presidium, and public organizations. Voters are informed in advance of the time and place of meetings and encounters.

Labor collectives, collectives of students and trainees, public organizations, residence voters, and military unit servicemen which have nominated candidates for deputy are given the right to unhampered campaigning for their candidates after their nomination. They are granted access to rooms equipped for meetings and rallies, and the mass information media for conducting pre-election campaigning.

Kazakh SSR citizens, labor collectives, and public organizations are guaranteed the opportunity for free and multilateral discussion of the political, business, and personal qualities of the candidates for deputy, as well as the right to campaign for or against a candidate at meetings, in the press, and on television and radio.

The pre-election campaign must be conducted within the framework of businesslike, constructive discussion, barring incidents of disrespectful attitudes toward one or another candidate for deputy.

No campaigning is permitted on election day.

#### **Article 44. The Release of the Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy from Production or Service Responsibilities for Participation in Pre-election Measures.**

After registration, the candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy is released from production or service responsibilities while holding meetings with voters, speaking at pre-election meetings, rallies, on television and radio; he retains his average salary at the expense of the resources allocated to conduct elections.



**Article 45. The Right of the Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy to Free Transportation.**

After registration, the candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy has the right to free transportation in all forms of passenger transport (with the exception of taxis) within the boundaries of the corresponding electoral okrug. The candidate for deputy residing beyond the limits of the electoral okrug has the same right to transportation to the electoral okrug and return to his residence.

The system and payment for transportation of the candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputy from public organizations for participation in the pre-electoral measures is determined by these public organizations' republic organs.

**Article 46. The Immunity of the Candidate for Kazakh SSR People's Deputy.**

The candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy cannot be held criminally liable, arrested, subjected to measures of administrative punishment, or have a court order imposed upon him without the consent of the Central Electoral Commission.

**VIII. The Order of Voting and Tallying Election Results****Article 47. The Time and Place of Voting**

During elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from electoral okrugs, voting is held on election day from 7:00 to 20:00 local time.

At the recommendation of the appropriate soviet of people's deputies, its presidium, or district electoral commissions, okrug electoral commissions may extend the voting time in individual electoral districts where, for production reasons, a portion of the voters cannot participate in the voting during the time established by this Law on Elections. Thus, voting may begin no earlier than 6:00 and end no later than 22:00. The decision to change the time of the beginning and end of voting in the election district is made by the okrug electoral commission of the corresponding okrug in whose territory the given election district is located, no later than five days before the elections. The district electoral commission informs the voters no later than five days before the elections.

In election districts formed on ships located at sea on election day, in military units, and in remote regions with difficult access, the district election commission may announce the voting as being final if all voters included on the list have voted. The list of such districts is confirmed by the okrug electoral commission no later than five days before the elections.

Voting is conducted at a public organization's congress or conference or the plenum of its republic organ while voting for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations. For this, expanded plenums may be held,

with the participation of representatives of other election organs of these organizations. In such cases, all plenum participants are granted the right of the deciding vote. Elections for people's deputies may also be held at unified congresses or conferences, or at the republic organ plenums of certain public organizations.

**Article 48. The Organization of Voting.**

Voting is conducted in specially designated rooms which must be equipped with a sufficient quantity of booths or rooms for secret balloting, with places for issuing election ballots designated, and boxes for the votes set up such that those voting must pass by the booths or rooms for secret balloting as they approach the boxes.

The appropriate district electoral commission or public organization electoral commission bears the responsibility for the organization of balloting, ensuring the secrecy of the voters' will, the rooms' equipment, and supporting the necessary order in them.

Before the start of voting on election day, the ballot boxes are verified, sealed, or stamped by the chairman of the corresponding electoral commission in the presence of the commission members.

Each voter, congress or conference delegate, or plenum participant votes personally; voting on behalf of other individuals is prohibited. Election ballots are issued upon presentation of a passport or other identification by the corresponding electoral commission on the basis of the election district's list of voters or the list of voters at the congress or conference of the public organization, or plenum of its republic organ. The issuance of election ballots is noted either in the list of voters or in the list of those casting ballots.

In cases where individual voters cannot go to the polling place for reasons including their state of health, at their request, the district electoral commission entrusts certain commission members to organize voting in these voters' place of residence, which is noted in the list of voters.

**Article 49. Conducting the Voting.**

The election ballots are filled out by those casting ballots in the booth or room for secret balloting. The presence of anyone other than the person voting is prohibited while the ballot is being filled out. A voter who does not have the capacity to fill out the ballot independently has the right to invite into the booth or room for secret balloting another individual of his choosing, other than a member of the electoral commission.

The voter crosses out on the ballot the surnames of the candidates against whom he is voting, and drops the completed ballot in the ballot box.

**Article 50. Tallying the Votes in the Election District.**

The tally of votes in the election district is done for each candidate for deputy individually.

The ballot boxes are unsealed by the district electoral commission after the commission chairman has declared the end of the voting. Unsealing the boxes before the end of the voting is prohibited. Before the ballot boxes are unsealed, all unused election ballots are counted and canceled by the district electoral commission.

The district electoral commission determines the total number of voters based upon the lists of voters for the district, and the number of voters who received ballots. On the basis of the ballots located in the ballot box, the commission determines: the total number of voters who participated in the voting; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each of the candidates for deputy; the number of ballots recognized as invalid. Votes for surnames written in supplementally on the ballot by voters are not counted.

Non-standard election ballots, and ballots in which more than one candidate has been left are invalidated. In the event that the surnames of all candidates for deputy have been crossed off the ballot, it is considered valid, that is, the voter has voted against each candidate. In the event that any doubt arises as to the validity of the election ballot, the matter is resolved by the district electoral commission by means of voting.

The results of the tallying of votes are considered at the meeting of the district electoral commission and are entered into the minutes, which are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members, and are sent to the appropriate okrug electoral commission in the order established by the Central Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 51. Ascertaining the Results of the Elections in the Electoral Okrug.**

On the basis of the minutes of the district electoral commissions, the okrug electoral commission determines: The total number of voters in the okrug; the number of voters who received ballots; the number of voters who participated in the voting; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each of the candidates for deputy; the number of ballots invalidated.

The candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy who received more than half of the votes of the voters who participated in the elections is considered to have been elected.

The okrug electoral commission may invalidate the election based upon the admission of violations of this Law during the elections or the tallying of votes.

The elections are nullified if less than half of the voters on the list of voters participated in them, and in the case of the removal of a candidate for deputy, if one candidate had been registered in the okrug.

The election results in the electoral okrug are established at a meeting of the okrug electoral commission, and are entered in to the minutes, which are signed by the

chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members, and are sent to the Central Electoral Commission in the order which it establishes.

A report of the results of the elections in the electoral okrug is published in the press by the appropriate okrug electoral commission in the time periods established by the Central Electoral Commission. The report indicates: the total number of citizens included in the lists of voters; the number of voters who participated in the voting; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; the surname, name, patronymic, education, position held (occupation), party status, workplace, and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **Article 52. Tallying the Votes and Establishing the Results of the Elections for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies from Public Organizations.**

The tally of the votes in elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations is done by the electoral commissions for elections from public organizations for each candidate for deputy, and in the order established by this Law for the district electoral commissions.

Non-standard ballots are invalidated. If doubts arise as to the validity of an election ballot, the matter is decided by a vote of the electoral commission.

The candidate who received the greatest number of votes in accordance with the number of seats, and more than half the votes of the public organizations' congress or conference delegates or plenum members from their public organs which participated in the voting, is considered to have been elected.

The elections are nullified if less than half of the congress or conference delegate from public organizations, or plenum participants from their public organs included in the list of those voting participate in the elections.

The election results are established at a meeting of the electoral commission and are entered into the minutes, which are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members, and are sent to the Central Electoral Commission in the order which it establishes.

A report of the results of the elections of people's deputies is published in the press by the electoral commissions for elections from public organizations in the time periods established by the Central Electoral Commission. The report indicates: the total number of the public organization's congress or conference participants, or plenum participants from its republic organ who participated in the voting; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each candidate; the surname, name, patronymic, education, position held (occupation), party status, workplace, and residence of the elected deputy the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each candidate.

# **IX. The Order for Conducting and Publishing the Results of the Elections for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

## **Article 53. Registration of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies**

On the basis of the minutes it receives from the electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission for election and review of Kazakh SSR people's deputies registers the elected Kazakh SSR people's deputies.

The Central Electoral Commission may invalidate the elections if violations of this Law took place during the course of the elections or counting of the votes, and refuse to register a Kazakh SSR people's deputy.

## **Article 54. Publication of the Results of the Elections of Kazakh SSR People's Deputies.**

The Central Electoral Commission publishes in the press a report on the results of the election for the entire republic, and a list of the elected Kazakh SSR people's deputies no later than 15 days after the elections, in alphabetical order, indicating the deputy's surname, name, patronymic, position held (occupation), party status, workplace, and residence, and the electoral district or public organization from which he was elected deputy.

## **Article 55. The Kazakh SSR People's Deputy Identification and Lapel Pin.**

After the publication in the press of the list of Kazakh SSR people's deputies registered by the Central Electoral Commission, the okrug electoral commission, and the electoral commission for elections from public organizations issues each elected deputy identification of his election.

After the confirmation of the elected deputies' authority by the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet, the identification issued to them is exchanged for the identification of the Kazakh SSR people's deputy. The deputy is also issued a "Kazakh SSR People's Deputy" lapel pin.

# **X. Run-off Voting, Repeat Elections, and Elections for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies to Replace Deputies Who Have Been Removed.**

## **Article 56. Run-off Voting.**

If more than two candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies were on the ballot, and not one of them was elected, the okrug electoral commission decides on holding run-off voting in the okrug with the two candidates for deputy who received the greatest number of votes. The okrug electoral commission informs the Central Electoral Commission and the okrug voters of this. Run-off voting in the electoral okrug are conducted no later than two weeks later, in observance of the requirements of this Law.

Run-off voting in elections for Kazakh SSR people's deputies from public organizations is held in the event that an equal number of votes is cast for individual

candidates for deputy, preventing the determination of the deputies election. Run-off voting for the given candidates for deputy is held at the public organizations' congresses and conferences, or at the plenums of their republic organs on the same day, or the following day, in observance of the requirements of this Law.

The candidate for Kazakh SSR people's deputy who received the greatest number of the ballots of the voters, public organizations' congress or conference delegates, or their republic organ plenum participants who voted, is considered to have been elected in run-off voting with regard to the remaining candidates.

If one of the candidates on the ballot in the electoral okrug for some reason departs before the run-off voting, voting is held with one candidate. In this case, in order to be elected, the candidate for deputy must receive more than half the votes cast by the voters who participate in the voting.

Repeat elections are conducted by the appropriate okrug and district electoral commissions with their previous membership, in the same electoral districts, and with the same lists of voters.

## **Article 57. Repeat Elections.**

If no more than two candidates for Kazakh SSR people's deputies were on the ballot in the electoral okrug, and neither one of them was elected, or the elections in the electoral okrug were nullified or invalidated, or the repeat voting did not allow an elected deputy to be determined, the Central Electoral Commission charges the okrug electoral commission with holding a repeat election in the electoral district. The Central Electoral Commission may also decide on the necessity of holding elections for a new body by the okrug and district electoral commissions. Voting is conducted in the same electoral districts and according to the same lists of voters compiled for holding the general elections.

Repeat elections are held no later than two months after the general elections. The formation of the electoral commissions, the nomination and registration of the candidates for deputy and other measures are conducted in the order established by this Law.

If in the elections from public organizations the number of elected deputies falls below the number of seats or the elections are invalidated, the Central Electoral Commission charges the electoral commission with holding repeat elections from the given public organization. In repeat elections, the missing number of deputies or all the deputies from the given public organization are elected, if the elections held previously were invalidated. If necessary, the Central Electoral Commission may appeal to the public organization's republic organ with a proposal to form a new body for the electoral commission.

Candidate who did not receive the necessary number of votes and were not elected people's deputies are not on the ballot in repeat elections.

**Article 58. Holding Elections for Kazakh SSR People's Deputies to Replace those who have Departed.**

In the event that the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet invalidates the authority of individual Kazakh SSR people's deputies, and well as in the event of a deputy's review, or premature termination of deputy's authority for other reasons, new elections are held in the corresponding electoral okrugs or public organizations within a 3-month period from the moment of the deputy's departure. Elections are scheduled by the Central Electoral Commission no later than two months before they are to be held, and they are organized in accordance with the requirements of this Law. In this case, the nomination of candidates for deputy begins on the day the elections are designated, and ends 35 days before the elections; registration of candidates for deputy begins one month before the elections, and district electoral commissions are formed 30 days before the elections.

In the event of the departure of a Kazakh SSR people's deputy less than one year before the expiration of the term of authority of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet, elections for a deputy to replace the one departed are not held.

## **Kirghiz SSR**

**Kirghiz SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies**

18300799A *Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA*  
in Russian 15 Aug 89 pp 1-3

["Draft Law of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies"]

[Text] I. General Statutes

**Article 1. The Bases of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be elected for a term of five years for a single-mandate electoral district on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage with a secret ballot.

**Article 2. Universal Suffrage**

The elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be universal: Kirghiz SSR citizens who have attained the age of 18 shall have the right to vote.

A citizen of the Kirghiz SSR who has attained the age of 21 may be elected a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy.

Any kinds of direct or indirect limitations on the suffrage of the citizens of the Kirghiz SSR with respect to descent, social and property status, race and national origin, sex,

education, language, attitudes toward religion, and type and nature of occupations are prohibited.

Mentally ill citizens who have been judged incompetent by a court, persons who are incarcerated and persons who have been sent to compulsory treatment centers by the decree of a court shall not participate in the elections.

**Article 3. Equal Suffrage**

The elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be equal: a voter shall have one vote; voters shall participate in the elections on equal grounds.

Women and men shall have equal suffrage.

Military personnel shall enjoy suffrage equally with all citizens.

**Article 4. Direct Suffrage**

The elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be direct: the Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be elected directly by the citizens.

**Article 5. Secret Ballot**

The balloting during the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be secret: monitoring of the electorate's expression of will shall not be permitted.

**Article 6. The Conducting of the Elections by the Election Commissions**

The election commissions, which shall be formed from representatives of labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, public organizations and assemblies of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units, shall ensure the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies.

**Article 7. Glasnost During the Preparations for and the Conducting of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The preparations for and the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be carried out by the election commissions, the labor collectives, the secondary and university students and teachers collectives and public organizations openly and publicly.

The election commissions shall inform citizens about their own work, the formation of electoral districts, precincts, the location and hours of operation of the election commissions, and the lists of voters. The election commissions shall bring to the attention of the citizens information about the nomination of candidates and the results of the registration of candidates for deputies, biographical data about registered candidates and the basic positions of their campaign programs, the results of the balloting for each candidate and the results of the elections.

Representatives of the labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, public organizations, assemblies of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units, and candidates' representatives, as well as representatives of the press, television and radio, shall have the right to be present at meetings of the election commissions, including during the registration of candidates for deputies, the tallying of the votes in an election precinct, the determination of the results of the elections by district and the summation of the overall results of the elections. The authority of the above-mentioned representatives shall be certified by an appropriate document. The intention of representatives to be present on election day at polling places or at meetings of the election commissions shall be reported to the corresponding election commissions no later than two days prior to the elections.

The mass media shall report on the course of the preparations for and the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies and they shall be guaranteed unhindered access to all gatherings and meetings associated with the elections. The election commissions, state and public organs, labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives shall give them, at their request, information associated with the preparations for and the conducting of the elections.

**Article 8. The Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, Secondary and University Students and Teachers Collectives, and Public Organizations in the Preparations for and the Conducting of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The citizens of the Kirghiz SSR shall participate in the preparations for and the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies both through the labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, public organizations, and assemblies of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units and also directly.

The labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives and public organizations (the CPSU, the trade unions, the All-Union Leninist Komsomol, the associations of women, of veterans of war and labor, of cooperatives, and of others established in the manner prescribed by law) shall participate in the preparations for and the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies both through their own representatives in the election commissions and also directly.

**Article 9. The Right To Nominate Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The right to nominate candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies by electoral districts shall belong to the labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, public organizations, and assemblies of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units.

**Article 10. The Voters' Mandate to the Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The voters shall give mandates to their own deputies.

The procedure for the submission, generalization, examination and organization of the fulfillment of the mandates is prescribed by Kirghiz SSR law.

**Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy With an Official Position**

Persons who become part of the Kirghiz SSR Council of Ministers, with the exception of the Chairman of the Kirghiz SSR Council of Ministers, department administrators, the Chairman and members of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Court, the Kirghiz SSR Chief State Arbitrator and the Kirghiz SSR state arbitrators, and the Chairman and members of the Kirghiz SSR Committee for Constitutional Supervision may not be deputies in the council by which they are appointed or elected.

**Article 12. Expenditures Associated With the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies. Material Support of the Elections**

Expenditures associated with the preparations for and the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be charged to the state.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations and state and public organs shall place at the disposal of the elections commissions sites and equipment necessary for the preparations for and the conducting of the elections.

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, their representatives and the voters shall not bear expenditures associated with the preparations for and the conducting of the elections.

**Article 13. Accountability for Violation of the Legislation on the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

Persons who hinder by violence, fraud, threat or other methods the free exercise of a Kirghiz SSR citizen's right to vote and to be elected a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy and to conduct a campaign promotion, as well as members of the election commissions and officials of state and public organs who commit forgery of election documents and knowingly make an incorrect tally of the votes, who violate the secrecy of the ballot or who permit other violations of this law shall be held accountable as prescribed by law. Persons who publish or disseminate by other means false information about a candidate for deputy shall also be held accountable.

**II. The Procedure for Scheduling the Elections and for the Formation of the Electoral Districts**

**Article 14. The Scheduling of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The elections of the Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be scheduled by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Court no later

than four months prior to the expiration of the term of office of the Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies.

Information about the election day shall be published in the press.

#### **Article 15. The Formation of the Electoral Districts**

For the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, 350 electoral districts shall be formed.

The electoral districts shall be formed by the Presidium of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet according to the representation of the local organs of state power.

One Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy shall be elected from each electoral district.

The lists of the electoral districts with the designation of their boundaries and the location of the district election commissions shall be published by the Republic Election Commission no later than 10 days after the scheduling of the elections.

#### **Article 16. The Electoral Districts**

The electoral districts for the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be formed, as a rule, with an equal number of the voters in all the republic's territory. During the determination of the boundaries of the electoral districts, the administrative and territorial division of the Kirghiz SSR shall be taken into consideration. The number of voters per electoral district for each of the elections shall be established by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Court.

### **III. The Election Precincts**

#### **Article 17. The Formation of the Election Districts**

For the conducting of the balloting and the tallying of the votes, the territory of the rayons, cities and city rayons which make up the electoral districts for the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be divided into election precincts. Election precincts shall be formed also in military units and shall be part of the electoral districts based on the location of the units.

Election precincts may be formed in sanatoriums and rest homes, in hospitals and other medical treatment institutions and in places where citizens are located in remote and nearly inaccessible regions, which shall become part of the electoral districts based on their location.

#### **Article 18. Procedure and Quotas for the Formation of Election Precincts**

Election precincts shall be formed by the rayon, city (except cities of rayon subordination) and city rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums by agreement with the district election commissions. In military

units, election precincts shall be formed by the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums on the recommendation of the commanders of the units or military formations.

The election precincts shall be formed no later than two months prior to the elections. In military units, as well as in remote and nearly inaccessible regions, the election precincts shall be formed within the same time frame, but, in exceptional instances—no later than five days prior to the elections.

Election precincts shall be formed with a number of no fewer than 20 and no more than 3,000 voters. In exceptional instances, the local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium or the district election commission for the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall have the right to form an election precinct with a greater number of voters.

The corresponding local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium shall notify voters about the boundaries of each election precinct and designate the location of the precinct election commission and the polling place.

### **IV. The Election Commissions**

#### **Article 19. The Election Commissions System**

- election commissions shall be formed for the conducting of the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies;
- a Republic Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies;
- district Election Commissions for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies;
- precinct Election Commissions.

#### **Article 20. The Formation of the Republic Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

A Republic Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be formed by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet, taking into account the suggestions of the soviets of people's deputies of the oblasts, rayons and cities of republic subordination or their presidiums, no later than four months prior to the elections, made up of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary and 18 commission members.

The term of office of the Republic Election Commission shall be five years.

#### **Article 21. The Powers of the Republic Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The Republic Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall:

- 1) implement in all the territory of the Kirghiz SSR monitoring of the observance of this law and ensure its uniform application; submit, when necessary, to the

Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet recommendations regarding the interpretation of this law;

2) direct the activities of the election commissions; specify the procedure for the submission of changes in the membership of the election commissions;

3) distribute monetary resources for the election commissions; monitor the provision by the election commissions of sites, transportation, communications and examine other matters of material and technical support of the elections;

4) establish the forms for the election ballots for the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, for the lists of voters, for the records of campaign assemblies and meetings of the election commissions and other election documents, the types of ballot boxes and stamps of the election commissions, and the procedure for storing election documents;

5) listen to the reports of the Kirghiz SSR ministries, state committees and departments and other state and public organs on matters associated with the preparations for and the conducting of the elections;

6) register the elected deputies, sum up the results of the elections on the whole for the republic, publish in the press a report about the results of the elections and the list of elected Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies;

7) send to the credentials committee of the Kirghiz SSR Congress of People's Deputies the documentation necessary for checking the deputies' credentials;

8) resolve questions associated with the conducting of repeat elections;

9) settle questions associated with the organization of the recall of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies;

10) schedule elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies to replace deputies who have resigned and ensure the conducting of the elections;

11) examine statements and complaints about the decisions and actions of the election commissions and make final decisions on them;

12) send, in the necessary instances, documents regarding violations of the Law on the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies to the procurator's office;

13) exercise other powers in conformity with this law and other laws of the Kirghiz SSR.

#### **Article 22. The Formation of District Election Commissions**

District election commissions for the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be formed in each electoral district three and a half months prior to the elections, made up of 9-11 members.

The membership of the commission shall be formed by the corresponding oblast and Frunze City soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, while, in rayons and cities of republic subordination, they shall be formed by the Presidium of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet.

Representatives for membership in a district election commission shall be nominated by the labor collectives or their soviets, the secondary and university students and teachers collectives, the republic, oblast, rayon, city and city rayon organs of public organizations, and gatherings of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units. In order to determine the labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives and public organizations which shall nominate representatives for membership in the commissions, the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, when necessary, may hold meetings of authorized labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives and public organizations of the electoral district.

#### **Article 23. The Powers of the District Election Commission**

The District Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies in the territory of its own electoral district shall:

1) implement monitoring of the observance of this law in the district's territory;

2) direct the activities of and listen to reports of the precinct election commissions;

3) listen to reports of the executive and procedural organs of local soviets of people's deputies and administrators of enterprises, institutions and organizations on questions associated with the preparations for and the conducting of the elections;

4) supervise the compilation of lists of voters and their presentation for general familiarization;

5) organize the nomination of candidates for deputies;

6) register the nominated candidates for deputies and their authorized representatives and issue to them the appropriate certificates; ensure the issuing of posters with biographical data about the candidates for deputies;

7) organize jointly with the labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives and public organizations, meetings of the candidates for deputies with the voters both in these collectives and by their place of residence;

8) approve the text of the election ballot for the electoral district and ensure the preparation of the ballots and their delivery to the precinct election commissions;

9) determine and publish in the press the results of the elections for the electoral district and issue a certificate to the elected deputy;

10) organize the conducting of a runoff and repeat elections;

11) examine statements and complaints about the decisions and actions of the precinct election commissions and make decisions regarding them;

12) exercise other powers in conformity with this law;

13) the district election commissions shall cease their own activities after the recognition by the Kirghiz SSR Congress of People's Deputies of the authority of the elected deputies.

#### **Article 24. The Formation of Precinct Election Commissions**

A precinct election commission shall be formed no later than 30 days prior to the elections, made up of 3-19 members.

Representatives for membership in the precinct election commission shall be nominated by the labor collectives or their soviets, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, rayon, city and city rayon organs of public organizations, their primary organizations, organs of the populace's independent action, and assemblies of voters by their place of residence and of military personnel by military units.

The precinct election commissions shall be confirmed by the rayon, city (except cities of rayon subordination) and city rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

#### **Article 25. The Powers of the Precinct Election Commission**

The Precinct Election Commission shall:

1) compile lists of voters by precinct;

2) familiarize the voters with the list of voters, accept and examine statements about inaccuracies in the list and decide the question of the insertion into it of the corresponding changes;

3) accept from voters who intend to be absent on election day from their own place of residence or from their authorized representatives election ballots or election envelopes;

4) inform the populace about the election day and the voting site;

5) ensure the preparation of a polling place and ballot boxes;

6) organize the voting on election day in the election precinct;

7) produce a tally of the votes cast in the election district;

8) examine statements and complaints on questions of the preparations for the elections and the organization of the voting and make decisions on them;

9) exercise other powers in conformity with this law.

#### **Article 26. The Organization of the Work of the Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of an election commission shall be elected at a meeting of the corresponding commission.

Meetings of an election commission shall be legal if no less than two-thirds of the commission's membership participate in them. Commission decisions shall be made by an open vote by a majority of the votes of the total membership of the commission. Commission members who do not agree with its decision shall have the right to express their own opinion, which shall be appended in written form to the report. The report with the special opinion shall be sent for examination to the superior election commission.

Decisions of the election commissions, adopted within the limits of their powers, shall be binding for observance by all state and public organs, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Decisions and actions of an election commission may be appealed to a superior election commission and, in certain instances, as provided for by this law, to a court as well.

A member of an election commission, at the decision of the commission, may be relieved during the period of the preparations for and the conducting of the elections from the performance of production or office duties, with the retention of his average wage, which shall be charged to the resources allocated for the conducting of the elections.

A member of an election commission shall not have the right to participate in campaigning for or against candidates for people's deputies.

#### **Article 27. Assistance to Election Commissions in the Exercise of Their Powers**

State and public organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations and officials shall be obligated to assist election commissions in the exercise by them of their own powers and to give them information and materials necessary for their work.

An election commission shall have the right to address questions associated with the preparations for and the conducting of the elections to state and public organs and to enterprises, institutions, organizations and officials, who shall be obligated to examine the question put to them and to give the election commission an answer by no later than within a three-day period.



**V. The Lists of Voters****Article 28. The List of Voters and the Procedure for Its Compilation**

A list of voters shall be compiled for each election precinct and shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the precinct election commission. The precinct election commission may enlist representatives of the community to participate in the work on the compilation of the list.

The executive committees of the city, city rayon, settlement and rural soviets of people's deputies shall ensure the registration of the voters and shall send to the precinct election commissions information about voters residing in the corresponding territory, which is necessary for the compilation of the lists of voters.

The lists of voting military personnel in military units, as well as of members of families of military personnel and other voters, if they live in regions where military units are located, shall be compiled on the basis of the data provided by the commanders of the military units. Military personnel who reside off base shall be included in the lists of voters by place of residence on a universal basis.

The lists of voters by election precincts formed in sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals and other medical treatment institutions shall be compiled on the basis of the data provided by the administrators of the indicated institutions.

The voters' surnames shall be indexed on the list of voters in a sequence suitable for the organization of the voting.

**Article 29. The Procedure for the Inclusion of Citizens on the List of Voters**

Included on the list of voters shall be all citizens of the Kirghiz SSR who have attained the age of 18 by or on election day and who reside, permanently or temporarily, at the time of compilation of the list, in the territory of a given election precinct and have the right to participate in the voting.

A voter may not be included on the list of voters for other election precincts.

**Article 30. The Familiarization of the Citizens With the Lists of Voters and the Right To Appeal Inaccuracies on the List of Voters**

The lists of voters shall be presented for general familiarization 15 days prior to the elections and, in the election precincts formed in sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals and other medical treatment institutions and in remote and nearly inaccessible regions, two days prior to the elections.

Citizens shall be ensured of an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the list of voters and to check the correctness of its compilation at the site of the precinct election commission.

Each citizen shall be granted the right to appeal any non-inclusion or incorrect inclusion on a list or any exclusion from a list, as well as any inaccuracies committed on the list in the listing of data about the voter. A statement about an inaccuracy on the list shall be examined by the precinct election commission which shall be obligated, no later than within a two-day period, and immediately on the eve of and on election day, to examine the statement, to insert the necessary corrections on the list or to issue to the appellant a copy of the decision giving the reasons for the refusal to accept his statement.

A decision of a precinct election commission may be appealed to a rayon (city) people's court no later than five days prior to the elections and this court shall be obligated to examine the complaint within a three-day period. The decision of a rayon (city) people's court is final. A correction on the list of voters in conformity with the decision of a court shall be made immediately by a precinct election commission.

**VI. The Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies****Article 31. The Procedure for the Nomination of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies by Electoral Districts**

The nomination of candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies by electoral districts shall be begun three months prior to the elections and shall be concluded two months prior to them.

The nomination of candidates for deputies shall be done at assemblies (conferences) of labor collectives of enterprises, institutions and organizations with no fewer than 100 workers, which are located in the territory of the corresponding electoral district. The collective of a branch or other subdivision with no fewer than 100 workers, which is located in the territory of another electoral district, shall also have the right to nominate a candidate for deputy. Labor collectives with fewer than 100 workers, which are located in the territory of a single electoral district may nominate candidates for deputies at a joint assembly (conference).

The nomination of candidates for deputies shall be done at general assemblies (conferences) of secondary and university students and teachers of higher and secondary special education institutions.

The nomination of candidates for deputies by electoral districts from public organizations shall be done by their republic, oblast, rayon, city and city rayon organs.

An assembly of voters by place of residence for the nomination of candidates for deputies shall be convened by the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its

presidium jointly with the district election commission on the initiative of the voters. The assembly shall be legal if, present at it, there are no fewer than 200 voters who reside in the territory of the given electoral district.

An assembly of military personnel for the nomination of candidates for deputies shall be convened by the military unit's command.

At an assembly, conditions shall be created for the nomination of an unlimited number of nominees. Each participant in the assembly shall have the right to submit proposals regarding the candidates for deputies, to participate in their discussion, to support the submitted nominations or to submit proposals for their rejection. A participant in an assembly may submit for discussion his own nominee as a candidate for deputy. The decision of an assembly about the nomination of a candidate for deputy, the sequence for discussion of the nominations, the voting procedure and other procedural questions shall be determined by the assembly.

An assembly may nominate by district a single candidate for deputy. A candidate shall be considered to be nominated if more than half of the assembly's participants have voted for him. A record shall be compiled regarding the nomination of a candidate for deputy, which shall be presented within a three-day period to the district election commission. A person nominated as a candidate for deputy shall be informed of an adopted decision no later than within a two-day period.

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be nominated by citizens who reside in the territory of the Kirghiz SSR. The number of candidates nominated by district should be no fewer than two.

A citizen of the Kirghiz SSR may not simultaneously be a people's deputy in more than two soviets of people's deputies.

#### **Article 32. The Registration of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall be registered by the district election commission on the recommendation of the labor collectives, the secondary and university students and teachers collectives, the organs of public organizations, and the assemblies of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units, which have nominated candidates for deputies.

The registration of the candidates for deputies shall be begun two months prior to election day and shall be concluded one month prior to it.

A decision regarding the registration of candidates for deputies shall be taken with the availability of the following documents, the records of the assemblies (meetings) on the nomination of candidates for deputies for the given electoral district and the declaration of the

candidate for deputy regarding his consent to stand for election in the given electoral district.

Persons listed in Article 11 of this law, upon their nomination as candidates for deputies, in their own declarations, shall indicate their intention to be relieved of the positions they hold in the event of their election as deputies or shall inform in writing about the withdrawal of their own nominations. A record regarding the registration of the candidates for deputies shall be compiled, which, together with the declarations of the candidates for deputies, shall be sent to the Republic Election Commission.

The corresponding district election commission shall register candidates for deputies in conformity with the requirements of this law. A refusal of registration may be appealed within a three-day period to the Republic Election Commission.

A candidate for deputy may, at the same time, stand for election only in a single electoral district.

A candidate for deputy may not be a member of the Republic Election Commission or of the district or precinct election commissions where he was nominated as a candidate. A person who is nominated as a candidate for deputy and who is a member of one of the indicated commissions, shall be considered to be relieved of his obligations in the commission as of the moment of his registration as a candidate for deputy.

The corresponding election commission shall publish in the press no later than four days after the registration of the candidates for deputies information regarding the registration with a listing of the surname, first name, patronymic, year of birth, position held (occupation), place of work and place of residence of each candidate for deputy.

#### **Article 33. The Reversal of a Decision About the Nomination and Registration of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy. The Withdrawal by a Candidate of His Own Nomination**

A labor collective, a secondary and university students and teachers collective, a public organization or an assembly of voters by place of residence or of military personnel by a military unit, which have nominated a candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy, shall have the right, at any time prior to the elections, to reverse its own decision regarding the nomination of the candidate for deputy. A decision on this question shall be taken using the procedure provided for the nomination of candidates for deputies and shall be sent to the corresponding election commission.

A candidate for deputy, no later than five days prior to the elections, may withdraw his own nomination by sending a declaration about this to the corresponding district election commission.

**Article 34. The Procedure for the Nomination of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies To Replace Those Who Have Resigned**

In the event of the resignation of candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies after the completion of the period for the registration of candidates for deputies, if there are no other candidates remaining in an electoral district, the district electoral commission shall address the labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, public organizations and assemblies of voters by place of residence and of military personnel by military units with a proposal for the nomination of new candidates for deputies.

When candidates for deputies resign less than 15 days prior to the elections, the election of a deputy from the corresponding electoral district shall be conducted within a two-month period after the general elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputies to replace those who have resigned shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure established by this law.

**Article 35. The Election Ballot**

Included on the ballot in alphabetical order shall be all registered candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies with a listing of the surname, first name, patronymic, position held (occupation), place of work and place of residence of each candidate for deputy. The election ballots shall be printed in the Kirghiz language and in the languages used by the majority of the populace of an electoral district. It shall be indicated on the ballot that a voter should leave no more than one candidate.

**VII. Guarantees for the Activities of the Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

**Article 36. The Right of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy To Speak at Assemblies, To Use the Mass Media and To Obtain Information**

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, from the time of their registration by the election commissions, shall have an equal right to speak at campaign and other assemblies, conferences and meetings and to use the press, television and radio.

State and public organs, administrators of enterprises, institutions and organizations and organs of public independent action of the populace shall be obligated to render assistance to candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies in the organization of meetings with the voters and in the obtaining of necessary reference and informational materials.

**Article 37. The Campaign Program of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy shall come out with a program of his own future activities. The

program of a candidate for deputy should not contradict the USSR Constitution, the Kirghiz SSR Constitution or Soviet laws.

**Article 38. Authorized Representatives of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy may have up to five authorized representatives, who assist him in the conducting of the election campaign, promote his election as a deputy and represent his interests in inter-relationships with state and public organs, voters and members of public organizations, as well as in the election commissions.

A candidate for deputy shall specify the authorized representatives using his own discretion and shall make a report concerning them for registration purposes to the district election commission.

An authorized representative may not be a member of a corresponding election commission.

**Article 39. Campaign Promotion**

Labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives, voters by their place of residence and public organizations shall be given by the district election commissions equipped sites for assemblies and meetings, as well as mass media resources for the conducting of campaign promotion.

Citizens of the Kirghiz SSR, labor collectives, secondary and university students and teachers collectives and public organizations shall be guaranteed an opportunity for free and comprehensive discussion of the political, business-like and personal qualities of candidates for deputies, as well as the right to campaign for or against candidates at assemblies, in the press and on television and radio.

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies shall conduct meetings at assemblies of voters by place of work and by place of residence. Assemblies of voters shall be organized by the district election commission jointly with the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium.

Voters shall be informed about the time and place of the conducting of assemblies and meetings ahead of time, but no later than three days prior to their being conducted.

Promotion on election day shall not be permitted.

**Article 40. The Relieving of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy From Production or Office Duties In Order To Participate in Election Activities**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy, after registration, for the time of the conducting of meetings with voters and for speeches at election assemblies and on television and radio, shall be relieved from the performance of production or office duties, but for no

longer than one month, with retention of his average wage, to be charged to the resources allocated for the conducting of the elections.

**Article 41. The Right of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy to Free Passage**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy shall have the right to free passage on all types of passenger transportation (except taxis) within the boundaries of the corresponding electoral district. A candidate for deputy who resides outside the boundaries of the electoral district shall enjoy the same right for passage to the electoral district and the return to his place of residence.

**Article 42. The Immunity of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy may not have criminal proceedings instigated against him, be detained, be arrested or subjected to a search or administrative punishment measures imposed in a judicial proceeding without the consent of the Republic Election Commission.

**VIII. The Procedure for Voting and Tallying the Results of the Elections**

**Article 43. The Time and Place for the Voting**

When the elections for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies from the electoral districts are held, the voting shall be conducted on election day from 7 am to 8 pm, local time. The precinct election commission shall inform the voters about the time and place for the voting no later than 10 days prior to the elections.

In the election precincts formed in military units and in remote and nearly inaccessible regions, the precinct election commission may declare the voting ended at any time, if all the voters included on the list have voted.

**Article 44. The Organization of the Voting**

The voting shall be conducted in specially assigned sites, which should be equipped with an adequate number of booths or rooms for a secret ballot and, in which, there should be places designated for the issuing of election ballots and ballot boxes set up. The ballot boxes shall be set up in such a manner that those voting will have to pass through the booths or rooms for the secret ballot when approaching them.

The precinct election commission shall bear the responsibility for the organization of the voting, for ensuring the secrecy of the voters' expression of will, for equipping the sites and maintaining in them the necessary order.

On election day, before the start of the voting, the ballot boxes shall be checked and stamped or sealed by the chairman of the precinct election commission in the presence of all the members of the commission.

Each voter shall vote personally and voting for other persons shall not be permitted. The election ballots shall be issued by the election commission on the basis of the list of voters of the election precinct upon presentation of a passport or other personal identification. A mark shall be made on the list of voters indicating the issuing of the election ballots.

In instances when individual voters, because of their state of health or other reasons, can not come to the polling place, the precinct election commission, at their request, shall instruct individual members of the commission to organize voting at the place these voters are staying.

**Article 45. The Conducting of the Voting**

The election ballots shall be filled out by those voting in the booth or room for secret balloting. During the filling out of the ballots, the presence of anyone at all other than the person voting is prohibited. A voter who is not capable of filling out the ballot by himself shall have the right to invite into the booth or room another person, at his discretion, except for a member of the election commission.

During the elections for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, the person voting shall cross out on the ballot the surnames of the candidates, against whom he is voting.

The person voting shall drop the filled-out ballot into the ballot box.

**Article 46. The Tallying of the Votes in the Election Precinct**

During the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies from electoral districts, the tallying of the votes in the election precinct shall be done separately for each candidate for deputy.

The ballot boxes shall be unsealed by the precinct election commission after the declaration by the commission's chairman that the balloting has ended. Unsealing of the ballot boxes prior to the end of the balloting is prohibited. Before the unsealing of the ballot boxes, all unused ballots shall be counted and voided by the precinct election commission.

The precinct election commission, based on the lists of voters, shall establish the overall number of voters in the precinct, as well as the number of voters who received ballots. On the basis of the ballots in the ballot boxes, the commission (within the boundaries of the given election precinct) shall establish: the overall number of voters who participated in the balloting; the number of votes cast for and against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots which have been declared invalid. Votes shall not be tallied for the names of citizens written in additionally on the ballot by voters.

Ballots on which all the names have been crossed out shall be considered valid, but the votes for them shall be tallied as cast against each candidate.

Election ballots which are not the established form, as well as ballots on which more than one candidate has been left, shall be declared invalid. When doubts arise concerning the validity of an election ballot, the question shall be settled by the precinct election commission by a vote.

The results of the tallying of the votes shall be examined at a session of the precinct election commission and entered into the record. The record shall be signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary and the members of the commission and sent to the corresponding district election commission using the procedure established by the Republic Election Commission.

#### **Article 47. The Establishment of the Results of the Elections for the Electoral District**

On the basis of the records of the precinct election commissions, the district election commission shall determine: the overall number of voters for the district; the number of voters who received election ballots; the number of voters who participated in the balloting; the number of votes cast for and against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots declared invalid.

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy who has received in the elections more than half of the votes of the voters who participated in the balloting shall be considered to be elected.

The district election commission may declare the elections void because of violations of this law, which were committed during the course of the elections or during the tallying of the votes.

The elections shall be declared as not having taken place, if less than half of the voters listed on the lists for voting participated in them, as well as in connection with the death of a candidate for deputy.

The results of the elections for the electoral district shall be established at a session of the district election commission and entered into the record. The record shall be signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary and the members of the commission and sent to the Republic Election Commission using the procedure established by it.

A report about the results of the elections for the electoral district shall be published in the press by the corresponding district election commission within the time frames established by the Republic Election Commission. The report shall indicate: the total number of citizens listed on the lists of voters; the number of voters who participated in the balloting; the number of votes cast for and against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots; and the surname, first name, patronymic, position held (occupation), party affiliation, and the place of work and place of residence of the elected deputy.

### **IX. The Procedure for the Summation and Publication of the Results of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

#### **Article 48. The Registration of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The Republic Election Commission for the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, on the basis of the records of the election commissions received by it, shall register the elected Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies.

The Republic Election Commission may declare the elections void, if violations of this law occurred during the course of the elections or during the tallying of the votes or the determination of the results of the elections, and may refuse to register a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy.

#### **Article 49. The Publication of the Results of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The Republic Election Commission shall publish in the press a report about the results of the elections on the whole for the republic and a list of the elected Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies no later than within a 10-day period, in alphabetical order, with a listing of the surname, first name, patronymic, position held (occupation), party affiliation, place of work and place of residence of the deputy and the electoral district from which he has been elected deputy.

#### **Article 50. The Certificate and Badge of a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

The district election commission, after the publication in the press of the list of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies registered by the Republic Election Commission, shall issue to each elected deputy a certificate regarding his election.

After confirmation by the Kirghiz SSR Congress of People's Deputies of the authority of the elected deputies, the certificates issued to them regarding the deputy's election shall be replaced by a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy Certificate. The deputy shall also be issued a badge with "Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy" on it.

### **X. The Runoff, Repeat Elections and the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies to Replace Deputies Who Have Resigned**

#### **Article 51. The Runoff**

If, in an electoral district, more than two candidates have run for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies and none of them have been elected, the district election commission shall make a decision about conducting in the district a runoff for the two candidates for deputies who received the greatest number of votes. The district election commission shall report about this decision to the Republic Election Commission and shall inform the district's voters. A runoff in an electoral district shall be held no later than within a two-week period, with the requirements of this law being observed.

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy, who has received during the runoff a greater number of the electorate's votes in relation to the other candidate, shall be considered to be elected.

#### Article 52. Repeat Elections

If, in an electoral district, no more than two candidates ran in the elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies and neither of them was elected or the elections for the electoral district have been declared as not having taken place or invalid, or a runoff did not make it possible to determine the elected deputy, the Republic Election Commission shall instruct the district election commission to conduct in the electoral district repeat elections. At the same time, it may make a decision regarding the necessity of the conducting of the elections by a district and precinct election commissions with new members. The balloting shall be conducted in the same election precincts and using the same lists of voters compiled for the conducting of the general elections.

The repeat elections shall be conducted no later than within a two-month period after the general elections. A candidate not elected in one district may not run during the repeat elections. The formation of the election commissions, the registration of the candidates for deputies and other measures shall be done according to the procedure established by this law.

#### Article 53. The Conducting of Elections for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies To Replace Deputies Who Have Resigned

In the event of the declaration by the Kirghiz SSR Congress of People's Deputies of the authority of individual Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies as void, as well as in the event of the recall of a deputy, the early termination of deputy authority for other reasons, in the corresponding electoral districts, within a three-month period from the moment of the resignation of a deputy, new elections shall be conducted. The elections shall be scheduled by the Republic Election Commission no later than two months prior to their conducting and shall be organized with observance of the requirements of this law. At the same time, the district election commission shall be formed by the third day after the scheduling of the elections, while the precinct election commissions shall be formed by the fifth day. The registration of the candidates for deputies shall be concluded a month prior to the elections.

In the event of the resignation of a Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy less than one year prior to the expiration of the term of office of the Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies, elections for a new Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy to replace the one who has resigned shall not be conducted.

#### Kirghiz SSR Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

90US0130A Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA  
in Russian 30 Sep 89 pp 1-2

["Law of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies"]

[Text] Decree of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet on the Scheduling of Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies and People's Deputies of the Local Kirghiz SSR Soviets of People's Deputies of the New Convocation, 23 September 1989

In accordance with Article 79 of the Kirghiz SSR Constitution, Articles 14 and 16 of the Law "On Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies", and Article 14 of the Law "On Elections of People's Deputies of the Local Kirghiz SSR Soviets of People's Deputies," the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To schedule elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies and people's deputies of the local Kirghiz SSR Soviets of People's Deputies of the new convocation for 25 February 1990.
2. To establish the norm of voters for one election okrug for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, as a rule, at 6,500 voters.
3. The present decree enters into force on 25 October 1989.

#### Kirghiz SSR Law Elections of Republic People's Deputies

##### I. General Provisions

##### Article 1. Fundamentals of Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies

Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are elected for a term of five years for single-mandate election okrugs on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage in secret voting.

##### Article 2. Universal Suffrage

Elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are universal: Citizens of the Kirghiz SSR, who have reached the age of 18, have the right to vote.

A citizen of the Kirghiz SSR, who has reached the aged of 18, may be elected as a Kirghiz SSR people's deputy.

Any kinds of direct or indirect restrictions of the electoral rights of Kirghiz SSR citizens depending on origin, social and property status, racial and nationality membership, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, family, and character of occupation are prohibited.

The following do not take part in elections: Citizens who are mentally ill, who have been declared to be unable to function by a court, persons who are being held in prison, as well as those who, by decision of the court, are sent to places of compulsory treatment.

**Article 3. Equal Suffrage**

Elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are equal; the voter for every election okrug has one vote; the voters and candidates for deputy take part in the elections on an equal basis.

Women and men have equal voting rights.

Servicemen have voting rights equally with all citizens.

**Article 4. Direct Suffrage**

Elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are direct: Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are elected by the citizens directly.

**Article 5. Secret Voting**

Voting in the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies is secret: Monitoring of the will of the voters is not permitted.

**Article 6. Conduct of the Elections by the Election Commissions**

The conduct of elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies is guaranteed by election commissions, which are formed by representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, meetings of voters at the place of residence, and servicemen in military units.

**Article 7. Glasnost in the Preparation and Conduct of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The preparation and conduct of the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are carried out by the election commissions, labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students in an open and public manner.

The election commissions inform the citizens about their work, about the formation of election okrugs and districts, about the composition, the location and the time of work of the election commissions, and the lists of voters. The election commissions inform the citizens about the results of the registration of candidates for deputy, biographical information about the registered candidates and the basic provisions of their election programs, the results of the voting on each candidate, and the results of the elections.

Representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, meetings of voters, servicemen in military units, and persons empowered to act for others, as well as

representatives of the press, television and radio, have the right to be present at sessions of the election commissions, including in the registration of candidates for deputy, the counting of votes in the election district, the determination of the elections by okrug, and the summing up of the general election results. The powers of the indicated representatives are ascertained through an appropriate document. The appropriate election commissions must be informed no later than two days before the elections about the inclination of representatives to be present on the day of the elections in the voting premises or at sessions of the election commissions. Interference in the work of the election commissions by the indicated representatives is not permitted.

The mass media elucidate the course of the preparation and conduct of the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies. The election commissions, state and public organs, labor collectives, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education, upon request, provide them with materials connected with the preparation and the conduct of the elections.

**Article 8. Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, Public Organizations, Collectives of Teachers, Workers and White Collar Workers, Jointly with Students of Institutions of Secondary Specialized and Higher Education in the Preparation and Conduct of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

Citizens of the Kirghiz SSR take part in the preparation and conduct of the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies through labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education, meetings of voters at the place of residence, and servicemen in military units, as well as directly.

Labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education, take part in the preparation and conduct of elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies both through their representatives in the election commissions and directly.

**Article 9. Right to Nominate Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The right to nominate candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy for election okrugs belongs to labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education, meetings of voters at the place of residence, and servicemen in military units. In the nomination, businesslike, political and moral qualities of the candidate must be taken into account.

**Article 10. Voters' Mandates to Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The voters give mandates to their deputies.

The procedure for the introduction, generalization, consideration, and organization of the fulfillment of the mandates is established by a Kirghiz SSR Law.

**Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy with Official Position**

Persons who are members of the Kirghiz SSR Council of Ministers, with the exception of the Chairman of the Kirghiz SSR Council of Ministers, the directors of departments, judges, the Chief State Arbiter and state arbiters of the Kirghiz SSR cannot simultaneously be Kirghiz SSR deputies.

**Article 12. Expenditures Connected with Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies. Material Guarantee of Elections**

Expenditures connected with the preparation and conduct of elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are effected only at state expense.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, state and public organs put premises, equipment, and means of transportation necessary for the preparation and conduct of the elections at the disposition of the election commissions.

Candidates for people's deputy and voters do not bear the expenditures connected with the preparation and conduct of elections. The creation of monetary funds by labor collectives, public organizations and cooperative organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education, and groups of voters for the conduct of an election campaign for candidates to Kirghiz SSR people's deputy is not allowed.

**Article 13. Responsibility for the Violation of Legislation on Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

Persons who, through force, deception, threats or another method, impede the free realization, by the citizen of the Kirghiz SSR, of the right to vote and be elected Kirghiz SSR people's deputy and to conduct an election campaign, as well as members of election commissions and officials of state and public organs who have committed forgery of election documents, the deliberately incorrect count of votes, and who have violated the secrecy of voting, or who have permitted other violations of the present Law, bear the responsibility established by law. Also held responsible will be persons who have published, or through another method have disseminated, false information about a candidate for deputy.

Statements about violations of laws on the elections sent to the election commissions, state and public organs

during the period of preparation for the elections or after the elections must be reviewed within a five-day time period, but those submitted on the day of the elections must be reviewed immediately.

**II. Procedure for the Scheduling of Elections and the Formation of Election Okrugs**

**Article 14. Scheduling of Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies are scheduled by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet no later than four months before the expiration of the term of office of the Kirghiz SSR people's deputies.

Information about the day of elections is published in the press.

**Article 15. Formation of Election Okrugs**

For the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, 350 election okrugs are formed.

The election okrugs are formed by the Republic Election Commission for election of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies upon recommendation of oblast, rayon, and city (except cities of rayon subordination) Soviets of People's Deputies of republic subordination.

One Kirghiz SSR people's deputy is elected from every election okrug. Lists of election okrugs, with indication of their boundaries, the number of voters for every okrug, and the location of the okrug election commissions are published by the Republic Election Commission no later than the tenth day after the scheduling of the elections.

**Article 16. Election Okrugs**

Election okrugs for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are formed, as a rule, with an equal number of voters for the entire territory of the republic. In the determination of the boundaries of the election okrugs, the administrative-territorial division of the Kirghiz SSR is taken into account. The norm of voters for the election okrug for all elections is established by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet.

**III. Election Districts**

**Article 17. Formation of Election Districts**

For the conduct of voting and counting of the votes, the territory of rayons, cities, and city rayons, which go to make up the election okrugs for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, is divided into election districts. Election districts are formed also in military units and go to make up the election okrugs in the location of military units.

In remote regions and regions difficult of access, election districts may be formed which go to make up election okrugs in the place of their location.



**Article 18. Procedure and Norm for the Formation of Election Districts**

Election districts are formed by the rayon, city (except cities of rayon subordination), and city rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia by agreement with the okrug election commissions. In the military units, election districts are formed by the corresponding Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia upon representation of the commanders of units or military formations.

Election districts are formed no later than two months before the elections. In military units, as well as in remote regions and regions difficult of access, election districts are formed in the same term, and in exceptional cases—no later than five days before the elections.

Election districts are formed with a number of not less than 20 and not more than 3,000 voters. In exceptional cases, the local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, by agreement with the okrug election commission for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, has the right to form an election district with a larger number of voters.

The corresponding local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium informs the voters about the boundaries of every election district with indication of the location of the district election commission and the premise for voting.

**IV. Election Commissions****Article 19. System of Election Commissions**

For the conduct of elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, election commissions are formed:

- a republic election commission for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies;
- okrug election commissions for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies;
- district election commissions.

**Article 20. Formation of the Republic Election Commission for Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The republic election commission for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies is formed by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet, taking into account the recommendation of republic-subordinated oblast, rayon, and city Soviets of People's Deputies and organs of republic public organizations no later than four months before the elections, with a membership consisting of the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and 18 commission members.

The term of office of the Republic Election Commission is five years.

**Article 21. Powers of the Republic Election Commission for Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The Republic Election Commission for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies:

- 1) Organizes the preparation and conduct of the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies;
- 2) forms election okrugs;
- 3) supervises, in the entire territory of the Kirghiz SSR, the execution of the present Law and guarantees its uniform application; in case of necessity, submits to the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet a recommendation in regard to the interpretation of the present Law;
- 4) receives protocols from republic public organizations about the nomination of candidates for people's deputies and appoints okrugs for them;
- 5) directs the activity of the election commissions; determines the procedure for the introduction of changes in the membership of election commissions;
- 6) distributes funds to the election commissions; monitors the provision of election commissions with premises, transportation, and communications, and examines other questions of material-technical support for the elections;
- 7) establishes forms for the ballots for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, lists of voters, protocols of conferences of the okrug voter representatives and sessions of the election commissions, other election documents, models for ballot boxes and seals of the election commissions, and the procedure for the storage of election documents;
- 8) hears reports of Kirghiz SSR ministries, state committees and departments, and other state and public organs connected with the preparation and conduct of the elections;
- 9) registers the elected deputies, sums up the election results as a whole for the republic, publishes in the press a report on the election results and the list of elected Kirghiz SSR people's deputies;
- 10) transmits to the mandate commission of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet the documents necessary for the verification of the powers of the deputies;
- 11) decides questions connected with the conduct of repeat elections;
- 12) decides questions connected with the organization of the recall of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies;
- 13) schedules elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies in place of deputies who dropped out and secures their conduct;

14) reviews statements and complaints about the decisions and actions of the election commissions and conferences of the representatives of election okrugs, and takes final decisions with respect to them;

15) in necessary cases, transmits materials about violations of the Law on Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies to the Kirghiz SSR Procuracy;

16) carries out other powers in accordance with the present Law and other laws of the Kirghiz SSR.

#### **Article 22. Formation of Okrug Election Commissions**

The okrug election commission for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies is formed in every election okrug three months before the elections with a composition of 9-11 members.

Okrug election commissions are formed correspondingly by oblast and the Frunze City Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia, and, in the rayons and cities of republic subordination, by the Presidium of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet.

Representatives for membership in the okrug election commission are nominated by labor collectives or councils, soviets, by rayon, city, city rayon, oblast, and republic organs of public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of specialized secondary and higher education and other students, and meetings of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units. For the determination of the labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, nominating representatives for membership in the commissions, the corresponding Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia, if necessary, may hold conferences of empowered labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, and white collar workers, jointly with students in institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, organs of public independent action of the population, and meetings of servicemen of the military units of an election okrug.

Okrug election commissions end their activity after recognition of the powers of the elected deputies by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet.

#### **Article 23. Powers of the Okrug Election Commission**

The okrug election commission for elections of a Kirghiz SSR people's deputy in the territory of its election okrug:

1) Monitors the implementation of the present Law in the territory of the okrug;

2) directs the activity of the district election commissions and hears their reports;

3) hears reports of the executive and administrative organs of the local Soviets of People's Deputies, the directors of enterprises, institutions and organizations in regard to questions connected with the preparation and conduct of the elections;

4) looks after the compilation of the lists of voters and their submission for general acquaintance;

5) organizes the nomination of candidates for deputy;

6) if necessary, calls together and holds a conference of representatives of okrug voters and establishes the norms of representation;

7) registers the nominated candidates for deputy and the persons empowered by them and issues appropriate certifications to them; secures the publication of posters with biographical information about the candidates for deputy and the basic provisions of their election programs;

8) organizes, jointly with labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, meetings of candidates for deputy with voters both in these collectives and at their place of residence, and secures equal conditions for the candidates for people's deputy for their participation in the elections;

9) confirms the text of the ballot for the election okrug, secures the preparation of the ballots and the supply of the district election commissions with them;

10) establishes and publishes the election results for the election okrug in the press, and issues certification to the elected deputy;

11) organizes the conduct of a run-off election and repeat elections, as well as the elections of people's deputies in place of those who dropped out;

12) reviews statements and complaints about decisions and actions of the district elections commissions and takes decisions with respect to them;

13) carries out other powers in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 24. Formation of District Election Commissions**

The district election commission is formed no later than 45 days before the elections with a composition of 3-19 members.

Representatives for membership in the district election commission are nominated by labor collectives or their soviets, by rayon, city, city rayon organs of public organizations, their primary organizations, collectives of teachers, workers and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, organs of public independent action, meetings of voters at their place of residence, and servicemen in military units.

District election commissions are confirmed by rayon and city (except cities of rayon subordination), and city rayon Soviets of People's Deputies or their presidia.

The term of office of the district election commission ends simultaneously with the end of the powers of the okrug election commissions.

#### **Article 25. Powers of the District Election Commission**

The district election commission:

- 1) Compiles lists of voters by districts;
- 2) acquaints voters with the list of voters, accepts and reviews statements about errors in the list and decides the question of the introduction of corresponding changes in it;
- 3) in the case provided for by Article 31 of the present Law, accepts, from voters intending to be absent from their place of residence on the day of the elections, their decisions sealed in envelopes, and guarantees the secret of the will of the voters;
- 4) informs the population about the day of the election and the place of voting;
- 5) secures the preparation of the premise for voting and ballot boxes;
- 6) organizes the voting in the election district on the day of the elections;
- 7) carries out the count of votes cast in the election districts;
- 8) reviews statements and complaints in regard to questions of the preparation of elections and the organization of voting and takes decisions with respect to them;
- 9) decides questions of the representation of collectives, public organizations, meetings of voters at their place of residence, and servicemen in military units, empowered persons, as well as representatives of the press, television and radio, in the election district;
- 10) carries out other powers in accordance with the present Law.

#### **Article 26. Organization of the Work of the Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the election commission are elected at a session of the corresponding commission, which is brought to the notice of the voters.

Sessions of the election commission are competent if no less than two-thirds of the membership of the commission take part in them. Decisions of the commissions are taken by an open vote by the majority of the votes of the total membership of the commission. The members of the commission who do not agree with its decisions have the right to express a separate opinion, which in written

form is appended to the protocol. The protocol with the separate opinion is sent to the higher election commission for review.

Decisions of the election commissions, adopted within the limits of their powers, are obligatory for execution by all state and public organs, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Decisions and actions of the election commission may be appealed to the higher election commission, and, in the cases provided for by the present Law, also to the court.

A member of the election commission or the chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary, may, during the preparation and conduct of the elections, be released from the execution of production and office obligations for 30 days with retention of the average salary at the expense of the funds allotted for the conduct of the elections. In some stages of the election campaign, at the discretion of the okrug election commission, one more member of the election commission may be released.

A member of the election commission does not have the right to take part in campaigning for or against candidates for people's deputy.

The nomination and confirmation of new representatives as members of election commissions is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the present Law.

#### **Article 27. Assistance to Election Commissions in the Realization of Their Powers**

State and public organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obliged to assist the election commissions in the realization, by them, of their powers, to provide them with the information and materials necessary for their work.

The election commission has the right to turn with questions connected with the preparation and the conduct of the elections to state and public organs, enterprises, organizations, and officials, who are obliged to examine the question raised and to give the election commission an answer no later than within a three-day period.

#### **V. Lists of Voters**

##### **Article 28. List of Voters and the Procedure for Its Compilation**

A list of voters is compiled for every election district and is signed by the chairman and the secretary of the district election commission.

For participation in the work on the compilation of the list, the district election commission can involve representatives of the public.

The executive committees of the city, city rayon, settlement and rural Soviets of People's Deputies secure the registration of the voters, and transmit to the district

election commissions information about the voters living in the respective territory that is necessary for the compilation of the lists of voters.

The lists of servicemen-voters who find themselves in military units, as well as the members of the families of servicemen and other voters, if they live in the regions where military units are located, are compiled on the basis of information supplied by the commanders of military units. Servicemen who live outside of military units are included in the lists of voters at the place of residence on general grounds.

The surnames of the voters are indicated in the list of voters in the order that is convenient for the organization of voting.

#### **Article 29. Procedure for Including Citizens in the List of Voters**

In the list of voters are included all citizens of the Kirghiz SSR who have attained, by the day or on the day of the elections, the age of 18, and who, at the moment of the compilation of the list, live on territory of the given election district and have the right to take part in the voting.

The district election commission can include a voter in the list on the basis of his personal declaration and on presentation of the passport or another document certifying the identity of the citizen if the voter came to a new place of residence after the submission of the lists of voters for general acquaintance. The voters living in the territory of the given election district and for some reason omitted in the list are included in it by decision of the district election commission.

The voter cannot be included in the list of voters in other election districts.

#### **Article 30. Acquaintance of Citizens with the Lists of Voters and the Right to Appeal Errors in the List of Voters**

Lists of voters are presented for general acquaintance 15 days prior to the elections, but in election districts formed in rayons which are remote and difficult of access—two days before the elections.

Citizens are guaranteed the possibility of familiarizing themselves with the list of voters and to verify the correctness of its composition in the premise of the district election commission.

Every citizen is granted the right to appeal the non-inclusion and the incorrect inclusion in the list, or exclusion from the list, as well as inaccuracies in the indication of information about the voter permitted in the list. A statement about errors in the list is reviewed by the district election commission, which is obligated, no later than within a two-week period, and on the eve of the election and on the day of the election immediately, to review the statement and to introduce the necessary

corrections in the list or to give to the declarant a copy of the reasoned decision explaining the denial of his application.

The decision of the district election commission may be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court no later than five days before the elections, which is obligated to review the appeal within a three-day period. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. A correction in the list of voters in accordance with a court decision is effected immediately by the district election commission.

#### **Article 31. Guarantee of the Suffrage of Citizens During the Change of the Place of Residence**

In case of a change of his place of residence during the period after the presentation of the list of voters for general acquaintance and before the day of the elections, a voter has the right, upon presentation of his passport or other proof of identity to transmit to the district election commission his decision, sealed in an envelope, concerning his choice regarding the candidates for deputy running for election. The district election commission makes a corresponding note about this in the list of voters. The sealed envelope is sealed with a stamp in the presence of the voter. The district election commission bears the responsibility for the safekeeping of the envelope.

### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

#### **Article 32. Procedure for the Nomination of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

The nomination of candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy begins three months and ends two months before the elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputy is effected at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives, collectives of teachers, workers, white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, numbering not less than 100 persons. By agreement with the corresponding okrug commission, labor collectives, collectives of teachers, workers, white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students of a given election okrug numbering a smaller number of voters may hold combined meetings with other collectives, with the total number of workers, university and other students having to number no less than 100 people. Every collective has the right to take part in only one combined meeting (conference) for the nomination of candidates for deputy.

A meeting for the nomination of a candidate for deputy is considered competent if more than half of the total number of the labor collective take part in it, and a conference—no less than two-thirds of the delegates.

The nomination of candidates for deputy for election okrugs from public organizations is carried out by their city rayon, city, rayon, oblast, and republic organs at their plenums, conferences and congresses. The decisions of republic public organizations concerning the nomination of candidates for deputy, which do not have oblast, rayon, and city organs with indication of the okrug where a candidate is running for election, is transferred within a three-day period to the Republic Election Commission.

A meeting of voters at the place of residence for the nomination of candidates for deputy is called by the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, jointly with the okrug election commission, both on their own initiative and on the initiative of the organs of public independent action of the population, supported by no less than 100 voters of the given okrug. The meeting is competent if no less than 200 voters living in the territory of the given election okrug are present.

A meeting of servicemen for the nomination of candidates for deputy is called by the command of the military unit.

At the meeting, conditions are created for the nomination of an unlimited number of candidatures. Every participant in a meeting has the right to introduce proposals concerning candidates for deputy, to take part in their discussion, to support candidatures being proposed or to introduce proposals concerning their rejection. The decision concerning the nomination of a candidate for deputy is taken through an open or secret vote, the sequence of the discussion of the candidacies, the procedure for voting, and other procedural questions are determined by the meeting.

A meeting may nominate one candidate for deputy for the okrug. A candidate is considered nominated if more than half of the participants of the meeting voted for him. A protocol is composed about the nomination of a candidate for deputy, which within three days is submitted to the okrug election commission. The person nominated as candidate for deputy is informed about the decision taken no later than within a two-day period.

A citizen of the Kirghiz SSR cannot simultaneously be a people's deputy in more than two Soviets of People's Deputies.

### **Article 33. Conference of Okrug Voter Representatives**

Conferences of okrug voter representatives may be held, which are called together by the okrug election commissions.

Participants of conferences of okrug voter representatives are delegated by labor collectives, organs of public organizations, meetings of the collectives of teachers, workers, white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, meetings of voters at the place of

residents and servicement in military units in accordance with norms established by the okrug election commission, with every labor collective, organization, meeting of voters at the place of residence, and organ of public independent action of the population which nominated a candidate for deputy having to be represented by a number of delegates proportional to the number of voters. The delegation of voter representatives may take place at meetings or conferences.

Conferences of okrug voter representatives take the decision concerning the presentation of candidates for deputy for registration to the corresponding election commission, the development of mandates to the deputies, the organization of reports of the deputies to the voters; in so doing, the delegates of the conference are given, in good time, a list of all candidates for deputy nominated for the given okrug and basic information about them.

The conference gives every candidate for deputy the opportunity to come out with an exposition of the program of his future activity. Any conference participant has the right to discuss the candidates for deputy and to introduce their proposals concerning them.

Any number of candidates for deputy is presented for registration. The decision is taken by open or secret voting. The voting procedure is established by the conference. A decision concerning concrete candidates for deputy is considered taken if more than half of those participating in the voting voted for him. The results of the discussion of the candidates for deputy are reflected in the protocol of the conference. A decision of the conference may be appealed to the okrug election commission or the Republic Election Commission within a three-day period.

### **Article 34. Registration of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy are registered by the okrug election commission upon recommendation of labor collectives, organs of public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, meetings of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units which have nominated candidates for deputy, or the conference of okrug voter representatives if one was held.

The registration of candidates for deputy begins two months and ends 15 days before the elections.

The decision concerning the registration of candidates for deputy is taken in the presence of the following documents: The protocols of the meetings on the nomination of candidates for deputy for a given election okrug and the protocol of the conference of okrug voter representatives, if one was held, as well as the declarations of the candidates for deputy about their agreement to run for election for the given election okrug.

Persons enumerated in Article 11 of the present Law, as well as persons who are deputies in two Soviets of People's Deputies, upon their nomination as candidates for deputy, in their declarations indicate their intention to vacate positions being occupied by them in the case of their election as deputies, or to discontinue their deputy powers in one of the Soviets of People's Deputies, or communicate the withdrawal of their candidacies in writing.

Candidates for deputy present a declaration concerning their agreement to run for election to the corresponding election commissions no later than within five days after the end of the nomination.

The election commissions compose a protocol about the registration of candidates for deputy, which, together with the declarations of the candidates for deputy, is presented within a three-day period to the Republic Election Commission.

The corresponding okrug election commission registers candidates for deputy who are nominated with observance of the requirements of the present Law. Refusal to register may be appealed within a three-day period to the Republic Election Commission.

A candidate for deputy can be registered and run for election in only one election okrug.

A candidate for deputy cannot be a member of the Republic Election Commission, as well as of the okrug or district election commissions of the same election okrug where he was nominated as a candidate. A person who is nominated as candidate for deputy and is a member of one of the indicated commissions is considered released from his obligations in the commission from the moment of his nomination as candidate for deputy.

No later than within four days after the registration of the candidates for deputy, the corresponding election commission publishes in the press a report about the registration, with indication of the surname, name, patronymic, year of birth, position held (profession), place of work and residence of every candidate for deputy.

#### **Article 35. Revocation of a Decision on the Nomination and Registration of a Candidate for Kirghiz SSR Deputy. A Candidate's Withdrawal of His Candidacy**

The labor collective, organ of a public organization, collective of teachers, workers, and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, voters at their place of residence, and servicemen of a military unit, which nominated a candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy, have the right, at any time before the elections, to revoke their decision about the nomination of the candidate for deputy. The decision in this question is taken in accordance with the procedure provided for the nomination of a candidate for deputy, and is recommended to the corresponding election commission.

A candidate for deputy, at any time before the elections, may withdraw his candidature, having turned with a declaration to this effect to the corresponding election commission.

The voters are informed by the okrug election commission concerning the revocation of a decision about the nomination of a candidate for deputy or about the withdrawal of his candidature.

#### **Article 36. Procedure for Nomination of Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy in Place of Candidates Who Have Dropped Out**

In the case where a candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy drops out after the end of the term of registration of candidates for deputy, if no other candidates remain in an election okrug, the okrug election commission turns to labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, meetings of voters at their place of residence, and servicemen in military units, with a proposal to nominate new candidates for deputy.

In the case where candidates for deputy drop out less than a month before the elections, the elections of a deputy from the corresponding election district are held within a two-month period after the general elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputy in place of those who have dropped out is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the present Law.

#### **Article 37. Ballot**

In the ballot are included, in alphabetical order, all registered candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy with indication of the surname, name, and patronymic, office held (profession), place of work and residence of every candidate for deputy. The ballots are printed in the Kirghiz and Russian languages, as well as in the languages used by the majority of the population of the election okrug.

### **VII. Guarantees of the Activity of the Candidates for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

#### **Article 38. Right of the Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy to Take Part in the Election Campaign**

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, from the moment of their registration, have an equal right to take part in the election campaign. Candidates for people's deputy have the right to appear at election and other meetings, conferences, sessions, in the press, on television and radio.

State and public organs, the directors of enterprises, institutions and organizations, and organs of public independent action of the population, are obligated to extend assistance to the candidate for Kirghiz SSR

people's deputy in the organization of meetings with voters and in obtaining necessary reference and information materials.

**Article 39. Election Program of the Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

The candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy comes forward with a program of his future activity. The program of the candidate for deputy must not contradict the USSR Constitution, the Kirghiz SSR Constitution, and Soviet laws.

The candidate for deputy is responsible for his program.

**Article 40. Persons Empowered by the Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy may have up to five persons empowered by him, who help him in the conduct of the election campaign, campaign for his election to deputy, and represent his interests in the interrelations with state and public organs, voters, and members of public organizations, as well as in the election commissions.

The candidate for deputy determines the people empowered by them at their discretion and reports them for registration to the okrug election commission and also bears personal responsibility for their work.

After the registration of empowered persons, they are issued certification by the okrug election commission.

A person empowered [by a candidate for deputy] may not be a member of any of the okrug election commissions.

After their registration, persons empowered by a candidate for deputy, for the time of the conduct of election meetings, at the request of the candidate for people's deputy, may be released from the fulfillment of production or office obligations with retention of his average salary at his place of work at the expense of the funds allocated for the conduct of the elections.

**Article 41. Election Campaign**

Labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, and voters at the place of residence, who have nominated candidates for deputy, and persons empowered, are given the right to campaign for their candidates.

Labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of teachers, workers, white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, and voters at the place of residence are given equipped premises for gatherings and meetings, as well as mass media for the conduct of the election campaign by the okrug election commissions.

Citizens of the Kirghiz SSR, labor collectives, collectives of teachers, workers, and white collar workers, jointly with students of institutions of secondary specialized and higher education and other students, are guaranteed the possibility of free and comprehensive discussion of the political, business, and personal qualities of the candidates for deputy, as well as the right to campaign for or against candidates at meetings, in the press, on television and on radio.

Candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy hold meetings with their voters at assemblies at their place of work and residence. The meetings of the voters are organized by the okrug election commission, jointly with the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium.

The time and place where assemblies and meetings are conducted are communicated to the voters in good time, but no later than three days before they are held.

Campaigning on the day of the elections is not permitted.

**Article 42. Release of Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy from Production or Office Obligations for Participation in Election Measures**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy, after registration, for the time of the holding of meetings with voters, speeches at election meetings, on television and radio, is released from the discharge of production or office obligations, but not for longer than one month, with retention of his average salary at the expense of the funds allotted for the conduct of the elections.

**Article 43. Right of the Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy to Free Passage**

After registration, a candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy has the right to free passage on all types of passenger transport (with the exception of taxis) within the boundaries of the corresponding election district. The candidate for deputy who lives outside of the boundaries of the election district has the same right to passage into the election district and to return to his place of residence.

**Article 44. Immunity of the Candidate for Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

A candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy cannot have criminal proceedings instituted against him, be arrested, or subjected to measures of administrative penalties, imposed in judicial proceedings, without the consent of the Republic Election Commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Summing Up the Election Results**

**Article 45. Time and Place of Voting**

In the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies from election districts, voting takes place on the day of the elections from 7 am to 8 pm local time. Voters are

informed about the time and place of voting by the district election commission no later than 10 days before the elections.

In election districts formed in military units and in remote regions and regions difficult of access, the district election committee may declare the voting closed at any time if all voters included in the list have voted.

#### **Article 46. Organization of Voting**

Voting is carried out in premises specially set aside, in which booths or rooms for secret voting must be equipped in sufficient quantity voting, where places must be designated for issuing ballots, and where ballot boxes must be set up. Ballot boxes are set up in such a way that voters, in approaching them, must go through cabins or rooms for secret voting.

Responsibility for the organization of voting, the guarantee of the secrecy of the voters' will, the equipment of the premises and the maintenance of the necessary order in them is borne by the district election commission.

On the day of the elections, before the beginning of the voting, the ballot boxes are checked and sealed by the chairman of the district election commission in the presence of the members of the commission.

Every voter votes personally; voting for other persons is not permitted. The ballots are issued by the election commission on the basis of the list of voters of the election district upon presentation of a passport or other document certifying the identity of the citizen. The giving out of ballots is noted in the list of voters.

In cases where some voters, for reasons of their state of health or for other reasons, cannot come to the premise to vote, the district election committee, upon their request, charges no fewer than two members of the commission to organize voting wherever these voters are.

#### **Article 47. Conduct of Voting**

The ballots are filled out by the voter in the booth or the room for secret voting. During the filling out of the ballots the presence of anyone besides the voter is prohibited. The voter who does not have the possibility of filling out the ballots independently has the right to invite, at his discretion, another person into the booth or the room for secret voting, besides a member of the election commission.

In the elections of the Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, the voter crosses out the names of the candidates against whom he is voting.

#### **Article 48. Vote Count in the Election District**

The opening of the ballot boxes and sealed envelopes before the end of the voting is prohibited. Before the opening of the ballot boxes, all unused ballots are

counted and cancelled by the district election commission. The ballot boxes and sealed envelopes, transmitted by voters to the district election commission in case of change of residence, are opened by the district election commission in the presence of all its members after the declaration of the commission chairman concerning the closing of the voting.

In the elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputy, the vote count in the election district is carried out separately for every candidate for deputy.

The district election commission, on the basis of the lists of voters, establishes the total number of voters for the district, as well as the number of voters who received ballots and transmitted sealed envelopes. On the basis of the ballots found in the ballot boxes and the decisions of the voters contained in the envelopes transmitted to the district election commission beforehand, the commission establishes for the election okrug (within the boundaries of the given election district), the total number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes for and the number of votes against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots and decisions contained in envelopes that are invalid. For the names of citizens added to the ballots by voters and in decisions contained in envelopes, the votes are not counted.

Ballots in which all names are crossed out are considered valid, but for them, the votes are counted as votes against each candidate.

Considered as invalid are ballots of unestablished pattern, as well as ballots in which more than one candidate is left in the voting. If doubts arise concerning the validity of a ballot, the question is settled by the district election commission through a vote.

The results of the vote count are reviewed at a session of the district election commission and are entered in the protocol. The protocol is signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary, and the members of the commission and is sent to the corresponding okrug election commission.

#### **Article 49. Establishment of Election Results for the Election Okrug**

On the basis of the protocols of the district election commissions, the okrug election commission determines: The total number of voters for the okrug; the number of voters who received ballots and the number of voters who transmitted sealed envelopes; the number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against, every candidate for deputy; the number of ballots and voter decisions contained in sealed envelopes that are recognized as invalid.

As elected is considered the candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy who in the election received more than half of the votes of the voters who took part in the voting.



If in some election districts a violation of the present Law was permitted in the process of voting, a run-off election is held for them. After it has been held, the okrug election commission sums up the election results for the okrug.

The okrug election commission may recognize elections as invalid because of violations of the present Law permitted in the course of the elections or in the counting of votes.

Elections are recognized as not having taken place if less than half of the voters entered in the lists of voters took part in them, as well as in connection with the dropping out of a candidate for deputy, if one candidate is registered for the okrug.

The election results for the election okrug are established at a session of the okrug election commission and are entered in the protocol. The protocol is signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary, and the members of the commission, and is forwarded to the Republic Election Commission in accordance with the procedure established by it.

A report on the results of the election for the election okrug is published in the press by the corresponding okrug election commission within the time periods established by the Republic Election Commission. In the report are indicated: The total number of citizens included in the lists of voters; the number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against, every candidate; the number of invalid ballots and decisions of voters contained in envelopes; the surname, name and patronymic, year of birth, office held (profession), party membership, and the place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **IX. Procedure for the Summing Up and Publication of the Results of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

##### **Article 50. Registration of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

The Republic Election Commission for elections of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, on the basis of the protocols of the okrug election commissions received by it, registers the elected Kirghiz SSR people's deputies. The Republic Election Commission may recognize elections as invalid if, in the course of the elections or in the counting of votes, or in the determination of the election results, violations of the present Law took place, and may refuse to register a Kirghiz SSR people's deputy.

##### **Article 51. Publication of the Results of the Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies**

A report on the election results for the republic as a whole and a list of elected Kirghiz SSR people's deputies are published by the Republic Election Commission no later than within a 10-day period after the holding of elections, in alphabetical order with indication of the

surname, name, and patronymic, office held (profession), party membership, place of work and residence of the deputy, and the election okrug from which he was elected as deputy.

##### **Article 52. Certification and Chest Badge of the Kirghiz SSR People's Deputy**

After the publication, in the press, of the list of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies registered by the Republic Election Commission, the okrug election committee issues to each elected deputy a certificate of his election.

After the recognition, by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet, of the powers of the elected deputies, the certifications of their election as deputy are replaced by certification as Kirghiz SSR people's deputy. The deputy is also given a chest badge "People's Deputy of the Kirghiz SSR".

#### **X. Run-Off Election, Repeat Elections, and Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies in Place of Deputies Who Have Dropped Out**

If more than two candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy ran in an election district and not one of them was elected, the okrug election commission takes a decision about holding a repeat vote in the okrug on the two candidates who received the greatest number of votes. The okrug election commission reports this to the Republic Election Commission and informs the voters of the okrug about this. A run-off election in the election okrug is carried no later than within a two-week period with observance of the requirements of the present Law.

Considered elected is the candidate for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy who, in the run-off election received the greatest number of votes of the voters.

##### **Article 54. Repeat Elections**

If, no more than two candidates for Kirghiz SSR people's deputy ran for election in an election okrug and not one of them was elected, or the elections for an election okrug were recognized as not having taken place or as invalid, or if the run-off election did not allow the determination of an elected deputy, the Republic Election Commission instructs the okrug election commission to hold repeat elections in the election okrug. In so doing, it may take a decision concerning the necessity of the elections being held by an okrug election commission and district election commissions that are new in composition. The voting takes place in the same election districts and on the basis of the same lists of voters compiled for the general elections.

Repeat elections are carried out no later than within a two-month period after the general elections. A candidate for deputy who is not elected in one district cannot run for election in repeat elections. The formation of election commissions, the registration of candidates for deputy, and other measures are carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the present Law.

**Article 55. Conduct of Elections of Kirghiz SSR People's Deputies in Place of Those Who Have Dropped Out**

In the case where the authority of individual deputies is recognized as invalid by the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet, as well as in the case of the recall of a deputy, and the ahead-of-schedule termination of deputy authority for other reasons, new elections are held in the corresponding election okrugs within a three-month period from the moment when a deputy drops out. The elections are scheduled by the Republic Election Commission no later than two months before they are held and are organized with observation of the requirements of the present Law. In so doing, the okrug election commission is formed 15 days, and the district election commissions—one month before the elections. The registration of candidates for deputy ends one month before the elections.

In case a Kirghiz SSR deputy drops out less than a year before the expiration of the term of office of Kirghiz SSR people's deputies, elections of a new Kirghiz SSR people's deputy in place of the one who dropped out are not held.

**Latvian SSR**

**[Latvian SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies published in JPRS-UPA-89-047, 27 Jul 89, p 44]**

**Latvian SSR Law on Election of Republic President**

*90UN0192A Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 18 Oct 89 pp 2, 3*

["Law of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of the President of the Republic"]

**[Text] I. General Provisions**

**Article 1. Principles of Elections of the President of the Republic.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are held on all territory of the Latvian SSR on the basis of a universal, equal and direct right to vote by secret ballot and free will.

**Article 2. The Universal Right to Vote.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are universal; the right to vote is possessed by citizens of the Latvian SSR who have attained 18 years of age.

A citizen of the Latvian SSR who was born in Latvia and who has resided permanently on the territory of the Latvian SSR for not less than 10 years, who has attained an age of 40 years and who knows Latvian and Russian is eligible to be elected President of the Republic.

Any direct or indirect limitations of the right to vote depending on origin, social and material status, racial

and national membership, sex, education, attitude toward religion, and kind and nature of occupations are prohibited.

Mentally ill citizens recognized by the court to be incompetent, persons held in confinement and persons directed to places of compulsory treatment by decision of the court do not participate in elections.

**Article 3. The Equal Right to Vote.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are equal: A voter possesses one vote; voters participate in elections on an equal basis.

**Article 4. The Direct Right to Vote.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are direct: The President of the Republic is elected by citizens directly.

**Article 5. Free Elections and the Secret Ballot.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are free. Influencing the will of voters by violence, deceit, threats, bribery or other unlawful means and abuse of their will are subject to criminal punishment.

Voting in elections of the President of the Republic is by secret ballot: Monitoring the will of voters is prohibited.

**Article 6. Conduct of Elections by Election Commissions.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are conducted by election commissions, which are formed from representatives of labor collectives, student collectives, public organizations, residential voter assemblies and assemblies of servicemen of specific military units.

**Article 7. Glasnost in Preparing and Conducting Elections of the President of the Republic.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are prepared and conducted by election commissions, labor collectives, student collectives and public organizations openly and publicly.

Election commissions inform citizens on their work, on formation of election districts, on the composition, location and time of work of election commissions, and on lists of voters. Election commissions provide citizens with information on proposed candidates and on the results of their registration, biographical data on registered candidates and their election programs, the votes received by each candidate, and the election results.

Representatives of public organizations, proxies and representatives of the press, television and radio are entitled to attend meetings of election commissions, including during registration of candidates for the post of President, counting of ballots in an election district, determination of the results of elections in a rayon, city (republic- subordinated) and city rayon, and summarization of the overall election results.

A warrant of the republic organ of a public organization is grounds for participation of a representative of that public organization in a meeting of the election commission.

The mass media illuminate the course of preparations and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic; they are guaranteed unrestricted access to all assemblies and meetings associated with elections. Election commissions and state and public organs provide them available information associated with preparation and conduct of elections.

**Article 8. Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, Student Collectives and Public Organizations in Preparation and Conduct of Elections of the President of the Republic.**

A citizen participates in preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic both through labor collectives, student collectives, public organizations, residential assemblies of voters and assemblies of servicemen of specific military units, and directly.

Labor collectives, student collectives and public organizations participate in preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic both through their representatives in election commissions and directly.

**Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for the Post of President of the Republic.**

The right to nominate candidates for the post of President of the Republic belongs to republic organs of public organizations.

**Article 10. Incompatibility of the Post of President of the Republic With Other Obligations.**

The President of the Republic may not serve simultaneously as a people's deputy of the Latvian SSR or a people's deputy of a local soviet, nor may he occupy another position.

**Article 11. Expenditures Associated With Elections of the President of the Republic. Material Support to Elections.**

Expenditures associated with preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic are covered by state assets. Financing of an election campaign from other sources is prohibited.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations and state and public organs provide election commissions with building space and equipment necessary for preparation and conduct of elections.

Candidates for the post of President of the Republic and voters bear no expense associated with preparation and conduct of elections.

**Article 12. Responsibility for Violating the Law on Elections of the President of the Republic.**

Persons hindering by violence, deceit, threats, bribery or other unlawful means a citizen's free exercise of his right to elect and be elected the President of the Republic and conduct an election campaign, and members of election commissions and officials of state and public organs who commit forgery of election documents, who knowingly count ballots incorrectly, who violate voting secrecy or who commit other violations of this Law bear responsibility established by law. Persons who publish, or disseminate by other means, false information on a candidate for the post of President are also subjected to punishment.

**II. Scheduling Elections and Forming Election Districts**

**Article 13. Scheduling Elections of the President of the Republic.**

Elections of the President of the Republic are scheduled by the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR not less than four months prior to expiration of his term. The day of the election is communicated by the press.

**Article 14. Forming Election Districts.**

The territory of rayons, cities and city rayons is divided into election districts for voting and for counting ballots in elections of the President of the Republic. Election districts are also formed in military units, and they may be formed aboard vessels under way on election day.

**Article 15. The Procedure and Norm Followed in Forming Election Districts.**

Election districts are formed by rayon, city (except rayon-subordinated cities) and city rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums. Election districts are formed aboard vessels under way on election day by soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums in correspondence with the location of the home port of the vessel or the location of the kolkhoz board. Election districts are formed in military units by unit commanders with the consent of the appropriate Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium.

Election districts are formed not later than 70 days prior to elections. Election districts are formed within the same time period in military units and aboard vessels under way on election day, and not later than five days prior to elections in exceptional cases.

Election districts are formed with not less than 20 and not more than 3,000 voters. In exceptional cases a local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium, or the commander of a military unit is entitled to form an election district with a larger number of voters.

A local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium establishes the numbering of the election districts, which is constant within the bounds of the rayon, city or city rayon.

The appropriate local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium as well as the commander of the military unit inform voters on the boundaries of each election district, indicating the locations of the district election commission and the polling places.

### III. Election Commissions

#### Article 16. The System of Election Commissions.

Elections of the President of the Republic are prepared and conducted by election commissions.

The Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR;

—rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) and city rayon election commissions;

—district election commissions.

#### Article 17. Powers of the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR.

The Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR:

1) monitors fulfillment of this Law and ensures its uniform application throughout all of the territory of the Latvian SSR; in case of need, requests interpretation of this Law by the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR;

2) directs the activities of election commissions; determines the procedure for changing the composition of election commissions;

3) assists in organizing nomination of candidates for the post of President of the Republic;

4) registers candidates nominated for the post of President and issues the appropriate certificates to them, and assists in publication of posters containing biographical data on candidates for the post of President of the Republic, and their election program;

5) registers agents of candidates for the post of President of the Republic;

6) distributes money among election commissions; monitors provision of building space, transportation and communication to election commissions, and other matters of material and technical support to elections;

7) establishes the format of ballots, lists of voters, minutes of election commission meetings and other election documents, the design of ballot boxes and election committee seals, and the procedures for storing election documents;

8) hears reports of election commissions, ministries, state committees and departments of the Latvian SSR and other state and public organs on matters associated with preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic;

9) approves the text of the ballot and ensures printing of the ballots and their provision to rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) and city rayon election commissions;

10) summarizes the election results for the republic as a whole, registers the elected President and publishes a message in the press on the election results and on the elected President of the Republic;

11) issues the election certificate to the President;

12) resolves matters associated with conducting repeat elections;

13) resolves matters associated with organizing recall of the President of the Republic;

14) organizes elections of the President of the Republic to fill a vacated position;

15) examines statements and complaints concerning decisions and actions of election commissions, and makes the final decisions on them;

16) transfers to investigatory organs materials concerning criminally punishable violations of the Law on Elections of the President of the Republic;

17) Exercises other powers in accordance with this Law and other laws of the Latvian SSR.

#### Article 18. The Rayon, City (Republic-Subordinated City) and City Rayon Election Commission and Its Powers.

Rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) and city rayon election commissions formed for elections of people's deputies of local soviets participate in the conduct of elections of the President of the Republic.

The rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) and city rayon election commission:

1) organizes the conduct of elections and monitors fulfillment of this Law on the territory of the rayon, city and city rayon;

2) directs the activities of district election commissions;

3) hears reports of directors of executive and administrative organs of local soviets of people's deputies in regard to matters associated with preparation and conduct of elections;

4) observes the process of drawing up lists of voters and their submission to public inspection;

5) provides ballots to district election commissions;

6) determines and publishes the results of elections in the rayon, city and city rayon in the press;

7) supports preparation of runoffs and repeat elections on the territory of the rayon, city and city rayon, and participates in organizing recall of the President and in organizing elections to the vacated position;

8) examines applications and complaints concerning improper actions of district election commissions, and makes decisions on them;

9) exercises other powers in accordance with this Law.

**Article 19. Forming District Election Commissions.**

A district election commission is formed with a composition of 5-19 members not later than two months prior to elections.

Representatives for the district election commission are nominated by labor collectives or their councils, by student collectives, by general assemblies (assemblies of authorized agents) or the boards of kolkhozes, by rayon, city and city rayon organs of public organizations, by residential assemblies of voters and by assemblies of servicemen of specific military units. A residential assembly of voters is empowered to nominate representatives for the district election commission if not less than 50 voters participate in the assembly.

District election commissions are approved by rayon, city (excluding rayon-subordinated city) and city rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, from among nominated candidates with regard for representation of the main social groups of the population.

**Article 20. Powers of a District Election Commission.**

A district election commission:

- 1) draws up the list of voters for the district;
- 2) acquaints voters with the list of voters, receives and examines statements concerning errors in the list, and resolves the matter of making the appropriate changes in it;
- 3) receives ballots or election envelopes from voters planning to be absent from their place of residence on election day, or from their agents;
- 4) announces the date of the election and the polling place to the public;
- 5) ensures preparation of the polling place and the ballot boxes;
- 6) organizes voting on election day in the election district;
- 7) counts ballots submitted in the election district;
- 8) examines applications and complaints concerning preparation of elections and organization of voting, and makes decisions on them;
- 9) exercises other powers in accordance with this Law.

**Article 21. Organizing the Work of Election Commissions.**

The work of election commissions is organized in accordance with articles 25 and 26 of the Latvian SSR laws on elections of people's deputies of the Latvian SSR and of people's deputies of local soviets of the Latvian SSR.

**IV. Lists of Voters****Article 22. The List of Voters and the Procedure for Drawing It Up.**

The list of voters is drawn up in each election district, and signed by the chairman and secretary of the district election commission. The district election commission may enlist the services of representatives of the public in drawing up the list.

Executive committees of city, city rayon, settlement and village soviets of people's deputies maintain records on voters and submit, to district election commissions, information on voters residing in the corresponding territory, required for drawing up lists of voters, and they provide assistance in drawing up lists of voters.

Lists of voting servicemen are drawn up on the basis of data submitted by commanders of military units.

Lists of voters in election districts formed aboard vessels under way on election day are drawn up on the basis of data submitted by vessel captains.

The last names of voters are indicated in the list of voters in an order convenient to organizing the voting.

**Article 23. Procedure for Adding the Names of Citizens to the List of Voters.**

The names of all citizens who have attained an age of 18 years by or on election day, who are permanent residents on the territory of the given election district at the moment the list is drawn up, and who are entitled to participate in voting are added to the list of voters. For the purposes of this Law, a place of permanent residency is defined as a place of permanent registry, except in the case of students of educational institutions, for whom the place of registry for the time of their study is recognized as the place of residency.

The list of voters may also include citizens of the Latvian SSR located outside the republic for whom housing space is reserved in accordance with the law in connection with their call-up for active compulsory military service, and with absence for work or study.

Servicemen present in the military unit as well as members of the families of servicemen and other voters are included in the list of voting servicemen, if they reside on the territory of the military unit. Servicemen residing outside military units are included in the list of voters for their place of residency on a universal basis.

The list of voters for an election district formed aboard a vessel under way includes the members of the vessel crew who were under way more than 25 days prior to elections and who are under way on election day. These voters are stricken from the list of voters for the election district in which their place of permanent residency is located.

**Article 24. Acquainting Citizens With Lists of Voters and the Right to Submit Complaints Concerning Errors in the List of Voters.**

Lists of voters are presented for public inspection a month prior to elections.

Citizens are provided a possibility for acquainting themselves with the list of voters and verifying its correctness in the building space occupied by the district election commission.

Every citizen is granted the right to submit a complaint concerning a name not included or incorrectly added to the list or stricken from the list, as well as inaccuracies in indicating voter information on the list. An application as to errors in the list is examined by the district election commission, which is obligated to examine the application within not more than two days, and immediately on the eve of and on election day, and to make the necessary corrections in the list or provide the applicant with a copy of the decision denying his application and the justifications for denial. This decision may be appealed not later than five days prior to elections to the rayon (city) people's court, which is obligated to examine the complaint within three days. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. A correction in the list of voters is made in compliance with a decision of the court by the district election commission immediately.

**V. Procedure for Nominating and Registering Candidates for the Post of President of the Republic**

**Article 25. Deadline for Nominating Candidates for the Post of President of the Republic.**

Nomination of candidates for the post of President of the Republic begins three months and ends not later than two months prior to election day.

**Article 26. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for the Post of President of the Republic.**

Candidates are nominated for the post of President of the Republic by public organizations at plenums of their republic organs, conferences and congresses, with regard for candidacy proposals submitted by local organs, local collectives and members of these organizations.

Conditions for nomination of an unlimited number of candidates are created at plenums. Each participant of such a plenum is entitled to submit candidates for the post of President, participate in their discussion, and confirm proposed candidates or object to them. The decision to nominate a candidate for the post of President is made at a plenum by secret ballot. The sequence of discussion of candidates and other procedural matters are determined by a plenum of the public organization's republic organ.

A candidate is said to be nominated if the majority of the total membership of the public organization's republic organ has voted for him. The decision is communicated

to the person nominated as candidate for the post of President within not more than two days.

A record of proceedings in a format established by the Central Election Commission and the resolution (decision) of the public organization's republic organ are submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR within five days.

**Article 27. Registering Candidates for the Post of President of the Republic.**

Candidates for the post of President are registered with the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR on the basis of resolutions (decisions) of republic organs of public organizations nominating candidates, to which the candidate's candidacy consent statement is attached.

Registration of candidates for the post of President begins not later than 75 days and ends not later than 45 days prior to elections.

The decision to register a candidate or reject his registration is made within 15 days of receipt of the corresponding documents from the public organization's republic organ.

Persons listed in Article 11 of this Law nominated as candidates for the post of President must submit a statement indicating their intention to relinquish the powers of a people's deputy of the Latvian SSR or a people's deputy of a local soviet and leave any other position they occupy in the event of their election as President of the Republic. A similar statement must be submitted in cases where a candidate for the post of President is simultaneously nominated as a candidate for people's deputy of the Latvian SSR, or as a candidate for people's deputy of a local soviet.

The Central Election Commission registers candidates for the post of President nominated in compliance with the requirements of this Law. Rejection of registration may be appealed to the court within three days.

The Central Election Commission makes a decision concerning registration of candidates for the post of President, which is published in the press not later than the fourth day after registration of a candidate for the post of President; the last name, first name, patronymical, place and year of birth, occupied position (occupation), place of work and place of residency of every candidate for the post of President are indicated.

A candidate for the post of President may not be a member of the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR, or of another election commission. A person nominated as candidate for the post of President who is a member of one of the indicated commissions is relieved of his responsibilities in the commission from the moment of his registration as a candidate for the post of President.

**Article 28. Repealing a Decision to Nominate and Register a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic. Withdrawal From Candidacy by a Candidate.**

A public organization's republic organ which has nominated a candidate for the post of President is entitled to repeal its decision to nominate the candidate for the post of President not later than five days prior to elections. The decision on this matter is made in accordance with the procedure foreseen for nomination of candidates for the post of President, and it is submitted to the Central Election Commission. Rejection, by all public organizations, of their decision to nominate a candidate results in rejection of the candidacy of an unregistered candidate and repeal of the registration of a registered candidate.

A candidate for the post of President may withdraw his candidacy not later than five days prior to elections by submitting a written statement in this regard to the Central Election Commission.

**Article 29. The Procedure for Nominating Candidates for the Post of President to Replace Withdrawn Candidates.**

In the event that a candidate for the post of President withdraws following expiration of the deadlines for nominating candidates, and if no other candidates remain in the republic, the Central Election Commission requests public organizations to nominate new candidates for the post of President.

When it is impossible to nominate, register and conduct a discussion of a new candidate for the post of President within the time remaining prior to elections, the elections are cancelled, and new elections are conducted in two months' time.

Candidates for the post of President are nominated in place of withdrawn candidates in accordance with the procedure established by this Law.

**Article 30. The Ballot.**

All registered candidates for the post of President are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot for elections of the President of the Republic; the last name, first name, patronymical, year and place of birth, occupied position (occupation), place of work and place of residency of each candidate are indicated. The ballot bears a statement that the voter may leave not more than one candidate on the ballot.

Ballots are printed in Latvian and Russian.

**VI. Guarantees of the Activities of Candidates for the Post of President of the Republic**

**Article 31. The Right of a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic to Speak at Assemblies, Use Mass Media and Obtain Information.**

Candidates for the post of President have equal rights and are offered equal possibilities for speaking at election and

other assemblies, conferences and meetings, in the press and on television and radio, from the moment of their registration.

The Central Election Commission informs the public on the course of the election campaign and ensures its familiarization with the basic provisions of the election programs of all candidates for the post of President.

State and public organs, directors of enterprises, institutions and organizations, and commanders of military units are obligated to render assistance to candidates for the post of President in organizing meetings with voters and in acquiring needed reference materials and information.

Creation of obstacles to meetings of a candidate for the post of President with voters is subject to criminal punishment.

**Article 32. The Election Program of a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic.**

A candidate for the post of President of the Republic presents the program of his future activity. A candidate's program must not be directed at violent change of the principles of the state and social structure of the Latvian SSR, and it must not contain war propaganda, appeals to national enmity and to infringement of the constitutional rights of citizens, and slander.

**Article 33. Agents of a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic.**

A candidate for the post of President may have up to 10 agents who helped him conduct the election campaign, campaign in behalf of his election as President of the Republic, and represent his interests in mutual relations with state and public organs, voters, members of public organizations, and election commissions.

After his nomination, a candidate for the post of President names agents at his discretion and submits their names for registration to the Central Election Commission. Agents are entitled to campaign for their candidate from the moment of their registration. The election commission will give an agent a certificate after he is registered.

At the request of a candidate for the post of President an agent may be released from the performance of his production or administrative obligations while retaining wages at his place of work for the time of his performance of social obligations associated with elections. Expenses borne by enterprises, institutions or organizations in connection with this are compensated at their request by assets allocated for the conduct of elections.

An agent may not be a member of an election commission.

#### **Article 34. Election Campaigning.**

Labor collectives, student collectives, voters in residential assemblies, military servicemen, public organizations and agents of candidates for the post of President are granted the right to campaign freely for their candidates.

Labor collectives, student collectives, voters in residential assemblies, military servicemen and public organizations are provided furnished building space for assemblies and meetings and the services of mass media for election campaigning by rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) and city rayon election commissions.

Voters, labor collectives, student collectives and public organizations are guaranteed the possibility of free and comprehensive discussion of the political and personal qualities of a candidate, his capability for fulfilling the responsibilities of President, and the program of his future activity, and the right to campaign for or against candidates at meetings, in the press, on television and on radio.

Candidates for the post of President of the Republic meet with their electorate both at assemblies and in another manner convenient to voters.

The time and place of assemblies and meetings are communicated to voters ahead of time, but not later than three days before they are conducted.

Campaigning is prohibited on election day.

#### **Article 35. Releasing a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic From Production or Administrative Obligations to Participate in Election Measures.**

Following his registration, a candidate for the post of President is released from performance of production or administrative obligations while retaining average wages at the expense of assets allocated for elections, and he is not required to pay dues during the time of meetings with voters and appearances at election assemblies and meetings and on television and radio.

#### **Article 36. The Right of a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic to Free Travel.**

Following registration, a candidate for the post of President is entitled to free travel on all forms of passenger transportation (except taxis) within the boundaries of the republic.

#### **Article 37. Immunity of a Candidate for the Post of President of the Republic.**

A candidate for the post of President may not be subjected to criminal punishment, detained, arrested, subjected to search or to measures of administrative punishment without the consent of the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR.

In the event that the immunity of a candidate for the post of President, members of his family or his property are threatened, the state ensures their safety.

#### **VII. Procedure for Voting and for Summarizing Election Results**

##### **Article 38. Time and Place of Voting.**

Votes are cast during elections of the President of the Republic on election day from 0700 to 2000 hours local time. The time and place of voting are announced to voters by the district election commission not later than 10 days prior to elections.

In election districts formed aboard vessels and in military units, the district election commission may announce that the polls are closed at any time if all voters on the list have cast their votes.

##### **Article 39. Organizing and Conducting Voting.**

Voting is organized and conducted in elections of the President of the Republic in accordance with the procedure established in articles 44-48 of the laws on elections of people's deputies of the Latvian SSR and on elections of people's deputies of local soviets of the Latvian SSR.

##### **Article 40. Counting Votes in an Election District.**

In elections of the President of the Republic, votes are counted in an election district separately for each candidate.

Ballot boxes are opened by the district election commission after the commission chairman announces that the polls are closed. Opening ballot boxes before the polls are closed is prohibited. Before ballot boxes are opened, all unused ballots are counted and voided by the district election commission.

Using the list of voters, the district election commission establishes the total number of voters in the district and the number of voters who received ballots. The commission then establishes the following for the given election district on the basis of ballots in the ballot boxes: the total number of voters who voted; the number of votes for and the number of votes against each deputy; the number of ballots deemed invalid. Votes for the names of citizens written onto the ballot by voters are not counted.

Ballots of nonstandard format and ballots on which more than one candidate remain are deemed invalid. Ballots of voters who vote prior to election day for candidates who have withdrawn their candidacy or whose registration was repealed are also deemed invalid.

Ballots on which all names are stricken are deemed to be valid, but the votes on them are counted as being against each candidate. When doubts arise as to the validity of a ballot, the matter is resolved by the district election commission by vote.



The vote counting results are examined at a meeting of the district election commission and entered in the record of proceedings. The record of proceedings is signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary and members of the commission, and it is sent to the rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) or city rayon election commission in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR.

Special opinions of commission members, applications and complaints submitted to the commission in regard to violations committed during voting or during counting of the votes, and a certificate drawn up in the event that seals on a ballot box are damaged are attached to the record of proceedings.

**Article 41. Establishment of Election Results in a Rayon, City (Republic-Subordinated City) and a City Rayon.**

The rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) or city rayon commission determines the following on the basis of the records of proceedings of district election commissions: the total number of voters in the rayon, city or city rayon; the number of voters who receive ballots; the number of voters who voted; the number of votes for and the number of votes against each candidate, and the number of ballots deemed invalid.

Election results in the rayon, city (republic-subordinated city) or city rayon are established at a meeting of the corresponding election commission, and they are entered into the record of proceedings. The record of proceedings is signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and members of the commission, and it is sent to the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR in accordance with the procedure established by it.

Election results in the rayon, city or city rayon are made public in the press by the corresponding okrug election commission by the deadline established by the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR. The following are indicated in the announcement: the total number of citizens on the list of voters; the number of voters who voted; the number of votes for and the number of votes against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots.

**VIII. Procedures for Summarizing and Publishing the Results of Elections of the President of the Republic**

**Article 42. Registering the President of the Republic.**

The Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR generalizes the results of elections in the republic on the basis of the records of proceedings submitted to it by election commissions, and it registers the elected President of the Republic.

A candidate for the post of President is deemed to be elected if he receives more than half of the votes of all voters in the elections.

The Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR may deem elections invalid if in the course of the

elections or during counting of the votes or determination of the election results violations of this Law occurred, and refuse to register the President of the Republic.

Elections are deemed invalid if less than half of the voters on the list of voters voted, as well as in connection with the death of the candidate when one candidate had been registered.

**Article 43. Publishing the Results of Election of the President of the Republic.**

The Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR publishes an announcement of the results of the elections in the republic as a whole and the name of the elected President in the press not later than 10 days after the elections; the last name, first name, patronymical, occupied position (occupation), party membership status, place of employment and place of residency of the President of the Republic are indicated.

**Article 44. The Certificate and Badge of the President of the Republic.**

The Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR issues, to the elected President of the Republic, a certificate of his election and the badge of the President of the Republic.

**IX. Runoffs, Repeat Elections and Elections of the President of the Republic to Fill a Vacated Position**

**Article 45. Runoffs.**

If more than two candidates for the post of President of the Republic were voted on, and neither was elected, the okrug conducts a runoff of the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.

The decision to conduct a runoff is made by the Central Election Commission, which communicates its decision to the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR, and informs the voters. A runoff is conducted within not more than two weeks, in compliance with requirements of this Law.

A candidate for the post of President of the Republic is deemed to be elected if he receives more than half the votes of all voters in a runoff.

**Article 46. Repeat Elections.**

Repeat elections are conducted if elections are deemed to be invalid or to not have taken place; if not more than two candidates were voted on, and neither was elected; if a runoff did not make it possible to determine the elected President of the Republic.

In these cases the Central Election Commission of the Latvian SSR conducts repeat elections. In this case it may decide that a need exists for electing new district election commissions. Voting is conducted in the same election districts and on the basis of lists of voters drawn up for the general elections.

Repeat elections are conducted within not more than two months' time after general elections. Election commissions are formed, candidates for the post of President of the Republic are registered, and other measures are carried out in accordance with procedures established by this Law.

**Article 47. Conducting Elections of the President of the Republic to Fill a Vacated Position.**

In the event that the President of the Republic is recalled or his powers are terminated early for other reasons, new elections are held in the republic within six months of the moment the President resigns. Elections are scheduled by the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR not more than four months prior to their conduct, and they are organized in compliance with requirements of this Law.

**Lithuanian SSR**

**Lithuanian SSR Law on Supreme Soviet Elections**  
*90UN0138A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian*  
*11 Oct 89 pp 1-3*

["Law of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic on Elections of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet"]

**[Text] I. General Provisions**

**Article 1. Bases of Elections of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.**

Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be elected for a term of five years, according to single-mandate electoral okrugs on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage and secret ballot.

**Article 2. Universal Suffrage.**

The elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be universal: citizens of the Lithuanian SSR who have reached 18 years of age shall have the right to vote.

A citizen of the Lithuanian SSR who has reached 21 years of age may be elected a deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. Any direct or indirect limitations on the voting rights of citizens of the Lithuanian SSR based on origin, political views, social and material status, race and national origin, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, and kind and nature of employment shall be prohibited.

Citizens recognized by the court as incapable, and persons held in places of confinement on the basis of a court verdict (decree), or in connection with the conduct of a criminal investigation, as well as those sent by court decision to places of compulsory medical treatment, shall not participate in the elections.

**Article 3. Equal Suffrage.**

Elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be equal: each voter shall have one vote; all voters shall participate in the election on an equal footing.

**Article 4. Direct Suffrage.**

Elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be direct: deputies shall be elected by the citizens directly.

**Article 5. Secret Ballot.**

Voting in elections for deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be private and secret: monitoring the desire of the voters shall be prohibited.

**Article 6. Organization of Elections and Electoral Commission.**

Electoral commissions, which are formed of representatives of social, including also political organizations, social movements, labor collectives, and meetings of voters at places of residence, shall provide for the organization of elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

**Article 7. Glasnost in the Preparation for and Conduct of Elections.**

The preparation for and conduct of elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be carried out by electoral commissions, social, including political organizations, social movements, and labor collectives, openly and publicly. The public must be informed in no more than two days of electoral measures—meetings and commission sessions.

The electoral commissions inform the citizens about their work, about the formation of electoral okrugs, the composition, location and time of work of electoral commissions, and about the voter rolls. The electoral commissions inform the citizens on the results of registration of candidates for deputy, on biographical data about registered candidates, on the results of voting for each candidate, and on the results of elections.

Observers authorized in writing from social, including political organizations, social movements, labor collectives, meetings of voters, as well as observers and agents of candidates for deputy, located on the territory of the electoral okrugs, have the right to be present at sessions of electoral commissions, including during registration of candidates for deputy, voting, counting of votes in a polling place, during determination of election results by okrug, and in summing up the overall results of elections.

The mass media shall report the course of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, and their representatives shall be guaranteed unimpeded access to all meetings and sessions associated with elections. Electoral commissions, state and social organs, and labor collectives shall

present to them information associated with the preparation for and conduct of elections.

**Article 8. Participation of Society in the Preparation and Conduct of Elections.**

Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR shall take part in the preparation for and conduct of elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, both through social, including political organizations, social movements, and meetings of voters at their places of work and residence, and directly.

**Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.**

The right to nominate candidates for deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet belongs to social, including political organizations, social movements, and citizens of the Lithuanian SSR, according to their place of work and residence.

**Article 10. Mandates of Voters to Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.**

Voters shall give mandates to their deputies. The procedure for the introduction, generalization, examination and organization of fulfillment of the mandates of voters shall be established by law of the Lithuanian SSR.

**Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of Lithuanian SSR Deputy with Official Duty Position.**

Persons who are members of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, leaders of ministries, state committees and departments of the Lithuanian SSR, the chairman, deputy chairman, and members of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Court, people's judges, the chief state arbiter and state arbiters of the Lithuanian SSR, prosecutor of the Lithuanian SSR, and prosecutors of cities and rayons, cannot simultaneously be deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

**Article 12. Expenses Associated with Elections. Material Support of Elections.**

Expenses associated with the preparation for and conduct of elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be born by the state.

Enterprises, establishments and organizations, and state and social organs, shall place at the disposal of the electoral commissions accommodations and equipment necessary for the preparation and conduct of elections.

Social, including political organizations, social movements, labor collectives and citizens may use their own funds for election agitation.

**Article 13. Responsibility for Violation of Law on the Election of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.**

Persons who hamper, by force, deception, threat or otherwise, the freedom of voters to exercise the right to

elect and be elected deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, to carry out election agitation, as well as members of electoral commissions, or officials of state and social organizations, who forge election documents, count votes incorrectly, violate the secrecy of voting, or commit other violations of this law shall bear the responsibility established by law. Persons who publish, or otherwise disseminate, false information about a candidate for deputy, shall be also held responsible.

**II. Procedure for Scheduling Elections and Forming Electoral Okrugs**

**Article 14. Scheduling of Elections of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

Elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be called by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet no later than three months before the end of the term of office of the deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. The resolution of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on this matter shall be published in the press.

**Article 15. Procedure for the Formation of Electoral Okrugs.**

For the elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, 141 electoral okrugs shall be formed on the territory of the republic, in each of which one deputy shall be elected.

The electoral okrugs shall be formed by the Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, by representation of the rayon and city (republic-subordinate city) soviets of people's deputies.

The electoral okrugs for elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be formed for the purpose of ensuring that they contain an equal number of voters, as well as taking into account the administrative and territorial division of the Lithuanian SSR. The norm of voters in an electoral okrug shall be established for each election by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Lists of the electoral okrugs, with their boundaries and the okrug centers indicated, shall be published by the Republic Electoral Commission, no later than 15 days after the elections are called.

**III. Election Districts**

**Article 16. The Formation of Election Districts.**

To conduct the voting and count the votes, the territory of rayons, cities, and rayons in cities, included in the electoral okrugs, is divided into election districts.

In hospitals and other permanent medical establishments, as well as on ships that are underway on election day, election districts may be formed, which shall be included in the electoral okrugs according to their respective locations, or the ship's home port. Election

districts may be formed at Lithuanian SSR establishments abroad if the necessary conditions for this exist. The decision about their registration to a specific electoral okrug is made by the Republic Electoral Commission.

**Article 17. Procedure and Norm for the Formation of Election Districts.**

Election districts shall be formed by okrug electoral commissions, by representation of rayon and city (republic-subordinate city) soviets of people's deputies. On ships underway on election day, electoral districts shall be formed by the appropriate okrug electoral commission at the ship's home port.

Election districts shall be formed no later than two months before elections. On ships underway on election day election districts shall be formed in the same time period, and in emergency cases no later than five days before elections.

Election districts shall be formed with no fewer than 20, and no more than 3,000 voters.

The okrug electoral commission notifies voters about the boundaries of each election district, indicating the location of the district electoral commission and the voting places.

**IV. Electoral Commissions**

**Article 18. The System of Electoral Commissions.**

Electoral commissions shall be formed for holding elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet:

- the Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet;
- okrug electoral commissions for elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet;
- and district electoral commissions.

**Article 19. Formation of the Republic Electoral Commission for Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, no later than the 10th day after the calling of elections, shall form the Republic Electoral Commission for Election of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, consisting of a chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and 12 commission members, taking into account the recommendations of social, including political organizations, and social movements in the person of their republic organs, submitted in the seven day period following the calling of elections. The composition of the Republic Electoral Commission shall be published in the press.

The term of office of the Republic Electoral Commission is five years.

**Article 20. Powers of the Republic Electoral Commission for Election of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.**

The Republic Electoral Commission for Election of Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet:

- 1) shall monitor the fulfillment of this law and ensure its uniform application; and if necessary shall make representations to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on the interpretation of this law;
- 2) shall form electoral okrugs and approve the composition of their commissions;
- 3) shall coordinate the activity of the electoral commissions;
- 4) shall decide questions of the registration of election districts located outside of the Lithuanian SSR to electoral okrugs on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR;
- 5) shall establish the forms of ballots for elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, voter rolls, protocols of election meetings and sessions of the electoral commissions, other electoral documents, models of election boxes and seals of electoral commissions, and the procedure for storing electoral documents;
- 6) shall hear reports of ministries, state committees and departments of the Lithuanian SSR, local soviets of people's deputies, and other state and social organs, on questions associated with the preparation for and holding of elections;
- 7) shall register elected deputies, sum up the results of elections in the republic, and publish in the press reports about the results of elections and a list of elected deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet;
- 8) shall send to the Mandate Commission of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet documentation necessary to check the authority of deputies;
- 9) shall distribute funds to the electoral commissions, monitor the providing of facilities, transport and communications to the electoral commissions, and examine other questions of material and technical support of the elections;
- 10) shall decide questions associated with the holding of repeat elections;
- 11) shall decide questions associated with organizing the recall of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet;
- 12) shall call elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet to replace departed deputies, and ensure that they are held;
- 13) shall examine statements and complaints about the decisions and actions of electoral commissions, and make final decisions;

14) shall exercise other powers in accordance with this law and the other laws of the Lithuanian SSR.

**Article 21. The Formation of Okrug Electoral Commissions.**

An okrug electoral commission for elections of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be formed in each electoral okrug, 25 days following the calling of elections, and shall consist of 11 members.

Representatives of okrug electoral commissions shall be nominated by rayon and city organs of social, including political organizations and social movements, and by meetings of labor collectives. A meeting shall be authorized if the majority of the members of the collective participate in it. In labor collectives, meetings of shops, sections, shifts, brigades, and departments may be held, in which the majority of the members of the entire collective must participate.

The okrug electoral commissions for elections of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies shall be approved by the Republic Electoral Commission, and their composition shall be presented for general acquaintance.

**Article 22. Powers of the Okrug Electoral Commission.**

The okrug electoral commission for the election of deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet:

- 1) shall monitor the fulfillment of this law on the territory of the okrug;
- 2) shall coordinate the activity of the district electoral commissions, and establish the numbering of the election districts in the okrug;
- 3) shall hear reports of the executive and administrative organs of the local soviets of people's deputies, and the leaders of enterprises, establishments and organizations, on questions associated with the preparation for and holding of elections;
- 4) shall register nominated candidates for deputy and their agents and observers, issue to them appropriate certifications, and provide for the publishing of placards with biographical data about the candidates for deputy;
- 5) shall assist in the holding of meetings of candidates for deputy with voters, if the voters so request;
- 6) shall approve the text of the ballot for the electoral okrug, and provide for the preparation of ballots and supply of district electoral commissions with them;
- 7) shall establish and publish in the press the results of elections in the electoral okrug, and issue a certification to the elected deputy;

8) shall organize the holding of runoffs and repeat elections, as well as elections of a deputy to replace a departed deputy;

9) shall examine statements and complaints about the decisions and actions of district electoral commissions, and make decisions;

10) shall exercise other powers in accordance with this law.

**Article 23. The Formation of District Electoral Commissions.**

The district electoral commission is formed no later than 45 days before the elections, and consists of 5-19 members. In cases of necessity, the composition of a district electoral commission may be increased or decreased.

Representatives to the district electoral commission shall be nominated by rayon and city organs of social, including political organizations and social movements, as well as by their primary organizations located in the election districts, at general meetings of labor collectives, by their soviets or equivalent organs, by volunteer social organs, and by meetings of voters at places of residence, in which no fewer than 50 voters participate.

Meetings of shops, sections, shifts, brigades, and departments may be held in labor collectives, in which the majority of members of the labor collective must take part.

District electoral commissions shall be approved by the okrug electoral commissions, and their composition shall be presented for general acquaintance.

**Article 24. Powers of a District Electoral Commission.**

A district electoral commission:

- 1) specifies and confirms the basic voter roll in the district and acquaints the voters with it, receives and examines statements about errors in the roll, and decides the question of making appropriate changes to it;
- 2) compiles a supplementary voter roll and attachment to the voter roll;
- 3) notifies the voters of the day and place of voting;
- 4) provides for the preparation of facilities for voting and election boxes;
- 5) organizes the voting in the election district on election day;
- 6) counts the votes submitted in the election district;
- 7) examines statements and complaints about questions of the preparation of elections and organization of voting, and makes decisions;
- 8) exercises other powers in accordance with this law.

**Article 25. Organization of the Work of Electoral Commissions.**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the electoral commission shall be elected at a commission session.

Sessions of an electoral commission shall be authorized if no fewer than two thirds of the composition of the commission take part in them. Decisions of the commission shall be made by open voting, by the majority of votes of the overall composition of the commission. Commission members not agreeing with this decision shall have the right to express an individual opinion, which is appended to the protocol in written form.

The decisions of electoral commissions, made within the purview of their authority, shall be mandatory for execution by all state and social organs, enterprises, establishments and organizations.

The decisions and actions of the electoral commission may be appealed to a higher electoral commission, and in cases provided for by this law, also to the court.

One of the members of the electoral commission, at its decision, may be freed for the period of preparation for and conduct of the elections, of fulfilling production or official duties, with retention of average pay, from the funds allocated for the elections.

**Article 26. Assistance to Electoral Commissions in Exercising Their Powers.**

State and social organs, enterprises, establishments and organizations, and officials shall be obligated to assist the electoral commissions in the exercise of their powers, and to present the reports and materials necessary for their work. The electoral commission shall have the right to question state and social organs, enterprises, establishments, organizations, and officials, on matters associated with the preparation for and conduct of elections, and they shall be obligated to examine the question and give the electoral commission an answer in no more than three days.

**Article 27. Procedure for Changing the Composition of Electoral Commissions.**

Any member of an electoral commission may be released from his duties in the commission by the organ that confirmed its composition, by personal request, or by representation of a meeting of the social or political organization, social movement, labor collective, or voters at place of residence, who nominated him.

In case of necessity, a new representative to the electoral commission shall be nominated and approved by a commission member, as established by this law, in the existence of a decision by the higher commission which confirmed its composition.

**V. Voter Rolls.**

**Article 28. The Voter Roll and its Composition.**

The executive committees of city, community and district [apilinkovyy] soviets of people's deputies shall compile permanent voter rolls, which shall be sent no less than a month before the elections to the district electoral commissions. These rolls shall be updated annually.

The voter roll in each election district shall be approved by its electoral commission and signed by the chairman and secretary of the district electoral commission. The district electoral commission may bring in representatives of the public to update the roll.

Lists of voters in election districts formed in hospitals and other permanent medical establishments, as well as on ships underway on election day, and in Lithuanian SSR establishments abroad, shall be compiled by the leaders of these establishments or by ships' captains, and shall be sent to the district electoral commissions.

**Article 29. Procedure for Including Citizens in the Voter Roll.**

All citizens of the Lithuanian SSR, who have reached 18 years of age by or on election day, and at the moment the roll is compiled are living on the territory of the given election district, and have the right to vote, shall be included in the voter roll. If a dispute arises concerning the establishment of place of residence, decision is included in the voter roll in accordance with the entry about registration in his passport.

A voter may be included in a voter roll only in one electoral district.

**Article 30. Acquainting Citizens with the Voter Rolls and the Right to Complain About Errors in a Voter Roll.**

Voter rolls shall be presented for general acquaintance no less than 20 days before elections, and in election districts formed in hospitals and other permanent medical establishments, two days before elections.

Citizens shall be granted an opportunity to become acquainted with the voter roll, and to check the correctness of its composition, in the offices of the district electoral commission.

Each citizen shall be granted the right to complain about a failure to include, or incorrect including in or excluding from a roll, as well as about inaccuracies in the roll in indicating information about a voter. A statement about inaccuracies in a roll shall be examined by the district electoral commission, which is obligated within two weeks, and on the eve of and the day of elections, to examine the statement immediately, make the necessary corrections to the roll, or send to the person making the statement a copy of the decision rejecting his statement, with reasons for the decision. The decision of a commission may be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court,

which is obligated to examine the complaint within three days. The decision of a rayon, (city) people's court is final. A correction to a voter roll pursuant to the court decision is made immediately by the district electoral commission.

#### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

##### **Article 31. Procedure for Nomination of Candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

Nomination of candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy by electoral okrugs begins two months and ends 35 days before elections. A citizen of the Lithuanian SSR may nominate a candidate for deputy. A citizen of the Lithuanian SSR, with the exception of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet chairman, may be simultaneously a deputy of only one Supreme Soviet.

The right of nominating candidates for deputy shall belong to rayon and city organs of social, including political organizations, and social movements, as well as to a meeting of citizens of the Lithuanian SSR at their place of work or residence, consisting of at least 250 people, who are located on the territory of the electoral okrug.

The decision about nominating a candidate for deputy shall be made at a meeting or session by a majority of votes, by open or secret voting. Only one candidate for deputy may be nominated at a meeting (session).

A protocol shall be compiled about the nomination of a candidate for deputy, stating: name of the social or political organization, social movement, and their organ, which nominated the candidate, name of the group of citizens by place of work or residence, place and time where the meeting (session) was held, number of persons taking part in the meeting (session), who proposed the candidate for deputy and supported the given candidacy, last name, first name, year and place of birth, position occupied (occupation), place of work and residence of the nominated candidate for deputy, number of votes submitted in favor of the proposed candidate for deputy. The protocol shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the meeting (session). The organizers of the meeting (session) shall report the decision to the nominated candidate for deputy and the okrug electoral commission within a two day period.

##### **Article 32. Registration of Candidates for Deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.**

Candidates for deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be registered according to electoral okrugs, by the okrug electoral commissions. Registration of candidates for deputy shall be completed a month before election day.

The decision about registering a candidate for deputy shall be made within a three day period, given the presence of the following documents which shall be

mandatory for registration: 1) the protocol of the meeting about the nomination of the candidate for deputy in a given electoral okrug; 2) the required number of signatures of voters in support of this candidacy; 3) a written statement by the candidate for deputy agreeing to be placed on the ballot in the given electoral okrug. Persons enumerated in Article 11 of this law, upon being nominated as candidates for deputy, shall be required to indicate in their statements their intention to give up their duties in the event they are elected deputies. When persons already elected to any supreme soviet of people's deputies are nominated as candidates for deputy, they must in their statements indicate that they will give up the duties of deputy of this soviet if elected as deputies of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

An okrug electoral commission may refuse to register a candidate for deputy, in the event of violation of the procedure for nomination of a candidate for deputy established by this law.

A refusal to register may be appealed within three days to the Republic Electoral Commission.

Candidates for deputy may be on the ballot simultaneously in only one electoral okrug. A candidate for deputy must present a statement of his willingness to be placed on the ballot to the okrug electoral commission no later than three days before the end of the registration period.

A candidate for deputy may not be on the Republic Electoral Commission, or the okrug or district electoral commissions of the electoral okrug for which he has been nominated as a candidate. A person who has been nominated as a candidate for deputy and is on one of these commissions shall be considered released from his duties on the commission from the moment his candidacy for deputy has been registered.

The okrug electoral commission, no later than the third day following registration of a candidate for deputy, shall publish in the press a report about the registration, indicating the last name, first name, year of birth, position occupied (occupation), and place of work and residence of each candidate for deputy.

##### **Article 33. Withdrawal of a Candidacy by a Candidate.**

A candidate for deputy at any time, but no later than 15 days before the election, may withdraw his candidacy, by making a statement to this effect to the okrug electoral commission.

##### **Article 34. Organization of Elections in the Absence of Candidates for Deputy.**

In the case of removal of candidates for deputy less than a month before elections, and if there remains no candidate for deputy in the electoral okrug, the election of a deputy from the respective electoral okrug shall be held two months after the general elections, in the manner established by this law.

#### **Article 35. The Ballot.**

All of the registered candidates for deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be included on the ballot in alphabetical order, with the last name, first name, position occupied (occupation), place of work and residence of each candidate for deputy indicated. The ballots shall be published in the Lithuanian language, and when necessary also in other languages used by the voters of the electoral okrug.

The ballots shall be presented to the district electoral commissions no later than 10 days before elections.

#### **VII. Guarantees of the Activity of Candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

##### **Article 36. The Right of a Candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy to Speak at Meetings, Make use of the Mass Media, and Obtain Information.**

Candidates for deputy, from the time of their registration by the okrug electoral commission, shall have equal right to speak at election and other meetings, conferences, sessions, in the press, and on television and radio.

State and social organs, leaders of enterprises, establishments, organizations, and voluntary social organs of the population, shall be obliged to assist candidates for deputy in organizing meetings with voters, and in obtaining necessary informational materials.

##### **Article 37. Election Program of a Candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

A candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy shall publicly proclaim the program of his future activity.

##### **Article 38. Agents and Observers of a Candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

A candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy may have up to seven agents, who assist him conduct his election campaign, conduct agitation for his election as a deputy, and represent his interests in relations with state and social organs, voters, and members of social, including political organizations and social movements, as well as in electoral commissions.

A candidate for deputy may have one observer in each election district, who is entitled to participate in sessions of the electoral commissions during voting, counting of votes in the election district, establishing the results of elections in the electoral okrug, and summing up the overall results of elections.

A candidate for deputy shall determine his agents and observers at his own discretion, and report on them for registration to the okrug electoral commission. Following the registration of agents and observers, the electoral commission shall issue to them the appropriate certifications. Agents and observers may not be members of the Republic Electoral Commission, or of any

electoral commission of the corresponding electoral okrug. A candidate for deputy may at any time before the elections terminate the authority of any agent or observer, having reported about this to the okrug electoral commission. An agent or observer may, at any time before the elections, divest himself of his authority. To fulfill his duties in the elections, one of the agents of a candidate for deputy may, at the request of the candidate for deputy, be freed of his production or official duties, but for a period of no more than two weeks, with retention of his average pay at the expense of the state funds allocated for the election.

##### **Article 39. Election Agitation.**

Social, including political organizations, social movements, labor collectives or voters by place of residence, who have nominated candidates for deputy, shall be granted the right of unimpeded agitation for their candidates following their registration.

Social, including political organizations, social movements, labor collectives or voters by place of residence, shall be granted equipped offices for meetings, as well as mass information resources, for conducting election agitation.

Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR, labor collectives, and social, including political organizations and social movements, shall be guaranteed the opportunity for free and thorough discussion of the political, professional and personal qualities of candidates for deputy, as well as the right to agitate for or against a candidate.

Each candidate for deputy may open a personal account in a bank to finance election agitation. To finance election agitation, citizens of the Lithuanian SSR, labor collectives, social, including political organizations, and social movements may transfer their funds to the account of the candidate for deputy. The total amount of the funds shall not exceed 1,000 rubles. The appropriate labor collective, social or political organization, or social movement shall decide on the use for these purposes of the funds of social, including political organizations, social movements and labor collectives. The okrug electoral commission shall be entitled to check the legality of the allocation and use of these funds. Unused funds shall be transferred following the elections to the account of the Republic Electoral Commission. Use of other funds for election agitation shall be prohibited.

Candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy shall meet with their voters, both at meetings, and in other forms convenient for the voters.

Agitation shall not be permitted on election day.

##### **Article 40. Release of a Candidate for Deputy of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet From Production or Official Duties to Participate in Election Measures.**

A candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy following registration, for the time of holding meetings with voters, and making speeches at election meetings and on television and radio, but for no more than a



month, shall be released at his request from the fulfillment of production or official duties, with retention of average pay at the expense of funds allocated for elections.

**Article 41. The Right of a Candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy to Free Transportation.**

A candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy, following registration, shall have the right to free transportation on all types of passenger transport (except taxis) within the respective electoral okrug. A candidate for deputy who lives outside of the electoral okrug shall enjoy the same right for transportation to the electoral okrug and return to his place of residence.

**Article 42. Immunity of a Candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

A candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy cannot be brought to criminal accountability, arrested, or subjected to measures of administrative punishment, imposed by a court, on the territory of the republic, without the agreement of the Republic Electoral Commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Giving the Results of Elections.**

**Article 43. Time and Place of Voting.**

Voting is carried out on election day from 0800 until 2000 hours. The district electoral commission notifies the voters no later than 15 days before elections about the time and place of voting.

At election districts formed on ships underway on election day, as well as in Lithuanian SSR establishments abroad, the district electoral commission may declare voting completed at any time, if all voters included in the roll have voted.

**Article 44. Organization of Voting.**

Voting takes place in specially designated locations, in which a sufficient number of booths or rooms for secret voting must be prepared, and places for issuance of ballots determined and election boxes set up. Election boxes shall be set up so that as voters approach them they pass through the booth or rooms for secret voting.

The district electoral commission shall bear responsibility for organizing the voting, ensuring secret expression of the will of the voters, equipping the locations, and maintaining necessary order at them.

On election day, before the start of voting the election boxes shall be checked and sealed by the chairman of the district electoral commission, in the presence of all the commission members.

Each voter shall vote personally; voting for other persons is not permitted. Ballots shall be issued by the district electoral commission based on the voter roll in the election district, and upon presentation of passport or

other identification. Voters who arrive to vote but are not included in the voter roll shall be included in a supplemental voter roll, in case they may be added to the voter roll pursuant to Article 29 of this law. The voter is included in the list of voters who have received ballots.

In cases when individual voters, due to state of health or for other reasons, cannot be present in the voting place, the district electoral commission, on the basis of their written statements, shall send no fewer than two commission members to organize voting at the place where these voters are located. This shall be noted in the voter roll, and a notation shall also be made in an attachment to it. The voter shall be included in an attachment to the list of those in receipt of a ballot. One portable election box shall be used for such voting.

**Article 45. The Conduct of Voting.**

The ballots shall be filled out by the voter in the booth or room for secret voting. It shall be prohibited for anyone besides the voter to be present while the ballot is being filled out. A voter who is not capable of independently filling out the ballot shall have the right to invite another person of his choice into the booth or room, except for a member of the electoral commission, or an agent or observer of the candidate for deputy.

The voter shall cross off on the ballot the names of candidates against whom he is voting.

The voters shall drop the completed ballot into the election box.

**Article 46. The Conduct of Voting Not on Election Day.**

A citizen of the Lithuanian SSR who cannot be present to vote on election day may go to the location of the district electoral commission no fewer than 10 days before elections and request that he be issued an ballot. The voter's name is entered on the list of voters who have received a ballot. After executing the ballot the voter puts it in an envelope, which is sealed and certified by seal of the district electoral commission. The envelope is stored by the district electoral commission until election day. On election day the chairman of the district electoral commission, in the presence of the commission, drops the envelope into the voting box.

**Article 47. Counting of Votes in the Election District.**

The counting of votes in the election district shall take place separately for each candidate for deputy.

After the commission chairman announces the end of voting, the district electoral commission shall count and cancel all unused ballots. Election boxes shall be opened only after this takes place. The district electoral commission shall open each election box, and the counting of votes shall take place individually. The portable election boxes shall be opened first and the ballots therein counted; then the election box located at the voting place

shall be opened and the ballots contained therein counted. Opening election boxes before the end of voting shall be prohibited.

The district electoral commission, according to the primary and supplemental voter roll and the attachment to it, shall establish the total number of voters in the district, as well as the number of voters who obtained ballots. Based on the ballots contained in the election boxes, the commission shall establish: the total number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes submitted for and against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots declared invalid. Votes on ballots containing the names of citizens additionally entered by voters shall not be counted.

Ballots that are not completed, as well as ballots on which the name of more than one candidate was left, shall be declared invalid. If doubts arise as to the validity of a ballot, the question shall be decided by vote of the district electoral commission.

The results of counting the votes shall be examined at a session of the district electoral commission, and shall be entered in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and commission members. To the minutes shall be added complaints received from the observers and agents of candidates for deputy about violations of voting procedure, and they shall be sent to the appropriate okrug electoral commission in the form established by the Republic Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 48. Ascertaining the Results of Elections by Electoral Okrug.**

Based on the minutes of the district electoral commissions, the okrug electoral commission shall determine: the total number of voters in the okrug; the number of voters who received ballots; the number of voters who took part in the voting; the number of votes for and against each candidate for deputy; and the number of ballots declared invalid.

A candidate for deputy to be Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet shall be considered elected if he receives in the election more than half of the votes of the voters taking part in the voting.

The okrug electoral commission may declare elections invalid due to violations of this law committed in the course of the elections or during the vote counting, which had a decisive effect on the results of the elections.

Elections shall be declared void if fewer than half of the voters included in the voter rolls took part in them, as well as in connection with the death of a candidate for deputy, if one candidate was registered in the okrug.

The results of the elections in an electoral okrug shall be ascertained at a session of the okrug electoral commission, and shall be entered in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and members of the commission. Complaints

about violations of voting procedure received from the observers and agents of candidates for deputy shall be added to the minutes, and they shall be sent to the Republic Electoral Commission in the manner established by it.

A report of the results of elections in the electoral okrug shall be published in the press by the okrug electoral commission no later than the fifth day following elections.

The report shall indicate: the total number of citizens included in the voter rolls; the number of voters taking part in the voting; the number of votes submitted for and against each candidate; the number of ballots declared invalid; and the last name, first name, position occupied (occupation), place of work, and residence of the elected deputy.

#### **IX. Procedure for Summing Up and Publishing the Results of Elections of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

##### **Article 49. Registration of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The Republic Electoral Commission for the Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies, based on the minutes received from the okrug electoral commissions, shall register the elected Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies.

The Electoral Commission may declare elections invalid if, during the voting or the vote counting, or in determining the results of the elections, violations of this law occurred, and may refuse to register a Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.

##### **Article 50. Publishing the Results of Elections of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The Republic Electoral Commission shall publish in the press a report on the overall results of the elections in the republic, and a list of the elected Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, in no more than seven days, in alphabetical order, with the last name, first name, position occupied (occupation), place of work and residence of the deputy, and the electoral okrug in which he was elected.

##### **Article 51. Certification and Badge of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

The okrug electoral commission, following publication in the press of the list of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies registered by the Republic Electoral Commission, shall issue a certification to the elected deputy of his election.

Following confirmation by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet of the powers of the elected deputies, the certificates issued to them about the election of deputies shall

be replaced by certificates of a Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy. The deputy is also given a badge of a Supreme Soviet Deputy.

**X. Runoffs, Repeat Elections, and Elections of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies Who Replace Departed Deputies.**

**Article 52. Runoffs.**

If more than two candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy were on the ballot in an electoral okrug, and none of them was elected, the okrug electoral commission shall make a decision about the holding of a runoff in the okrug between the two candidates for deputy who received the largest number of votes. The okrug electoral commission shall report this decision to the Republic Electoral Commission, and inform the voters of the okrug. A runoff in an electoral okrug shall be held within two weeks, with observance of the requirements of this law. A candidate for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy shall be considered elected if in the voting he received the greatest number of votes of the voters with respect to the other candidate. If a runoff is held involving one candidate for deputy, he is considered elected if he receives more than half of the votes of the voters who took part in the voting.

A runoff is considered invalid if fewer than half of the voters entered on the voter rolls took part in it, as well as in connection with the death of a candidate for deputy, if one candidate remained for the runoff.

**Article 53. Repeat Elections.**

If in an electoral okrug no more than two candidates for Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy were on the ballot, and neither was elected, or the elections in the electoral okrug were declared void or invalid, or a runoff was unable to determine the elected deputy, the Republic Electoral Commission shall charge the okrug electoral commission to hold repeat elections in the electoral okrug. It may decide that it is necessary for newly constituted okrug and district electoral commissions to hold the elections. The voting shall be held in the same electoral districts, and using the voter rolls compiled for the general elections.

Repeat elections shall be held no later than two months following the general elections. The formation of electoral commissions, registration of candidates for deputy, and other measures shall be conducted as established by this law.

**Article 54. Holding Elections of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies to Replace Departed Deputies.**

In the event that the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet declares the powers of individual Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies invalid, as well as in the case of recall of a deputy, or early cessation of a deputy's powers for other reasons, new elections shall be held in the respective electoral okrugs, within three months of the departure of the deputy. Elections shall be called by the

Republic Electoral Commission no later than two months before they are held. The elections shall be organized with observance of the requirements of this law. The okrug electoral commission is formed 50 days, and the district commissions one month before the elections; registration of candidates for deputy ends one month before the elections.

In case of the departure of a Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy less than six months before the end of the term of office of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, election of a new Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy to replace the departed deputy shall not be held.

**Decree of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on the Procedure for Implementation of the Lithuanian SSR Law, 'On the Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies,' 29 September 1989**

In connection with the approval of the Lithuanian SSR law, "On the Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies," the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic decrees:

To establish that, until approval and implementation of the Lithuanian SSR law "On Lithuanian SSR Citizenship," during the period established by this law:

1. The voting right of a Lithuanian SSR citizen shall be granted to Soviet citizens who are living permanently on the territory of the republic, and have here a permanent place of work, or a permanent legal source of existence.
2. Military personnel of military units stationed on Lithuanian SSR territory shall participate in elections in the usual manner. Pursuant to Article 16 of the Lithuanian SSR law, "On the Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies," election districts shall also be formed in military units. Representatives of electoral commissions and candidates for deputy shall be nominated by meetings of military personnel by military units, in accordance with the norms of Articles 21, 23 and 31 of this law. Pursuant to Article 28 of this law, voter rolls for the election districts formed in military units shall be compiled by the commanders of these units, and be sent to the district electoral commissions.

**Decree of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on the Partial Change of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Decree of 18 May 1989, 'On the Preparation of Draft Laws on the Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies and Deputies of Local Lithuanian SSR Soviets of People's Deputies, as well as on Calling for Elections to These Soviets,' 30 September 1989**

The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic decrees:

1. In a partial change to Paragraph 3 of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Decree: "On the Preparation of Draft Laws on the Election of Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies and Deputies of Local Lithuanian SSR Soviets of People's Deputies, as well as on Calling for

Elections to These Soviets," that elections to local Lithuanian SSR soviets of people's deputies are to be held on 6 May 1990.

2. That the term of office of local soviets of people's deputies of the current convention is to be extended until the day of elections to these soviets.

## Moldavian SSR

[Moldavian SSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies published in FBIS-SOV-89-211, 2 Nov 89, p 93]

### Moldavian SSR Election Law Comparison 905A0011A

[Editorial Report] Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian on 29 November 1989 carries on pages 1 and 2 under the heading "Law of the Moldavian SSR on Election of Peoples Deputies of the Moldavian SSR", a final version of the draft to this law published in SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian on 19 September 1989, pp 1-2 under the same heading. Comparison of the draft with the final version reveals the following variations:

Article 1, second paragraph, first sentence in final version reads: "...through a free and secret ballot." (adding "free"); the second and third sentences of the draft are omitted, from "With the goal of..." through "...or the plenums of their republic organs."

Article 2, second paragraph, first sentence reads: "The election of the people's deputies of the Moldavian SSR is unanimous." (omitting "from the electoral districts"); second sentence reads: "Citizens of the Moldavian SSR who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote and to be elected" (included in first sentence by draft); second paragraph, second sentence of draft is omitted in final, from "All delegates..." through "...their republic organs."

Article 2, fifth paragraph, first sentence of draft is omitted in final version, from "A people's deputy of the..." through "...who have reached the age of 21."

Article 3, second paragraph, first sentence in final version reads: "The elections of people's deputies of the Moldavian SSR are equal: voters in each electoral district have one vote; voters participate in elections on an equal basis. (omitting "...from electoral districts..." and adding "each")."

Article 3, final version omits third paragraph of draft (concerning deputies from public organizations); omits fourth paragraph of draft (concerning sexual equality); fifth paragraph of final version adds "...stationed on the territory of the Moldavian SSR..."

Article 4, final version omits second paragraph (concerning deputies from public organizations being directly elected).

Article 5, first paragraph, final version adds: "Free..." and "...influencing the will of voters through force, fraud, threat or any illegal method, and also..."

Article 7, final version adds additional paragraph which reads: "Interference of representatives in work of electoral commissions is not permitted."

Article 9, second paragraph, final version omits clauses starting with "...the nomination of candidates..." [to end of paragraph].

Article 10, first paragraph, final version omits "...public organizations..."

Article 12, second paragraph, final version omits "...paid from republic budget..."; adds "...paid by state..." through "...other sources not allowed." Final version omits final paragraph of draft.

Article 13, final paragraph of final version reads: "If this Law is violated by a candidate for deputy, the district electoral commission can, upon agreement from the Central Election Commission, change its decision on registering this candidate as a deputy." (omitting "...he is warned by the appropriate district election commission, and if the violation is repeated, the Central Election Commission can request..." )

Article 14, final version omits all of third and fourth paragraph except, "Announcement of the day of elections is published in the press."

Article 15, second paragraph, final version changes number of electoral districts from 225 to 380, (adding "... with roughly an equal number of voters."

Page 1, final version starts "III. Electoral sections" at this point, while draft starts it after Article 16.

Article 16 of final version is Article 17 of draft; final paragraph of article 16 omitted in final version.

Article 17 of final version is Article 18 of draft.

Article 18 of final version is Article 19 of draft;

Article 19 of final version is Article 20 of draft; second paragraph of final version reads "...taking into account the suggestions of rayon..." instead of "...at suggestion of..." in draft; final version adds "...or their presidiums..."

Article 20 of final version is Article 21 of draft; paragraph 13 of final version reads: "...transfers, for examination by appropriate investigative and other organs and officials, materials concerning violations of the Law on the Election of Moldavian SSR people's deputies. Voters are informed of the measures." Paragraph 13 of draft reads: "...transfers to procuracy organs information on

violations of the Law..."; paragraph 14 of final version adds "...Moldavian SSR..." and "...people's deputies..."

Article 21 of final version is Article 22 of draft; third paragraph in final version reads "...are nominated at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives, collectives of pupils and students, general meetings (meetings of authorized representatives) of kolkhozes, and also..." The draft reads: "...are nominated by labor collectives of their councils...or boards of kolkhozes..."; fourth paragraph in final version is last sentence in third paragraph of draft; fifth paragraph adds "...or their presidia..."

Article 22 of final version is Article 23 of draft, paragraph 13 in final version adds "...other laws of the Moldavian SSR."

Article 23, second paragraph of final version omits last sentence of second paragraph in draft. Second paragraph in final version adds "...at meetings (conferences)..." and "...and also..."; fifth paragraph adds "...may..."; fourth paragraph of final version is final sentence of third paragraph in draft; fifth paragraph in final version omits "...and sovkhozes..."

Article 24 of final version is Article 25 of draft.

Article 25 of final version is Article 28 of draft; sixth paragraph, first sentence of final version adds "...or its presidium..."

Article 26 of final version is Article 29 of draft.

Article 27 of final version is Article 30 of draft; third paragraph of final version adds "...about voters living in the respective territories..."

Article 28 of final version is Article 31 of draft.

Article 29 of final version is Article 32 of draft.

Article 30 of final version is Article 34 of draft.

Page 2, Article 31 of final version is Article 35 of draft; second paragraph of final version omits "...by electoral district..."; third paragraph of final version omits "...located in the respective electoral district..." third paragraph of final version reads: "Candidates for people's deputies are nominated by labor collectives of rayon, city, rayon in city organs of public organizations, collectives of pupils and students of **secondary specialized and higher educational institutions engaged in day-time education, located in a rayon or city (in cities, not divided into rayons), a rayon in a city, on the territory of which is an electoral district, and by meetings of voters in their area of residence and armed ...;**

Article 31, third paragraph of draft reads: "Candidates for peoples deputies are nominated by labor collectives, collectives of pupils and students, rayon, city, rayon in city organs, organs of public organizations located in the appropriate electoral district an by meetings of voters in their place of residence, the general meeting (meeting of authorized representatives) of kolkhozes and armed..."

Article 31, fourth, fifth and sixth paragraphs, final version changes the minimum number of workers to 100, compared to 200 in draft.

Article 31, seventh paragraph of final version is not in draft. It reads: "The district electoral commission is informed of the nomination of a candidate for people's deputy not later than 3 days prior to the nominating meeting."

Article 31, eighth paragraph of final version is seventh paragraph of draft, adding "...or their presidia..." and "...or a group of at least 50 voters in an electoral district."; and omitting "...supported by at least 100 voters in this district."

Article 31, ninth paragraph of final version (eighth paragraph in draft) reads "or its presidium.." instead of "or its committee..." in draft.

Article 31, tenth paragraph of final version is ninth paragraph of draft. Eleventh and twelfth paragraph of final version are in reverse order of same in draft.

Article 31, thirteenth paragraph of final version and draft are identical. Fourteenth paragraph, first sentence of final version reads: "Labor collectives, joint meetings of several collectives, organs of public organizations, collectives of pupils and students, meetings of voters in their places of residence and armed forces personnel in their military units nominate one candidate for deputy for only one electoral district."

Article 31, fourteenth paragraph, first sentence of draft reads: "From labor collectives, collectives of pupils and students, or joint meetings of several collectives and public organizations and also meetings of voters in their places of residence and armed forces personnel in their military units one candidate for people's deputy is nominated for each electoral district."

Article 31, sixteenth paragraph, final version adds "...written..."; seventeenth paragraph of final version reads: "As a rule, candidates for people's deputies of the Moldavian SSR are citizens working or living in the respective electoral district." Seventeenth paragraph of draft reads "...living or working within the limits of the rayon, city in which the electoral district is located."

Article 31, eighteenth paragraph of final version adds "...people's..."

Article 32, final version omits third paragraph of draft; third paragraph of final version is fourth paragraph of draft, omitting the final clause of draft.

Article 32, fourth paragraph of final version omits "...decision of republic organ of public organization, and also.." and "...or from public organizations."; and includes sixth paragraph of draft; The seventh and eighth paragraph of draft are in reverse order in final version, the eighth paragraph of draft is the last sentence in fourth paragraph of final version, and the seventh paragraph of draft is the fifth paragraph of final version.

Article 32, sixth paragraph of final version is the ninth paragraph of draft, adding "...simultaneously..."

Article 32, seventh paragraph of final version is tenth paragraph of draft. The eighth paragraph of final version is eleventh paragraph of draft.

Article 37, final paragraph of draft is omitted in final version.

Article 33 of final version is Article 38 of draft; second paragraph in final version omits "...republic organs of public organizations..."

Article 34 of final version is Article 39 of draft; final version omits third paragraph in draft.

Article 35 of final version is Article 40 of draft; third paragraph of final version omits "...election..."

Article 36 of final version is Article 41 of draft. In second paragraph, final version replaces "...given..." with "...guaranteed..."; Third paragraph of final version omits "...and members of public organizations..."

Article 37 of final version is Article 42 of draft. Second paragraph of final version reads: "A Candidates for Moldavian SSR people's deputy informs voters of his productive, service and public activities and offers a campaign program. The program of a candidate deputy should not contain anticonstitutional or any other illegal actions." Second paragraph of draft reads: "A ... deputy offers a program of his future activities. A program of a candidate for deputy should not conflict with the USSR Constitution, the Moldavian SSR Constitution or with Soviet laws."

Article 38 of final version is Article 43 of draft. Third paragraph of final version omits "...or in election commissions for elections from public organizations."

Article 39 of final version is Article 44 of draft. Fourth paragraph of final version adds "...secondary specialized and higher educational institutions engaged in daytime education, meetings of voters at their places of residence and armed forces personnel in their military units."; and omits "...at meetings, in the press, on television and radio."

Article 39, fifth paragraph of final version adds "...or their presidia...", omits "...organs of public organizations..."

Article 40 of final version is Article 45 of draft.

Article 41 of final version is Article 46 of draft. Final version omits final paragraph in Article 46 of draft.

Article 42 of final version is Article 47 of draft.

Article 43 of final version is Article 48 of draft. Second paragraph of final version omits "In elections of Moldavian SSR people's deputies from election districts..."; the final version omits final paragraph of Article 48 in draft.

Article 44 of final version is Article 49 of draft. Third paragraph of final version reads: "The precinct electoral commission bears...", omitting "...or electoral commission of public organization..." Fourth paragraph, final version adds "...precinct...", omitting "...appropriate..."

Article 44, fifth paragraph of final version omits "...delegate of Congress or conference, plenum participant..."; the second sentence of final version reads: "Precinct election commissions issue ballots on the basis of a list of voters in the precinct upon display of a passport or other identification." Same sentence in draft reads: "The appropriate election...in the precinct, or a list of those voting in the congress, conference, public organization plenum of its republic organ..."

Article 45 of final version is Article 50 of draft. Second paragraph of final version omits "In elections of Moldavian SSR people's deputies from election districts and public organizations..."

Article 46 of final version is Article 51 of draft. Second paragraph of final version omits "In elections of Moldavian SSR people's deputies from election districts..."; fourth paragraph of final version omits "...and also..."; fifth paragraph in final version adds "...and also ballots on which more than one candidate has been marked during voting..."

Article 47 of final version is Article 52 of draft. The final version omits fourth paragraph of draft.

Article 48 of final version is Article 54 of draft.

Article 49 of final version is Article 55 of draft.

Article 50 of final version is Article 56 of draft.

Article 50, second paragraph of final version omits "...electoral commissions for elections from public organizations..."

Article 51 of final version is Article 57 of draft. Second paragraph of final version combines second, third and fourth paragraphs of draft. Final version omits fifth paragraph of draft. Third paragraph in final version omits "...delegates to congress, conference, public organization, or participants of plenum of its republic organs..." [in sixth paragraph of draft]

Article 52 of final version is Article 58 of draft. The final version omits final paragraph of Article 59 of draft.

Article 53 of final version is Article 59 of draft. The first paragraph of final version omits "...or in public organizations..." The final sentence in first paragraph of final version reads: "Precinct electoral commissions are formed a month prior to elections, the nomination of candidates for deputy begins 2 months prior to elections, their registration begins a month prior to elections and ends 20 days prior to elections." In draft it reads: "A district electoral commission or an electoral commission for elections from public organizations is formed 50 days

prior to elections, precinct commissions are formed a month prior; candidates for deputy are registered a month prior to elections."

Final version is signed "Chairman of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium M. Snegur and Member of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium D. Hidelku, Kishenev, 23 November 1989;" draft is not.

## RSFSR

### RSFSR Draft Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

18001646A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA  
in Russian 12 Aug 89 Second Edition pp 1-3

["Draft Law of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic on Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies"]

[Text] I. General Resolutions.

#### Article 1. Basis for Election of RSFSR People's Deputies.

The election of RSFSR People's Deputies is carried out in single-mandate territorial and national-territorial election okrugs on the basis of a general, equal and direct right to vote with secret ballot.

#### Article 2. The General Right to Vote.

The election of RSFSR People's Deputies is a general election; RSFSR citizens who have reached the age of 18 years have the right to vote and to run.

Any direct or indirect limitations on the right of RSFSR citizens to vote based on origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, duration of residence in a given area, and type and nature of work are forbidden.

Psychologically-ill citizens, those who have been legally deemed incompetent, incarcerated individuals and those who according to legal decisions are in mandatory treatment facilities do not participate in elections.

#### Article 3. Equal Right to Vote.

Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are equal—each voter in each election okrug has one vote; voters participate in elections on an equal basis.

Men and women have equal voting rights.

Military personnel have the same voting rights as all citizens.

#### Article 4. Direct Right to Vote.

Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are direct—people's deputies are directly elected by citizens.

#### Article 5. Secret Ballot.

Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are by secret ballot—control over the will of voters is forbidden.

#### Article 6. Voting Rights of Citizens of Other Union Republics.

The citizens of other union republics on the territory of the RSFSR have the right to vote and be elected into the RSFSR People's Deputies on an equal basis with citizens of the RSFSR.

#### Article 7. The Implementation of Elections by Election Commissions.

The implementation of elections of RSFSR People's Deputies is carried out by the election commissions which are created from among representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, meetings of voters at their place of residence and military personnel at their military units.

#### Article 8. Glasnost in Preparing for and Carrying Out Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.

The preparation and implementation of elections of RSFSR People's Deputies is carried out by election commissions, labor collectives and public organizations openly and publicly.

Election commissions inform citizens about their work, about the formation of election okrugs, about the composition, location and time of work of the election commission and about lists of voters. Election commissions bring to the attention of citizens the results of the registration of candidates and deputies, the biographical information concerning registered candidates, the results of the elections for each candidate and the result of the entire election.

Representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, of election meetings at the place of residence and of military personnel in military units, okrug election commissions and organs of government power, fiduciaries as well as representatives of the press, television and radio may attend meetings of election commissions, including at the time of registration of candidates as deputies, of sealing voting boxes prior to the start of voting, of counting votes at the voting place, of the determination of voting results in the okrug and of tabulating general election results. The authority of the aforementioned representatives must be attested to by a corresponding document or by decision of the labor collective, a meeting of voters at the place of residence or of military personnel in a military unit. The intention of representatives to be present during on election day in voting facilities or at meetings of the election commission must be communicated to the corresponding election commissions no later than two days prior to the elections. Interference by the aforementioned representatives in the work of election commissions is forbidden.

Election commissions, state and public organs and labor collectives provide the means of mass information with materials related to the preparations for and implementation of elections.

**Article 9. The Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives and Public Organizations in Preparations for and Implementation of the Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Citizens of the RSFSR participate in the training and implementation of elections of RSFSR People's Deputies through labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and day students of secondary special and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters at the place of residence and military personnel in military units, okrug pre-election meetings, as well as indirectly.

Labor collectives and public organizations participate in the preparation and implementation of elections of RSFSR People's Deputies through their representatives in election commissions as well as directly.

**Article 10. Right to Advance Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies.**

The right to advance candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies belongs to labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and day students of secondary special and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters at the place of residence and military personnel in military units.

**Article 11. Instructions of Voters to RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Voters give instructions to their deputies.

The procedure for elucidating, generalizing, examining and organizing the fulfillment of instructions is established by USSR and RSFSR law.

**Article 12. The Incompatibility of Status of RSFSR People's Deputy with Another Responsible Position.**

Parties who are members of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, with the exception of the Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and the chairmen of the RSFSR councils of ministers of autonomous republics, directors of RSFSR departments, the chairman and members of the RSFSR Supreme Court, the Senior State Arbitrator and RSFSR state arbitrators, the chairman and members of the RSFSR Committee on Constitutional Supervision, cannot simultaneously be RSFSR People's Deputies.

**Article 13. Expenditures Related to the Election of RSFSR People's Deputies. Material Supplies for Elections.**

Expenditures related to the preparation and implementation of elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are carried out with government resources. The use of resources belonging to enterprises, institutions and organizations, public organizations and individual citizens is forbidden.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, and state and public organs leave at the disposal of election

commissions facilities, equipment and means of transportation needed for preparing and implementing elections.

Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies, their fiduciaries and voters do not bear expenses related to preparations and implementation of elections.

**Article 14. Responsibility for Violations of Laws on Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Individuals who by means of force, fraud, threats or in other ways hinder the free exercise by RSFSR citizens of their right to vote and to be elected RSFSR People's Deputies or to carry out pre-election campaigning as well as members of election commissions and responsible parties of government and public organs who have forged election documents, have wittingly miscounted votes, have violated the secret ballot or have allowed other violations of the present law bear the responsibility that is established by the law. Individuals who have published or otherwise disseminated false accusations about candidates for people's deputies are also called to account.

If a candidate for people's deputy violates the present law he is warned by the corresponding okrug election commission, and if there is a second violation the central election commission, upon presentation by the okrug election commission, can cancel the decision concerning the registration of this candidate as a deputy.

Declarations concerning violations of election laws that are brought to election commissions or state and public organs during the period of preparations for the election or after the elections must be examined within a five-day period, and those that are brought in on the day of the election must be examined immediately.

**II. Procedure For Setting Up Elections And For Creating Election Okrugs**

**Article 15. Setting Up Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are set up by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet no later than four months prior to the end of the terms of RSFSR People's Deputies.

Information about the date of elections is published in the press.

**Article 16. Formation of Election Okrugs.**

For elections of RSFSR People's Deputies 1,068 election okrugs are created—900 territorial and 168 national-territorial election okrugs.

Election okrugs are created by the central election commission for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies upon presentation by the supreme soviets of autonomous republics or their presidiums, or by soviets of people's deputies of krais, oblasts, Moscow and Leningrad, and autonomous okrugs or their presidiums.



One RSFSR People's Deputy is elected from each election okrug.

Lists of election okrugs with an indication of their boundaries, number of voters and location of okrug election commissions are published by the central election commission no later than three and one-half months prior to election day.

Territorial election okrugs for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are formed primarily with an equal number of voters for the entire RSFSR territory. In establishing boundaries of election okrugs the administrative-territorial divisions of the RSFSR are taken into account. The norm of voters per election okrug is established by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet at every election.

National-territorial election okrugs for elections of RSFSR people's deputies are created in a number of 84 okrugs on the territory of autonomous republics, autonomous oblasts and autonomous okrugs according to the following norms: four okrugs in every autonomous republic, two okrugs in each autonomous oblast and one election okrug in each autonomous okrug, as well as 84 okrugs in krays, oblasts (with the exception of autonomous oblasts), and in the cities of Moscow and Leningrad.

National-territorial election okrugs are created primarily with an equal number of voters on the territory of the corresponding autonomous republic, kray, oblast, autonomous oblast, Moscow and Leningrad.

The territory of the autonomous okrug makes up one national-territorial okrug.

### III. Election Districts.

#### Article 17. The Formation of Election Districts.

To carry out elections and count votes during elections of RSFSR People's Deputies the territory of rayons, cities and city sections that are part of election okrugs are divided into election districts that are common for elections of people's deputies from territorial and national-territorial election okrugs. Election districts are also created in military units and are part of election okrugs where the base is located.

In places where citizens are located in distant or inaccessible regions and also on vessels that on election day are at sea election districts can be created that will be part of the election okrug where they are located or of the ship's home port correspondingly. Election districts can be created at polar stations.

The question of including election districts that are created on vessels at sea on election day in election okrugs for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies is dealt with by the okrug election commission at the vessels's home port. The question of including election districts created in polar stations in election okrugs for the

elections of RSFSR People's Deputies is dealt with by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet or its Presidium.

#### Article 18. Procedure and Norms for Creating Election Districts.

Election districts are created by rayon, city (with the exception of cities of rayon subordination), city region soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums in agreement with okrug election commissions. On vessels that are at sea on election day election districts are created by the corresponding local soviets of people's deputies or by their presidiums at the vessels's home port. In military units election districts are created by local soviets of people's deputies or by their presidiums upon presentation by unit commanders or troop formations.

Election districts are created no later than two months before elections. In military units as well as in distant and inaccessible regions, on vessels that are at sea on election day and at polar stations election districts are created according to the same schedule, and in exceptional cases—no later than five days before the election.

Election districts must have at least 20 and no more than 3,000 voters.

The corresponding local soviet of people's deputies or its presidium informs voters about the boundaries of each election district with an indication of the location of the district election commission and voting facilities.

### IV. Election Commissions.

#### Article 19. The System of Election Commissions.

In order to carry out elections of RSFSR People's Deputies election commissions are created:

- the central election commission for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies;
- okrug election commissions for the election of RSFSR People's Deputies from national-territorial election okrugs;
- district election commissions.

#### Article 20. The Formation of the Central Election Commission for Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.

The central election commission for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies is created by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet by means of open or secret balloting with a consideration of the proposals of the supreme soviets of autonomous republics or their presidiums, soviets of people's deputies of krays, oblasts, Moscow and Leningrad, autonomous oblasts, and autonomous okrugs or their presidiums no later than four months prior to elections; the commission consists of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary and 25 commission members.

The term in the central election commission is five years.

**Article 21. The Authority of the Central Election Commission for Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

The central election commission for elections of RSFSR people's deputies:

- 1) implements controls in the entire territory of the RSFSR over the fulfillment of the present law and facilitates its uniform application; clarifies the procedure for utilizing the law, when necessary makes proposals to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet concerning the interpretation of the present law;
- 2) directs the activities of election commissions; determines the procedure for making changes in the composition of election commissions;
- 3) creates territorial and national-territorial election okrugs;
- 4) distributes monetary means to election commissions; controls supplying election commissions with facilities, transportation and communications and examines other questions related to the material-technical support of elections;
- 5) provides the election ballot for the election of RSFSR People's Deputies, lists of voters, minutes for pre-election meetings and conferences of the election commissions, other election documents, samples of voting boxes and printed matter and the system for storing election documents;
- 6) receives communications from ministries, RSFSR government committees and departments and from other government and public organs on questions related to the preparation and implementation of elections;
- 7) registers selected deputies, summarizes elections as a whole in the republic, publishes reports on the results of elections and a list of individuals selected to be RSFSR People's Deputies in the press;
- 8) transfers to the mandate commission of the RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies the documentation essential for examining the authority of deputies;
- 9) deals with questions related to carrying out repeat elections;
- 10) deals with questions related to the organization of a recall of RSFSR People's Deputies;
- 11) sets elections of RSFSR People's Deputies to replace deputies who have left and facilitates their implementation;
- 12) examines the claims and complaints about decisions and operations of election commissions and okrug pre-election meetings, revokes the decisions of the commission and meetings, halts their action or makes other decisions on these matters. The decisions of the central elections commission are final.

- 13) implements other authoritative acts in accordance with the present law and with other laws of the RSFSR.

**Article 22. Creation of Okrug Election Commissions.**

The okrug election commission is created in every territorial and national-territorial election okrug for election of RSFSR People's Deputies no later than three months prior to the election and has 11-15 members.

Representatives for the okrug election commission are proposed by labor collectives or their soviets, by republic, kray, oblast and autonomous oblasts, by okrug (autonomous okrug), rayon, city, and city region organs of public organizations, by meetings of voters at their places of residence and of military personnel in military units. In order to determine labor collectives and public organizations which advance representatives for the commissions, the corresponding soviets of workers' deputies or their presidiums can, when necessary, hold meetings of authorized labor collectives and public organizations of the election okrug.

Okrug election commissions for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies are created from territorial and national-territorial election okrugs by the corresponding supreme soviets of autonomous republics or their presidiums or by the soviets of people's deputies of krays, oblasts, Moscow and Leningrad, autonomous oblasts and autonomous okrugs or by their presidiums by means of open or secret ballots.

The term of okrug election commissions ends after the recognition by the RSFSR People's Deputies of the authority of the elected RSFSR People's Deputies.

**Article 23. Authority of the Okrug Election Commission.**

The okrug election commission for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies from the territorial and national-territorial election okrug:

- 1) controls the implementation of the present law in the okrug's territory;
- 2) directs the activities of district election commissions; establishes a uniform number of voting divisions in the okrug;
- 3) receives reports from executive and management organs of local soviets of people's deputies, directors of enterprises, institutions and organizations on questions related to the preparation and implementation of elections;
- 4) oversees the making up of lists of voters and their presentation for general familiarization;
- 5) organizes the advancement of candidates as deputies;
- 6) creates and carries out pre-election meetings;

7) registers candidates nominated as deputies and their fiduciaries and issues them the corresponding certification, provides for the printing of posters with biographical data about the candidates for deputy;

8) together with labor collectives and public organizations organizes meetings of candidates for deputy with voters in labor collectives and in places of residence;

9) confirms the text of the ballot for the election okrug, facilitates the production of ballots and their delivery to the district election commissions;

10) establishes and publishes in print election results for the election okrug and certifies the elected deputy;

11) organizes repeat voting and repeat elections as well as the election of deputies to replace those who have left;

12) organizes work related to implementing the recall of a deputy;

13) examines claims and complaints regarding the decisions and actions of district election commissions, okrug pre-election meetings and makes decisions on this;

14) implements other authoritative acts in accordance with the current law.

#### **Article 24. The Creation of District Election Commissions.**

The district election commission—a common one for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies from territorial and national-territorial election districts—is created no later than 45 days prior to elections and consists of 5-19 members. In special cases according to the decision of the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums the number of members of the district election commission can be altered.

Representatives who will make up the district election commission are advanced by labor collectives or their soviets, by rayon, city, and city regional public organizations, their primary organizations, public independent organs of the population, meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel in their military units. In labor collectives with over 300 workers advancement for the post of member of the district election commission can be implemented at meetings of collectives of shops, departments, sections, brigades and other subdivisions of enterprises, institutions and organizations if no fewer than 50 people work in these subdivisions. In this case it is possible to carry out joint meetings of several collectives.

District election commissions are created by rayon, city (with the exception of those of rayon subordination) and city region soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums by means of open or secret ballot.

The term of district election commissions concludes simultaneously with the conclusion of the term of okrug election commissions as established by Article 22 of the present law.

#### **Article 25. Authority of the District Election Commission.**

The district election commission:

1) composes lists of voters according to district;

2) familiarizes voters with lists of voters, accepts and examines claims of errors in the lists and deals with the question of making the necessary changes in them;

3) accepts from voters sealed envelopes with their decisions in the case foreseen in Article 31 of the present law and maintains the secret ballot for voters;

4) informs the population about the location of the district election commission at the time of its work and also about the date of the election and the place to vote;

5) facilitates the preparation of voting facilities and voting boxes;

6) organizes voting on election day in the election district;

7) tabulates the number of votes in the election district;

8) examines claims and complaints related to preparations for elections and the organization of voting and makes decisions about them;

9) implements other authorized acts in accordance with the present law.

#### **Article 26. The Organization of Work of Election Commissions.**

The chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the election commission are elected at the first meeting of the corresponding commission.

Voters are informed about the decision on the creation of the election commission and about the resolution of the election commission with regard to the selection of its directors.

Meetings of the election commission are legal if no fewer than two-thirds of the members are present. The committee makes its decisions either by open or secret vote via the majority of the total commission membership. Commission members who do not agree with the decisions have a right to express a special opinion, which in written form is attached to the minutes of the election commission's meeting.

The decisions made by the commission within its authority must be carried out by all government and public organs, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

The decisions and actions of the election commission can be appealed to the higher-standing election commission, and in cases foreseen by the present law, also in court.

A member of the election commission, including the chairman, deputy chairman and secretary, can by decision of the commission be released from fulfilling his production or work obligations during the period of preparations and implementation of elections with the preservation of the average wage using means allocated for the implementation of elections. At certain stages of the pre-election campaign upon the discretion of the okrug election commission one more member of the election commission can be released from his work duties.

Individuals belonging to the election commission can be relieved of their obligations in the commission upon their own announcement, or upon a proposal by the corresponding labor collective, an organ of public organization, meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel in military units or by an organ of public independent workers of the population who have presented it to the commission and also on the basis and in the order established by Article 35 of the present law.

The advancement and confirmation of new representatives to the election commission are carried out in the procedure established by the present law.

#### **Article 27. Assistance to Election Commissions in Implementing Their Authority.**

Government and public organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and responsible parties are obligated to assist election commissions in implementing their authority and must provide the materials and information necessary for their work.

Election commissions have a right to turn to government and public organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations and responsible parties with questions related to preparing and implementing elections and these are obliged to examine the question and to provide an answer for the election commission within a three-day period.

### **V. Voter Lists.**

#### **Article 28. Voter Lists and the Procedure for Compiling Them.**

The voter list—common for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies from territorial and national-territorial election okrugs—is compiled for every election district and is signed by the chairman and secretary of the division election commission. The district election commission can recruit representatives from the public to participate in the work of compiling a list.

The executive committees of city, city region, settlement and village soviets of people's deputies make a survey of voters and submit to district election commissions information that is needed for compiling the voter list concerning voters living in the corresponding region.

Lists of military personnel-voters located in military units as well as family members of military personnel and of other voters if they live in the region where the military unit is located are compiled on the basis of data provided by the commanders of the military units. Military personnel not living on military bases are included on voter lists according to place of residence.

Voter lists in election districts compiled on vessels that on election day will be at sea or at polar stations are compiled on the basis of data provided by the captains of vessels and the directors of the polar stations.

The last name of the voter is put on the voter list in an order that is convenient for voting.

#### **Article 29. The Procedure for Including Citizens on the Voter List.**

The voter list includes all citizens of the RSFSR who have reached the age of 18 years by or on the day of the elections who are permanent or temporary residents of the territory of the given election district at the time the list is compiled and who have a right to participate in voting.

The voter cannot be included on the list of voters of other election divisions.

#### **Article 30. Familiarizing Citizens with Voter Lists and the Right to Complain About Errors in the Voter List.**

Voter lists are made available to everyone for familiarization 15 days prior to the election.

Citizens are given the opportunity to become acquainted with the voter list and to make sure it is correct in the facilities of the district election commission.

Each citizen has the right to complain about being excluded, about incorrect entries or exclusions on the list as well as inaccuracies that are found in the list concerning data about the voter. Complaints about inaccuracies on lists are examined by the district election commission, which is obligated to examine the complaint no later than within a two-day period, and on the eve of or during the day of the elections—immediately, to make the necessary corrections on the list or to give the applicant a copy of the reason for the decision to discount his complaint. This decision can be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court no later than five days before the elections; the court is obligated to look at the complaint within a three-day period. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. Corrections on the voter list in accordance with the decisions of the court are carried out immediately by the district election commission.

**Article 31. Guaranteeing the Voting Rights of Citizens During a Change in Residence.**

When there is an address change after the publication of the voter list and before election day the voter has a right to submit to the district election commission a vote for a candidate on the ballot in a sealed envelope. The district election commission makes a note of this on the voter list when the voter produces a passport or other proof of identification. The sealed envelope is stamped with the stamp of the council which created the district election commission in the presence of the voter. The district voting commission bears the responsibility for preserving the envelope.

**VI. The Nomination and Registration of Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies.****Article 32. The Procedure for Nominating Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies in Election Okrugs.**

The nomination of candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies in territorial and national-territorial election okrugs begins three months before election day and concludes two months before election day.

The nomination of deputy candidates is carried out at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives of enterprises, institutions, organizations and collectives of undergraduates and day students of secondary special and higher educational institutions located within the territory of the election okrug. Labor collectives, collectives of undergraduates and of students with fewer than 300 people implement the nomination of candidates for deputy at joint meetings (conferences) with other collectives; in this case the total number of workers, undergraduates and students should equal no fewer than 300 persons.

The nomination of candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies by public organizations is carried out by the city region, city, rayon, okrug (autonomous okrug), autonomous oblast, oblast, kray or republic, and in the case of the absence of republic—national organs of these organizations.

The meeting of voters at their place of residence to nominate candidates for deputy is called by the okrug election commissions jointly with the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums on their own initiative as well as on the initiative of public independent organs of the population supported by no fewer than 300 voters of the given election okrug. The proposal to hold meetings of voters at their place of residence must be examined by the okrug election commission together with the corresponding soviet of people's deputies or its presidium within three days. If this proposal is accepted a date, time and place are established for holding the meeting, and okrug voters are informed of this within three days. The proposal to have a meeting of voters at their place of residence is rejected if the public independent organ of the population is not in the territory of the given election okrug and also if the

initiative of this organ is not confirmed by the minutes of its meeting with regard to this question. In the case of the rejection of the proposal about holding the meeting of voters at the place of residence the public independent organ of the population is given a copy of the reason for the decisions. These decisions can be appealed about to the central election commission, the decision of which is final. The meeting is legal if no fewer than 300 voters who live on the territory of the election okrug participate in it.

A meeting of military personnel to nominate candidates for deputy is called by the command of the military unit. If it is not possible to hold a general meeting of unit military personnel, the meeting is held in subdivisions.

Before the meeting is called to order its authority is established on the basis of the results of the registration of meeting participants. A presidium or a president and secretary are elected to carry it out.

One candidate for the RSFSR People's Deputies is nominated per labor collective, per collective of undergraduates or students, per joint meeting of several collectives, per public organization, per meeting of voters at the place of residence or per military personnel in military units.

At meetings (conferences) and in organs of public organizations the conditions are created for assessing an unlimited number of candidates. Each participant in the meeting (conference) has the right to make proposals about candidates for deputy, to participate in discussing them, to support proposed candidates or make proposals about their removal and to propose their own candidacy for deputy for discussion. The decision on nominating a candidate for deputy is made by open or secret ballot. The voting system and other procedural questions are established by the meeting (conference) and by the organ of public organization.

The candidate is considered to be nominated if over half of the meeting (conference) participants or if the majority of the general membership of the organ of public organization have voted for him. A protocol is composed concerning nominating candidates for deputy. The decision that is made is reported to the candidate for deputy no later than within a two-day period.

Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies must be citizens who live or work on the territory of the corresponding autonomous republic, kray or oblast for election from territorial election okrugs; and on the territory of the RSFSR for election from national-territorial election okrugs.

A citizen of the RSFSR cannot simultaneously be a people's deputy on more than two soviets of people's deputies.

The okrug election commission, which organizes the nomination of candidates for deputy, informs the population about nominating candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies.

### **Article 33. Okrug Pre-Election Meeting.**

In order to discuss candidates for the RSFSR People's Deputies from the election okrug there can be a okrug pre-election meeting. The meeting is called by the okrug election commission and is carried out with its participation after the conclusion of nominations of candidates for deputy but no later than one and one-half months before the election. If in the okrug no more than 10 deputy candidates are nominated a okrug pre-election meeting is not held.

Participants in the okrug pre-election meeting are authorized by labor collectives or soviets, organs of public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students, meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel in their military units which have nominated candidates for deputy according to the standards established by the okrug election commission; in this case the number of representatives of each candidate for deputy must be equal. No fewer than half of the participants must consist of voters of the given election okrug. They are authorized by labor collectives or their soviets, organs of public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students, meetings of voters at the place of residence and of military personnel in their military units who have not participated in nominating candidates for deputy according to the standards established by the okrug election commission.

Labor collectives, organs of public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students, voters at their place of residence and military personnel of military units are informed about the date, time and place of the pre-election okrug meeting as well as about the slate of candidates for deputy no later than five days before the meeting. The decision about nominating representatives authorized for the okrug pre-election meeting and their list are given to the okrug election commission no later than two days before it is held. On this basis before the meeting there is a registration of the participants in the okrug pre-election meeting. The meeting is legal if there are no fewer than two-thirds of the total number of authorized representatives present.

The participants of the okrug election commission are given, ahead of time, a list of all candidates for deputy nominated for the given okrug and basic information about them.

### **Article 34. Procedure for Holding a Okrug Pre-Election Meeting.**

At the okrug pre-election meeting each candidate for people's deputy is given the opportunity to present his program of future activities. Any participant in the meeting has the right to discuss the candidate for deputy

and to make proposals about him. All candidates for deputy are subject to discussion.

All candidates for deputy voted on by no fewer than one-third of the meeting participants who participated in the voting must be authorized.

If the necessary number of votes is received by only one of the candidates then the candidate who has received the largest number of votes as compared to the other candidates is also registered. No fewer than two deputy candidates must be registered.

The decision is made either by open or secret ballot and is considered to have passed under the condition that at the time of the vote this meeting has remained legal. The voting system and other procedural questions are established at the meeting. The results of discussing the candidates for deputy, the procedure and the results of voting are reflected in the meeting minutes.

The decision of the meeting can be appealed to the okrug election commission or the central election commission within a three-day period.

### **Article 35. Registration of Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies are registered by the okrug election commission upon presentation by labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students, meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel in military units which have nominated candidates for deputy or by the okrug pre-election commission if it was held.

The registration of deputy candidates begins two months and ends 50 days before the election, and if a okrug pre-election meeting is held—no later than on the third day after it is held.

The decision on the registration of candidates for deputy is made when the following documents are present: records concerning the nomination of candidates for deputy in the election okrug and records from the okrug pre-election meeting if one was held as well as a declaration of the candidate's willingness to run in the election okrug.

Parties noted in Article 12 of the present law as well as parties who are deputies in two soviets of people's deputies, when nominated as deputy candidates, in their declarations must indicate their intention to give up the posts they occupy in the case of election as deputies or they must cease their deputy-authorized acts ahead of time in one of the soviets of people's deputies or announce the cancellation of their candidacy.

The election commission provides records on the registration of candidates as deputies, which together with the declaration of candidacy for deputy is presented to the central election commission within a five-day period.

The corresponding election commission registers deputy candidates who have been advanced in accordance with the requirements of the present law. A refusal to register can be appealed within a five-day period to the central election commission.

The candidate for deputy can run in only one territorial or national-territorial election okrug.

The candidate for deputy who is registered in one election okrug cannot register in another election okrug, including if he cancels his candidacy in the election okrug where he was registered initially.

A candidate for deputy cannot be a member of the central election commission or of the okrug or district election commission of the election okrug where he is a candidate. An individual who is advanced as a deputy candidate and who is a member of one of the aforementioned commissions is considered to be relieved of his obligations on the commission from the moment of his registration as a candidate for deputy.

The corresponding election commission publishes in the press a report on registration with an indication of the last name, first name, patronymic, date of birth, occupation (job), party membership, place of work and place of residence of every candidate for deputy within four days after registration.

**Article 36. Revocation of a Decision to Nominate a Candidate for RSFSR People's Deputy. Candidate's Cancellation of his Own Candidacy.**

The labor collective, the organ of public organization, the collective of undergraduates and students, the meeting of voters at the place of residence or of military personnel at the military unit which has nominated candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies have the right at any time prior to the election to revoke their decision to nominate a candidate for deputy. The decision on this question is taken according to the system foreseen for advancing candidates as deputies and is sent to the corresponding election commission.

At any time prior to the election a candidate can remove himself from candidacy after declaring this to the corresponding okrug election commission.

The okrug election commission notifies the population of the election okrug about the revocation of a decision to nominate a candidate for deputy or about a candidate's removal of himself from candidacy.

**Article 37. The Procedure for Nominating a Candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies to Replace One Who Have Left.**

If individuals are removed from candidacy for RSFSR People's Deputies after the conclusion of the registration period for candidates for deputy and if there are no other candidates in the election okrug the okrug election commission turns to the labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students,

meetings of voters at their place of residence and of military personnel at their military units with a proposal to nominate new candidates for deputy. If persons are removed from candidacy for people's deputies less than one month before elections the election of a deputy from the corresponding election okrug is carried out two months after the general election.

The nomination of candidates as deputies to replace those who have been removed is carried out in the procedure that has been established by the present law.

**Article 38. Election Ballot.**

The ballot includes all registered candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies in alphabetical order with an indication of the last name, first name, patronymic, occupation (job), place of work and residence of each candidate for deputy. Ballots are printed in the languages that are used by the people of the election okrug.

**VII. Guarantee of Activity of Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies.**

**Article 39. The Right of Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies to Participate in the Pre-Election Campaign.**

Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies from the moment of their nomination participate in the pre-election campaign on an equal basis.

Candidates for people's deputies have the right to speak at pre-election and other meetings, conferences, gatherings, in the press, on television and on the radio.

Government and public organs, directors of enterprises, institutions, organizations and public independent organs of the population are obliged to help candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies in organizing meetings with voters and members of public organizations and in obtaining the necessary informational materials.

**Article 40. Pre-Election Program of a Candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies.**

A candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies comes forward with a program of his future activities. The program of a deputy candidate should not contradict the USSR Constitution, the RSFSR Constitution and other USSR and RSFSR laws.

**Article 41. Fiduciaries of the Candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies.**

The candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies can have up to five fiduciaries who help him to carry out the election campaign, who campaign to have him selected as a deputy and who represent his interests in relations with government and public organs, voters, members of public organizations as well as election commissions.

A candidate for deputy determines his fiduciaries according to his own discretion and conveys this information for registration in the okrug election commission. After the registration of fiduciaries the election

commission issues them authorizations. The candidate for deputy has the right to replace fiduciaries at any time prior to the elections.

The fiduciary cannot be a member of any election commission in the okrug.

- The fiduciaries of the candidate for deputy, after their registration, can be released from their production or job obligations during the course of the implementation of pre-election meetings at the request of the candidate for people's deputies with a preservation of the average wage at the place of work using resources allocated for elections.

#### **Article 42. Pre-Election Campaigning.**

Labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students, voters at their place of residence and military personnel in military units which have nominated a candidate for deputy have the right to unhindered campaigning for their candidate.

Labor collectives, public organizations, collectives of undergraduates and students, voters at the place of residence and military personnel in military units are provided equipped facilities by the election commission for gatherings and meetings, as well as means for mass information to carry out the pre-election campaign.

RSFSR citizens, labor collectives and public organizations are guaranteed the opportunity to freely discuss all aspects of the political, work and personal qualities of candidates for deputy; they also have the right to campaign for or against a candidate at meetings, in the press, on television and on the radio.

Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies gather with their voters both at meetings as well as in other forms convenient to them. Meetings of voters are organized by the election commission together with the corresponding soviet of people's deputies or its presidium and with organs of public organizations.

Voters are notified of the time and place for meetings and gatherings no later than two days ahead.

Campaigning on the day of elections is forbidden.

#### **Article 43. The Release of a Candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies From Production or Work Obligations to Participate in Pre-Election Measures.**

After registration, the candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies is released from his work obligations for the time he needs to conduct meetings with voters, to speak at pre-election meetings and gatherings, on television and on radio with a retention of the average wage using the resources allocated for carrying out elections.

#### **Article 44. The Right of a Candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies to Free Passage.**

After registration, the candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies has the right to free passage on all forms of

passenger transport (with the exception of taxis) within the limits of the corresponding election okrug. Candidates for deputy living outside the boundaries of the election okrug have the same right of free passage to the election okrug and to return to their places of residence.

#### **Article 45. Immunity of Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Candidates for RSFSR People's Deputies cannot be called to account, arrested or subjected to measures of administrative calling to account on a legal basis without the approval of the central election commission.

### **VIII. The Procedure for Voting and Summarizing Elections.**

#### **Article 46. Time and Place of Voting.**

During elections of RSFSR People's Deputies from election okrugs voting is carried out on election day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time. The district election commission informs voters about the time and place of voting no later than 10 days prior to election day.

If it is necessary, with a consideration of local conditions, the okrug election commission can change the time of voting with the approval of the central election commission.

In election districts created on vessels which are at sea on election day, in military units, at polar stations, in distant and hard-to-reach regions, the district election commission can declare voting to be concluded at any time if all voters on the list have voted.

In exceptional cases with the permission of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet or its Presidium and with the agreement of the candidates for deputy voting in distant and inaccessible regions can be carried out ahead of schedule but no earlier than seven days before the general elections.

#### **Article 47. The Organization of Voting.**

Voting is carried out in specially-planned facilities in which a sufficient number of rooms or booths are equipped for the secret ballot, in which places for issuing the ballot are established and in which voting boxes have been installed. Voting boxes are installed in such a way that the voter has to go through a room or booth for secret balloting before reaching it.

The responsibility for the organization of voting, for guaranteeing the secret ballot, for equipping the facilities and for supporting the necessary procedure is born by the district election commission.

On election day before the beginning of voting election boxes are examined and sealed by the chairman of the district election commission in the presence of the commission members.

Each voter votes for himself; voting for others is forbidden. Ballots are given out by the election commission



on the basis of the list of voters in the election district upon presentation of a passport or other proof of identification. A note is made on the voter list concerning the issuance of the ballot.

In cases in which individual voters for health or other reasons cannot come to the voting facilities to vote, the district election commission assigns individual commission members to organize voting at the place where these voters are.

#### **Article 48. Carrying Out Elections.**

The ballot is filled out by the voter in the booth or room for secret balloting. When filling out the ballot it is forbidden to have anyone else, no matter whom, in the room. The voter who does not have the opportunity to independently fill out the ballot has the right to invite another party into the booth or room at his discretion.

In elections for RSFSR People's Deputies the voter crosses out on the ballot the last names of the candidates against whom he is voting.

The completed ballot is put in the voting box by the voter.

#### **Article 49. The Counting of Votes in the Election District.**

In the election of RSFSR People's Deputies the counting of votes in the election district is carried out individually for each deputy candidate.

Voting boxes and sealed envelopes given by voters to the district election commission because the voter was at a different location on election day, are opened by the district election commission after the chairman of the commission announces the end of voting. The opening of voting boxes and sealed envelopes prior to the end of voting is forbidden. Before the opening of voting boxes all unused ballots are counted and voided by the district election commission.

The district election commission uses the voter list to determine the total number of voters in the district and the number of voters who received ballots and who submitted sealed envelopes. On the basis of the ballots in the voting boxes and of the decisions of voters contained in the envelopes submitted ahead of time to the district election commission the commission establishes the following for the election okrug (within the limits of the given election district): the total number of voters voting; the number of votes for and against a candidate; the number of ballots and votes in envelopes that are deemed invalid. Write-in votes are not counted.

Ballots that do not conform to type are considered null and void. If doubts arise about the authenticity of a ballot or about a vote contained in an envelope the question is dealt with by the district election commission

by means of voting. If the ballot or the vote in the sealed envelope contains more than one candidate the votes for are counted for each of the candidates left on the ballot.

The results of the counting of votes are examined at a meeting of the district election commission and are included in the records that are put together for the election okrug. The records are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and commission members and are sent to the corresponding okrug election commission in the order established by the central election commission.

#### **Article 50. Establishing Election Results.**

On the basis of the records of district election commissions the okrug election commission determines: the total number of voters in the okrug; the number of voters who received a ballot and the number of voters who submitted a sealed envelope; the number of voters who participated in voting; the number of votes for and against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots and votes in sealed envelopes deemed null and void.

A candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies is considered to be elected if during the election he received more than half of the votes of participating voters. If as a result of voting more than half of the votes are received by two or more candidates then the candidate who received the absolute majority of the votes is considered to be the winner.

The okrug election commission can recognize elections as void if there have been violations of the present law in the course of elections or of counting of votes.

Elections are considered to not have taken place if fewer than half of the voters on the voter list participated and also in connection with the removal of a candidate for deputy if only one candidate was registered in the okrug.

The results of the election for the election okrug are determined at a meeting of the okrug election commission and are recorded. The records are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and commission members and sent to the central election commission in the order established by it.

Reports of the results of the elections in the election okrug are published in the press by the corresponding okrug election commission within the time period established by the central election commission. The report indicates the total number of citizens included on voter lists; the number of voters who participated in voting; the number of votes for and against a candidate; the number of void ballots and votes contained within sealed envelopes; the last names, first names, patronymics, year of birth, occupation (job), party membership, place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

## **IX. Procedure for Implementing and Publishing the Results of Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

### **Article 51. Registration of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

The central election commission for elections of RSFSR People's Deputies registers elected RSFSR People's Deputies on the basis of the records it receives from the okrug election commissions.

The central election commission can deem the election null and void if in the course of elections, during the counting of the ballots or during the determination of the election results there were violations of the present law, and can refuse to register of RSFSR People's Deputies.

### **Article 52. The Publication of the Results of Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

Information about the results of elections as a whole in the republic and a list of elected RSFSR People's Deputies are published by the central election commission in the press no later than within a 10-day period after the completion of general elections in alphabetical order with an indication of last name, first name, patronymic, profession (job), party membership, place of work and residence of the deputy and the election okrug from which he has been elected deputy.

### **Article 53. The Certification and Medal of RSFSR People's Deputies.**

The okrug election commission, after the publication in the press of the list of RSFSR People's Deputies registered by the central election commission, issues each newly-elected deputy a certification of his election.

After confirmation by the RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies of the authority of elected deputies the certifications of election as deputies are replaced by certification as RSFSR People's Deputy. The deputy is also issued a chest medal "RSFSR People's Deputy."

In the case of a recall of an RSFSR People's Deputy or of a premature conclusion to deputy authority in connection with a guilty legal sentence for individuals who are RSFSR People's Deputies, the certification and chest medal of RSFSR People's Deputy are to be returned to the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

## **X. Runoff and Repeat Elections and Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies to Replace Recalled Deputies.**

### **Article 54. Runoff Election.**

If in the election okrug more than two candidates were on the ballot for RSFSR People's Deputies and not a single one was elected, the okrug election commission makes a decision to carry out a repeat election for the two candidates to RSFSR People's Deputies in the okrug who have received the most votes. The okrug election commission reports this to the central election commission and informs okrug voters. Runoff election in the election okrug is carried out no later than within a

two-week period with adherence to the requirements of the present law. The information on runoff elections is published in the press.

A candidate for RSFSR People's Deputies is considered to be elected if during the runoff election he receives the majority of the votes of participating voters as compared to the other candidate.

### **Article 55. Repeat Elections.**

If in the election okrug no more than two candidates were on the ballot for RSFSR People's Deputies and neither one was selected or if the election in the election okrug was deemed not to have taken place or null and void, or if the repeat election did not allow a determination of the elected deputy the central election commission assigns the okrug election commission to carry out a repeat election in the election okrug. In this case it can make decisions on the need to carry out elections by okrug and district election commissions having a new membership. Voting takes place in the same election districts and using the lists of voters that were compiled to carry out the general election.

The creation of election commissions, the nomination and registration of candidates for deputy and other measures are carried out in the procedure established by the present law. Information on the implementation of repeat elections is published in the press.

In the case of repeat elections candidates for people's deputies who did not receive the necessary number of votes in the course of the general election in the given election okrug cannot be placed on the ballot.

Repeat elections are carried out no later than within a two-month period after the general elections.

### **Article 56. The Implementation of Elections of RSFSR People's Deputies to Replace Recalled Deputies.**

If the RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies deems the authority of individual RSFSR People's Deputies null and void, or if a deputy is recalled or his authority is prematurely curtailed for other reasons, new elections are conducted in the election okrugs within a three-month period from the moment of recall of the deputy. Elections are called by the central election commission no later than two months before election day and are organized with adherence to the requirements of the present law. In this case the okrug election commission is created 50 days before elections, the district commission—a month before elections. The registration of candidates for the post of deputy is concluded a month prior to elections.

In the case of the recall of an RSFSR People's Deputy less than a year before the end of the term of the RSFSR People's Deputies there is no election of a new RSFSR People's Deputy to replace the one recalled.

**RSFSR Election Law Comparison**

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[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian on 2 Nov 89 carries in its Second Edition on pp 1-2 the text of the RSFSR Law on elections of RSFSR People's Deputies. Comparison of the final law with the draft law as published in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 12 August 1989 pp 1-3 reveals the following variations in the final law:

In Article 1, paragraph three, the phrase "in accordance with a court decision or with a procurator's sanction" is inserted to modify the phrase "being held in places of deprivation of freedom."

In Article 7, paragraph one, the phrase "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions" is inserted following the phrase "public organizations" and before the phrase "and meetings of voters by place of residence."

In Article 8, paragraph three, following the words "and calculation of overall election results" [which concludes the list of specified activities at election commission meetings], the phrase "as well as at all other meetings and sessions connected with elections" is added; following the words "representatives of labor collectives, public organizations," the words "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions" are inserted before the words "meetings of voters by place of residence"; following the words "by decision of the labor collective," the words "collective of the secondary specialized or higher educational institution" are inserted before the words "or the meeting of voters by place of residence."

In Article 8, following paragraph three and preceding paragraph four of the draft, a new paragraph is added, as follows: "The Mass media cover the course of the preparation for and conduct of elections of RSFSR people's deputies."

In Article 9, paragraph one, following the phrase "public organizations," the phrase "collectives of the students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions offering the day form of education" is changed to: "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions"; following the phrase "by military units," the phrase "okrug election meetings" is deleted from the final version.

In Article 10, paragraph one, following the phrase "public organizations," the phrase "collectives of the students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions offering the day form of education" is changed to: "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions."

In Article 13:

In paragraph one, first sentence, the phrase "are paid at the state's expense" is changed to read: "solely out of

state funds allocated for the conduct of elections." The second sentence of this paragraph, "The use of the funds of enterprises, institutions and organizations, public organizations, and individual citizens is not permitted," is deleted from the adopted law.

In paragraph two, following the phrase "state and public agencies," the balance of the sentence, "place at the disposal of election commissions the premises, equipment and means of transportation necessary for the preparation and conduct of elections," is changed to read: "for the period of the preparation and conduct of elections, place at the disposal of election commissions, free of charge, premises and the necessary equipment and means of transportation."

Between paragraphs two and three of the draft, a new paragraph is inserted, as follows: "The financing or material support of candidates for deputy by enterprises, institutions, organizations, state and public agencies, or individual citizens is not permitted."

In Article 14:

At the end of paragraph two, following the phrase "revoke the decision to register that candidate for deputy," the clause, "about which the population of the relevant election okrug is informed," is inserted.

In paragraph three, the phrase "those that are received on the day of elections" is changed to read: "those that are received on the eve or day of elections."

In Article 16, at the end of paragraph six the words "as well as 84 okrugs in krays, oblasts (excluding autonomous formations) and the cities of Moscow and Leningrad," are changed to read: "as well as in the amount of 84 okrugs on the territories of krays, oblasts (excluding the territories of autonomous formations) and the cities of Moscow and Leningrad."

In Article 17, paragraph one, first sentence, the words "autonomous okrugs lacking division into rayons," are inserted immediately following the words "territory of" and preceding the word "rayons."

In Article 18, paragraph one, the words "okrug [adjective] (for autonomous okrugs lacking division into rayons)," are inserted immediately following the words "formed by" and preceding the word "rayon [adjective]."

In Article 20, following the words "soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums" and preceding the words "no later than four months," the words "republic agencies of public organizations or, in the absence of republic agencies, the all-union agencies of those organizations" are inserted.

In Article 21:

In point (1), the phrase "representations concerning the interpretation of this law" is changed to read "representations concerning its interpretation."

In point (12), following the phrase "decisions and actions of election commissions," the phrase "and okrug election meetings" is deleted; following the phrase "revokes the decisions of commissions," the phrase "and meetings" is deleted.

In Article 22:

In paragraph two, first sentence, the phrase "of enterprises, institutions and organizations" is inserted following the phrase "by the labor collectives"; in the rest of this paragraph in the three instances where the phrase "public organizations" occurs, the phrase "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions" is added after "public organizations."

In paragraph three, the phrase "soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums" is changed to read "soviets or their presidiums."

In Article 23:

Point (6), "convenes and conducts okrug election meetings," is deleted from the adopted law, causing points (7)-(11) to be renumbered as points (6)-(10).

In point (11) of the draft (renumbered as point (10)), the last phrase, "as well as the election of a deputy to fill a vacancy," is deleted.

In Article 23:

Point (12), "organizes work connected with conducting the recall of a deputy," is deleted from the adopted law, causing points (13) and (14) to be renumbered as points (11) and (12).

In point (13) (renumbered as point (11)), following the phrase "district election commissions," the phrase "okrug election meetings" is deleted.

In Article 24, paragraph two, the words "nominated by labor collectives or their councils" are changed to read: "nominated by the labor collectives of enterprises, institutions and organizations or their councils"; the words "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions," are inserted between the words "public grassroots organizations," and the words "meetings of voters by place of residence"; the phrase "In labor collectives numbering more than 300 employees" is changed to read: "In labor collectives of enterprises, institutions and organizations numbering more than 150 employees"; and the clause "if at least 50 persons are employed in these subdivisions" is changed to read: "if at least 30 persons are employed in these subdivisions."

In Article 25, point (3), "receives voters' decisions from them in sealed envelopes in cases specified in Article 31 of this law and ensures the secrecy of voters' expressions of preference," is deleted from the adopted law, causing points (4)-(9) to be renumbered as points (3)-(8).

In Article 26, paragraph seven, the phrase "collective of a secondary specialized or higher educational institution," is inserted following the phrase "agency of a public organization," and before the phrase "meeting of voters."

Article 31 of the draft, "Ensuring the right of citizens' to vote when changing their place of residence," is replaced by a new Article 31, which reads as follows:

"Article 31. Supplementary list of voters

"Voters who have arrived at a new place of residence following the posting of the list of voters for general information, or who by virtue of various circumstances have not been included on the principal list of voters, are at their request and upon their presentation of a passport or other certification of identity included on election day on a supplementary list of voters in the election district of their place of permanent or temporary residence.

"The supplementary list of voters is drawn up by the district election commission and signed by its chairman and secretary."

In Article 32:

In paragraph two, the phrase "collectives of students of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions offering the day form of education" is changed to read: "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions"; the phrase "collectives of secondary-school and higher-school students [uchashchikhsya i studentov] numbering fewer than 300 persons" is changed to read: "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions numbering fewer than 300 persons."

In paragraph three, the phrase "by city rayon, city, rayon..." is changed to read: "at plenums of the elective agencies of city rayon, city, rayon..."

In paragraph four, the words "convened by okrug election commissions acting jointly [sovmestno] with the pertinent soviets of peoples deputies" are changed to read "convened by okrug election commissions in coordination [po soglasovaniyu] with the pertinent soviets of peoples deputies"; the words "examined within three days by the okrug election commission acting jointly with the pertinent soviet of people's deputies or its presidium" are changed to read "examined within three days by the okrug election commission."

In paragraph seven, the phrase "a labor collective" is changed to read "the labor collective of an enterprise, institution or organization"; the phrase "collective of secondary-school or higher-school students [uchashchikhsya ili studentov]" is changed to read: "collective of secondary specialized and higher educational institution."

In paragraph eight, the phrase "in the agencies of public organizations" is changed to read "[at] plenums of the elective agencies of public organizations"; following the

phrase "Every participant in a meeting (or conference)," the phrase "or plenum" is inserted; in the last sentence of the paragraph, the phrase "or by the agency of a public organization" is changed to read: "or by the plenum of the elective agency of a public organization."

In paragraph nine, the words "more than half of the participants in a meeting (or conference), or a majority of the total membership of the agency of a public organization" are changed to read "more than half of the participants in a meeting (or conference) or plenum of the elective agency of a public organization."

Article 33, "The Okrug Election Meeting," and Article 34, "Procedures for Conducting the Okrug Election Meeting," are deleted from the final version, causing Articles 35-56 to be renumbered as Articles 33-54.

In Article 35 (renumbered as Article 33):

In paragraph one, the phrase "collectives of secondary-school and higher-school students" is changed to read: "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions"; at the end of the paragraph the words "or of an okrug election meeting if one has been held" are deleted.

In paragraph two, the words "50 days before" are changed to read "40 days before"; the words "and in the event that an okrug election meeting has been held—no later than on the third day after it has been held" are deleted from the end of the paragraph.

In paragraph three, the words "and the minutes of an okrug election meeting if one has been held" are deleted.

In paragraphs six and 10, the phrase "appropriate election commission" is changed to read "okrug election commission."

In Article 36 (renumbered as Article 34), paragraph one, the phrase "agency of a public organization" is changed to read "public organization"; the phrase "collective of secondary-school and higher school students" is changed to read "collective of a secondary specialized and higher educational institution."

In Article 37 (renumbered as Article 35), paragraph one, the phrase "collectives of secondary-school and higher-school students" is changed to read "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions."

In Article 40 (renumbered as Article 38), paragraph one, the words "must not contradict the USSR Constitution, the RSFSR Constitution, or other laws of the USSR and RSFSR" are changed to read: "must not contain provisions aimed at the violent alteration of the constitutional foundations of the state and social system of the USSR and RSFSR, propaganda for war, or appeals to inflame racial, internationality or religious discord, or to violate human rights and liberties."

In Article 41 (renumbered as Article 39):

In paragraph one, following the word "voters," the words "and members of public organizations" are deleted.

In paragraph two, the last sentence, "A candidate for deputy has the right to replace his official representatives at any time before the election," is changed to read: "A candidate for deputy bears responsibility for the actions of his official representatives and has the right to replace them at any time before the election."

In Article 42 (renumbered as Article 40):

In paragraphs one and two, the phrase "collectives of secondary-school and higher-school students" is changed to read: "collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions."

In paragraph three, the phrase "and collectives of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions" is inserted following the phrase "public organizations" and preceding the phrase "are guaranteed."

In paragraph four, the final phrase "and by the agencies of public organizations" is deleted.

In Article 46 (renumbered as Article 44), paragraph one, following the words "elections of RSFSR people's deputies," the words "from election okrugs" are deleted.

In Article 48 (renumbered as Article 46), paragraph one, the phrase "for secret voting" is inserted following the phrase "into the booth or room."

In Article 49 (renumbered as Article 47):

In paragraph two, following the first occurrence of the phrase "ballot boxes" and preceding the words "are opened," the words "and sealed envelopes submitted by voters to the district election commission in connection with a change in their place of residence" are deleted; following the phrase "the opening of ballot boxes," the words "and voters' sealed envelopes" are deleted.

In paragraph three, following the words "number of voters who have received ballots," the words "and have submitted sealed envelopes" are deleted; following the words "ballots contained in ballot boxes," the words "and voters' decisions contained in envelopes submitted in advance to the district election commission" are deleted; following the words "number of ballots" and preceding the words "deemed valid," the words "and voters' decisions contained in envelopes" are deleted; and following the words "written in by voters on ballots," the words "and on decisions contained in envelopes" are deleted.

In paragraph four, following the phrase "ballots not conforming to the established model," the words "as well as ballots on which more than one candidate has been left in the voting process" are added; following the words "validity of a ballot," the words "or of a voter's decision

contained in an envelope" are deleted; the last sentence of the paragraph, "If more than one candidate...each of the candidates left on the ballot," is deleted.

In paragraph five, second sentence, the word "immediately" is inserted before the word "forwarded."

In Article 50 (renumbered as Article 48):

In paragraph one, following the words "number of voters who have received ballots," the words "and number of voters who have turned in sealed envelopes" are deleted; at the end of the paragraph, the words "and voters' decisions contained in sealed envelopes" are deleted between the words "number of ballots" and the words "deemed invalid."

In paragraph two, the last sentence, "If as a result of voting...is deemed to be elected," is deleted.

In paragraph six, following the phrase "number of invalid ballots," the words "and voters' decisions contained in envelopes" are deleted.

The adopted law is signed by V. Vorotnikov, chairman of the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, and S. Chistoplasov, secretary of the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, and dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 27 October 1989.

## Tajik SSR

### Tajik SSR Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies

90US0315A Dushanbe KOMMUNIST

TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 2 Dec 89 pp 1-2, 4

[Tajik SSR Law: "On Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies"]

#### [Text] I. General Provisions

#### Article 1. Fundamentals of Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are conducted through single-mandate electoral districts on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage with secret voting.

#### Article 2. Universal Suffrage

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are universal: Tajik SSR citizens who have reached 18 years of age have the right to vote and be elected.

Any direct or indirect restrictions on the voting rights of Tajik SSR citizens depending on their origin, social or property position, race or nationality, sex, education, language, religious beliefs, length of residence in a given location, or kind or nature of employment are prohibited.

Mentally ill citizens who have been declared by the court to be incompetent, individuals who are incarcerated

either by a decision of the court or on instructions from the procurator, and also those in places for compulsory therapy by a decision of the court do not participate in elections.

#### Article 3. Equal Suffrage

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are equal; the voter for each electoral district has one vote; the voters and candidate deputies participate in the elections on an equal basis.

Military servicemen, including representatives of the corresponding territorial military district, have the same right to vote as any other citizen.

#### Article 4. Direct Suffrage

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are direct: People's deputies are elected by the citizens directly.

#### Article 5. Secret Voting

Voting at elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies is secret: Monitoring the people's expression of will is not allowed.

#### Article 6. Conducting of Elections by Election Commissions

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are conducted by election commissions which are formed from representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students at vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units.

#### Article 7. Openness in Preparing for and Conducting Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are prepared for and conducted by electoral commissions, labor collectives, and social organizations openly and publicly.

The election commissions inform the citizens about their work and about the formation of electoral districts, the composition, location, and time of operation of election commissions, and the voter lists. The election commissions inform the citizens of the results of the registration of candidate deputies, the biographical data of the registered candidate deputies, the results of the voting for each candidate, and the results of the elections.

Representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students at vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units, authorized representatives, and also representatives of the press, radio, and television have the right to be present at meetings of the election commissions, including during the registration of candidate deputies, the sealing of ballot boxes before the voting begins, the opening of ballot boxes, the counting of votes in the

electoral precinct, the determination of the results of the election for the district, and the totaling of the overall results of the elections. The authorization of representatives of labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students at vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units must be certified by the appropriate document and the election commission is notified of their intended presence no later than two days before the elections. The aforementioned representatives are not allowed to interfere with the work of the commissions.

The mass media publicize the course of preparing for and conducting the elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies and their representatives are guaranteed unimpeded access to all gatherings and meetings related to the elections. The election commissions, state and social organs, and labor collectives give them information related to preparing for and conducting the elections.

**Article 8. Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Social Organizations in Preparing for and Conducting Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

Tajik SSR citizens participate in preparing for and conducting elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies both directly and through labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students of vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units.

Labor collectives and social organizations participate in preparing for and conducting elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies both through representatives on election commissions and directly.

**Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidate People's Deputies of the Tajik SSR**

The right to nominate candidate people's deputies of the Tajik SSR is enjoyed by labor collectives, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units.

**Article 10. Orders From Voters to Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

Voters give orders to their deputies.

The procedure for introducing generalizing, considering, and organizing the fulfillment of orders is established by laws of the USSR and the Tajik SSR.

**Article 11. The Incompatibility of the Status of Tajik SSR People's Deputies and Official Positions**

Individuals who are included on the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers; the chairman, deputy chairman, and members of the Tajik SSR constitutional supervision committee; the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Tajik SSR Supreme Court; judges of oblast (with the exception of judges of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast) and the Dushanbe city courts; people's judges of rayon (city) people's courts (rayons and cities under republic jurisdiction); the chief state arbitrator, the deputy chief state arbitrator, and the state arbitrators of the Tajik SSR may not simultaneously be Tajik SSR people's deputies. The chairman of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers may also be a Tajik SSR people's deputies.

**Article 12. Expenses Associated with Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies. Material Support for the Elections**

Expenses associated with preparing for and conducting elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are provided for by the republic election commission for election of Tajik SSR people's deputies from a unified fund created at the expense of the state, enterprises, and social and other organizations for the purpose of providing for equal conditions for each candidate people's deputy.

Enterprises, institutions, and organizations and state and social organs place premises, equipment, means of transportation necessary for preparing for and conducting the elections at the disposal of the election commissions.

Candidate Tajik SSR people's deputies and voters are not responsible for the expenses associated with preparing for and conducting the elections.

**Article 13. Responsibility for Violation of Legislation on Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

Individuals who through violence, deception, threats, or in any other way impede the free exercise by Tajik SSR citizens of their right to vote and be elected Tajik SSR people's deputies or conduct pre-election campaigning and also members of election commissions and officials of state and social organs who have forged election documents, deliberately counted the votes incorrectly, or allowed any other violations of the present law are held responsible as established by law. Also held responsible are individuals who have published or in any other way disseminated information that is known to be false and defames the character and dignity of a candidate deputy or who have treated members of election commissions in an insulting way.

When a candidate deputy violates the present law the corresponding district election commission warns the candidate deputy, and if he does this repeatedly, when he submits his application the republic election commission may override the decision to register the given candidate deputy.

Reports of violations of election legislation received by the election commissions and state and social organs during the period of preparation for the elections and after the elections must be considered within a three-day period and those that come in on the day of the elections must be considered immediately.

## **II. Procedure for Scheduling Elections and Forming Election Commissions**

### **Article 14. Scheduling Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

Elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies are scheduled by the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet no later than three months before the expiration of the term of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet.

The announcement of the day of the elections is published in the press

### **Article 15. Formation of Electoral Districts**

For elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies 230 electoral districts are formed

Electoral districts are formed by the republic election commission for elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies upon application from the oblast soviet of people's deputies, the soviet of people's deputies of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, and rayon and city (of rayons and cities under republic jurisdiction) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

Electoral districts for the election of Tajik SSR People's Deputies are formed on the territory of the Tajik SSR with approximately equal numbers of voters, taking into account the administrative and territorial division of the Tajik SSR. The norm of voters for each of the elections is established by the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet.

The lists of voter districts with an indication of their boundaries and the locations of the district electoral commissions are published by the republic election commission no later than the 10th day after the scheduling of the elections.

One Tajik SSR People's Deputies is elected from each electoral district.

## **III. Electoral Precincts**

### **Article 16. Formation of Electoral Precincts**

For conducting voting and counting votes in elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies, the territory of the rayons, cities, and rayons in cities included in the electoral districts is divided into electoral precincts. Electoral precincts are also formed in military units and are included in the electoral districts in which the units are located.

In sanatoriums and rest homes, hospitals, and other permanent therapeutic institutions and in places where there are citizens in remote places and population points

that are hard to get to it is possible to form electoral precincts that are included in the electoral districts in the corresponding location.

### **Article 17. Procedure and Norm for Formation of Electoral Precincts**

Electoral precincts are formed by rayon, city (except cities under rayon jurisdiction) and rayon in city soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums with the agreement of the district election commissions. In the military units the electoral precincts are formed by the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums upon application from the commanders of the military or troop units.

Electoral precincts are formed no later than two months before the elections. In the military units and also in remote and hard-to-get-to population points the electoral precincts are formed for the same time periods and also, in exceptional cases, no later than five days before the elections.

The electoral precincts are formed with no less than 20 and no more than 3,000 voters.

The corresponding local soviet of people's deputies or its presidium notifies the voters of the borders of each electoral precinct with an indication of the location of the section election commission and the polling places.

## **IV. Election Commissions**

### **Article 18. The System of Election Commissions**

—election commissions are formed to conduct elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies:

—the republic election commission for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies;

—district election commissions for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies;

—section election commissions.

### **Article 19. Formation of the Republic Election Commission for Election of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

The republic election commission for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies is formed by the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet by open or secret voting, taking into account the suggestions of the oblast soviet of people's deputies, the soviet of people's deputies of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, and the rayon and city (of rayons and cities under republic jurisdiction) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, taking into account the opinions of labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters in their places of residence and military servicemen in their military units no later than three months before the elections, consisting of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 20 commission members.

The term of office of the republic election commission is five years.



**Article 20. Authority of the Republic Election Commission in the Election of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

The republic election commission for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies:

- 1) Throughout the entire territory of the Tajik SSR monitors the fulfillment of the present law and ensures its uniform application; gives explanations about the procedure for the application of the present law and, if necessary, presents its interpretation to the Tajik SSR Council of ministers;
- 2) forms electoral districts;
- 3) distributes monetary funds among election commissions; checks on the provision of election commissions with premises, transportation, and communications and considers other questions of material and technical support for elections;
- 4) establishes the forms of ballots for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies, voter lists, minutes of pre-election meetings and meetings of election commissions and other election documents, models of ballot boxes and seals of election commissions, and the procedure for storing election documents;
- 5) hears reports from ministries, state committees, and departments of the Tajik SSR and other state and social organs concerning issues related to preparing for and conducting elections;
- 6) registers elected deputies, sums up the results of the election for the republic as a whole, and publishes in the press a report on the results of the elections and a list of the Tajik SSR People's Deputies who have been elected;
- 7) submits to the mandate commission of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet the documentation necessary for certifying the authority of the deputies;
- 8) solves problems related to preparing for the elections;
- 9) solves problems related to organizing the recall of Tajik SSR People's Deputies ;
- 10) schedules elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies to replace those who have left and provides for conducting these elections;
- 11) considers applications and complaints and the actions of election commissions and makes final decisions concerning them;
- 12) exercises other authority in keeping with the present law and other laws of the Tajik SSR.

**Article 21. Formation of District Election Commissions**

An district election commission is formed in each electoral district for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies no later than 70 days before the election and it consists of 9-13 members.

Representatives on the district election commission are nominated by the labor collectives or their councils, republic, oblast, rayon, city, and rayon-in-city organs of social organizations; collectives of students of vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions; and meetings of voters in their places of residence and military servicemen in their military units. In order to determine the labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters in their places of residence and military servicemen in their military units who nominate representatives to the district election commissions—the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, if necessary, can hold conferences of their authorized representatives.

In labor collectives with more than 150 workers the nomination to the district election commission can be done at meetings of collectives of shops, departments, sections, brigades, and other subdivisions of enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Okrug election commissions for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies are formed by the corresponding oblast, rayon, and city (under republic jurisdiction) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

The term of office of the district election commissions ends after the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet recognizes the authority of the Tajik SSR People's Deputies who are elected.

**Article 22. Authority of the District Election Commission**

The district election commission for elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies :

- 1) monitors the fulfillment of the present law on the territory of the district;
- 2) directs the activity of the precinct election commissions;
- 3) hears reports from executive and distribution organs of local soviets of people's deputies and leaders of enterprises, institutions, and organizations on questions related to preparing for and conducting the elections;
- 4) supervises the drawing up of voter lists and their presentation for general familiarization;
- 5) organizes the nomination of candidate deputies;
- 6) provides for equal conditions for the participation of candidate deputies in the election campaign;
- 7) registers the nominated candidate deputies and their authorized representatives and issues them the corresponding certificates and provides for the publication of posters with biographical data of the candidate deputies;

8) in conjunction with the labor collectives and social organizations, organizes meetings of candidate deputies with the voters both in the labor collectives and in their places of residence;

9) approves the text of the ballot for the electoral district and provides for manufacturing ballots and supplying them to the section election commissions;

10) establishes and publishes in the press the results of elections for the electoral district and issues a certificate to the elected deputy;

11) organizes repeat voting and repeat elections and also the election of deputies to replace those who have left;

12) solves problems related to recalling a deputy;

13) considers applications and complaints about decisions and actions of precinct election commissions and makes decisions regarding them;

14) exercises other authority in keeping with the present law.

#### **Article 23. Formation of Precinct Election Commissions**

The precinct election commission is formed no later than 45 days before the elections and consists of 5-19 members. If necessary the precinct election commission can be increased or reduced.

Representatives on the precinct election commission are nominated by the labor collectives or their soviets, rayon, city, and rayon-in-city social organizations; organs for independent social activity of the population; collectives of students in vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions; and meetings of voters in their places of residence and military servicemen in their military units.

In order to determine the labor collectives, social organizations, local organizations of social organizations, organs of independent social activity of the population, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions and meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units who nominate representatives on precinct election commissions, the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, if necessary, hold conferences of their authorized representatives.

In labor collectives with more than 150 workers the nomination to the precinct election commission can be made at meetings of the collectives of shops, departments, precincts, brigades, and other subdivisions of enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Precinct election commissions are approved by rayon, city (except cities under rayon jurisdiction) and rayon-in-city soviets of people's deputies and their presidiums.

The term of office of the precinct election commissions ends at the same time as the end of the term of office of the district election commissions established by Article 21 of the present law.

#### **Article 24. Authority of the Precinct Election Commission**

The precinct election commission:

1) compiles lists of voters in the precinct;

2) familiarizes the voters with the voter list, accepts and considers statements about errors in the list, and solves the problem of making the corresponding changes in it;

3) in the case envisioned by Article 30 of the present law, accepts votes sealed in envelopes from voters who intend to be absent from their place of residence on the day of the elections and ensures the secrecy of the expression of the will of the voters;

4) notifies the population of the location of the precinct election commission and the time of its operation, and also the day of the elections and the polling places;

5) provides for preparation of the facilities for voting and the ballot boxes;

6) organizes voting on the day of the election in the electoral precinct;

7) counts the votes cast in the electoral precinct;

8) considers statements and complaints on questions of preparations for the elections and organization of voting and makes decisions concerning them;

9) exercises other authority in keeping with the present law.

#### **Article 25. Organization of the Work of Election Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the district and precinct election commissions are elected at the first meeting of the corresponding commission.

The voters are informed of the decision concerning the formation of the election commission and its composition and the decree of the election commission concerning the election of its leaders.

Meetings of the election commission are authorized if no less than two-thirds of the commission members participate in them. Commission decisions are made by open voting by a majority of the votes of all the members of the commission. Members of the commission who do not agree with its decision have the right to express a special opinion which is appended in written form to the minutes of the meeting of the election commission.

Decisions of election commissions adopted within the limits of their authority are mandatory for execution by all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

Decisions and actions of the election commission may be appealed to the higher election commission and, in cases envisioned by the present law, also to the court.

A member of the election commission, including the chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary, by its decision, can be relieved for the period of preparing for and conducting the elections from the performance of their production or other work duties while retaining their average earnings paid for with the funds allotted for conducting the elections.

Individuals included on election commissions may be relieved of their duties on the commission at their personal request or upon application from the labor collective, its subdivision or the council of the labor collective, the organ of the social organization or the local organization of the social organization, the organ for independent social activity of the population, the collective of students in vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units who have nominated them for the commissions, and also on the basis and according to the procedure established by Article 32 of the present law. The nomination and approval of a new commission member are carried out according to the procedure established by the present law.

#### **Article 26. Assisting Election Commissions in Exercising Their Authority**

State and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obliged to assist election commissions in the exercise of their authority and provide the information and materials necessary for their work.

Concerning questions related to preparing for and conducting the elections, the election commission has the right to appeal to state and social organs and to enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials, who are obliged to consider the question that has been submitted and give the election commission an answer within no more than three days.

### **V. Voter Lists**

#### **Article 27. The Voter List and Procedure for Compiling It**

A voter list for elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies is drawn up for each electoral precinct and is signed by the chairman and secretary of the precinct election commission. The precinct election commission may enlist representatives of the community to participate in the work of compiling the list.

Executive committees of city, rayon-in-city, village, and kishlak soviets of people's deputies provide for accounting for the voters and submit to the precinct election commissions information about the voters living on the corresponding territory necessary for compiling the voter lists.

Lists of voters who are military servicemen stationed in military units and also members of the families of military servicemen and other voters who live in the regions where military units are located are compiled on the basis of data submitted by the commanders of the military units. Military servicemen living outside the military units are included on the voter lists for their places of residence like everyone else.

Voter lists for electoral precincts formed in resorts and recreation facilities, hospitals and other permanent therapeutic institutions are compiled on the basis of data submitted by the leaders of the aforementioned institutions.

The surnames of the voters are indicated on the voter list in an order that is convenient for organizing the voting.

#### **Article 28. Procedure for Including Citizens on Voter Lists**

All Tajik SSR citizens who have reached 18 years of age by the day of the elections who are living permanently or temporarily on the territory of a given electoral precinct and have the right to vote are included on the voter list.

A voter may be included on the voter list in only one electoral precinct.

Voters living on the territory of the given electoral precinct who for some reason have been omitted from the list are included on it by a decision of the precinct election commission.

#### **Article 29. Familiarization of Citizens with the Voter Lists and the Right to Appeal Mistakes in the Voter List.**

Voter lists are presented for general familiarization 15 days before the elections, and in electoral precincts formed in health resorts and recreational facilities, hospitals, and other permanent therapeutic institutions as well as population points that are remote and hard to get to—two days before the elections.

Citizens are provided the opportunity to become familiar with the voter list and make sure that it is compiled correctly in the premises of the precinct election commission.

Each citizen is given the right to complain about not being included, being included incorrectly, or being excluded from the list and also about mistakes in the data about the voter on the list. A statement about mistakes on the list is considered by the precinct election commission, which is obliged within no more than two days—and if it is the day before the election, immediately—to consider the statement and make the necessary corrections on the voter list or give the applicant a copy of a justified decision to reject his statement. This decision can be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court within no more than five days before the elections, and it must consider the appeal within three days. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. The

correction on the voter list in keeping with the court decision is made immediately by the precinct election commission.

**Article 30. Ensuring the Citizens' Right to Vote When They Move**

During the period after the voter lists have been presented for general familiarization until the day of the election a voter who cannot be in his place of residence on the day of the election (business trip, vacation, health resort, recreational facility, therapy, and other similar factors) has the right, upon presenting his passport or other document certifying his identity, to turn over to the section election commission in a sealed envelope his decision about his choice of the candidates running for people's deputy. The precinct election commission makes the corresponding note of this, indicating the date, on the voter list. The sealed envelope is sealed in the presence of the voter. The precinct election commission is responsible for keeping the envelope.

**VI. Nominating and Registering Candidate People's Deputies of the Tajik SSR**

**Article 31. Procedure for Nominating Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputies**

The nomination of Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies begins two months and ends one month before the elections.

The nomination of candidate deputies is held at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives of the enterprises, institutions, organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and specialized secondary educational institutions with no less than 200 members and located on the territory of the corresponding electoral district. With the agreement of the corresponding election commission the labor collectives, collectives of students of vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions with less than 200 members and located on the territory of the same electoral district nominate candidate deputies at joint meetings with other collectives, and the overall number of workers or students should be no less than 200.

Candidate Tajik SSR people's deputies are nominated from social organizations at plenums (councils) of their republic, oblast, rayon, city, and rayon-in-city organs.

Meetings of voters in their place of residence are convened for nominating candidate deputies by district election commissions in conjunction with the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums both on their own initiative and on the initiative of organs for independent social activity of the population supported by no less than 100 voters of the given district.

A proposal to hold a meeting of voters in the place of residence should be considered by the district election commission in conjunction with the corresponding soviet of people's deputies or its presidium within three

days. The voters of the district are notified of the date, time and place of the meeting. In the event that the proposal is denied, the organ for independent social activity of the population is given a copy of the substantiated answer. This decision may be appealed within three days to the rayon (city) people's court, which must consider the appeal within three days. The court decision is final.

A meeting is authorized if no less than 200 voters living on the territory of the given electoral district participate in it.

Meetings of military servicemen for nominating candidate deputies are convened by the command of the military unit. If it is impossible to hold a general meeting of the military servicemen of the unit, meetings are conducted in the subdivisions.

At the meetings (conferences) conditions are created for discussing an unlimited number of candidacies. Each participant in the meeting (conference) has the right to make suggestions about candidate deputies, to participate in their discussion, to support the proposed candidacies or make a suggestion to withdraw them, or to submit their own candidacy for discussion. The decision to nominate a candidate deputy is made by open or secret voting. The procedure for voting and other procedural issues are established by the meeting (conference) or the organ of the social organization.

Only one candidate deputy is nominated from each labor collective, social organization, collective of students at vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, joint meeting of several collectives, or meeting of voters in their place of residence or military servicemen in their military units.

A candidate deputy is considered nominated if more than half of the participants in the meeting (conference) or plenum (council) of the electoral organ of the social organization have voted for him. A protocol is drawn up for the nomination of candidates. The candidate deputy is informed of the decision that is made within no more than two days.

Tajik SSR candidate deputies are nominated by citizens working or living on the territory of the Tajik SSR with the exception of representatives of the administration of the corresponding territorial military district.

A Tajik SSR citizen can be a deputy of only one Tajik SSR soviet of people's deputies except for the chairman of the soviet of people's deputies of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

**Article 32. Registration of Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputies**

Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies are registered by the district election commission upon application by the labor collectives, organs of social organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and

secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units who have nominated the candidate deputies.

The registration of candidate deputies begins a month before and ends 20 days before the elections.

The decision to register candidate deputies is made when the following documents are available: minutes of meetings (conferences) or a decision of the organ of the social organization to nominate candidate deputies for the given electoral district, and also statements of candidate deputies of their agreement to run in the given electoral district.

Individuals listed in Article 11 of the present law and also individuals who are deputies of another Tajik SSR soviet of people's deputies, when they are nominated as candidate deputies, indicate in their statements that they intend to relinquish the positions they hold if they are elected or curtail ahead of schedule their term of office as deputy in the other soviet of people's deputies or else they announce their withdrawal of their candidacy.

The district electoral commission registers candidate deputies who have been nominated in observance of the requirements of the present law, for which one draws up a protocol which is submitted along with the statements of the candidate deputies to the republic election commission. A refusal to register a candidate deputy may be appealed within three days to the republic election commission.

A candidate deputy may not be on the republic election commission or on the district or precinct election commissions of the electoral district in which he has been nominated as a candidate. An individual who has been nominated as a candidate deputy and is on one of the aforementioned commissions is considered to be relieved of his duties on the commission from the moment of his registration as a candidate deputy.

No later than the fourth day after the registration of candidate deputies the district election commission publishes in the press an announcement of the registration with an indication of the surname, given name, patronymic, year of birth, position held (employment), party affiliation, and place of work and residence of each candidate deputy.

Candidate deputies registered in one electoral district may not be submitted for registration in another electoral district, including if his candidacy has been withdrawn in the electoral district in which he was initially registered.

Each registered Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy is issued a certificate.

### **Article 33. Revocation of a Decision to Nominate a Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputy. A Candidate's Removal of his Own Candidacy.**

The labor collective, organ of a social organization, collective of students of vocational and technical schools, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, meeting of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units who have nominated the Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy have the right at any time before the elections to revoke their decision to nominate the candidate deputy. A decision regarding this issue is made according to the procedure envisioned for nominating candidate deputies and is submitted to the corresponding election commission.

Candidate deputies may at any time before the elections withdraw their candidacies by submitting an application for this to the corresponding election commission. The population of the electoral district or the organ of the social organization are informed of the revocation of a decision to nominate a candidate deputy or a registered candidate's withdrawal of his own nomination.

### **Article 34. Procedure for Nomination of Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputies to Replace Those Who Have Departed**

In the event of the departure of Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies after the end of the period for registration of candidate deputies, if there are no other candidates in the district, the district election commission appeals to the labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students of vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, and meetings of voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units to nominate new candidate deputies. When the candidate deputies withdraw less than 15 days before the elections, elections of deputies from the corresponding electoral district are held within two months after the general elections.

Nominations of candidate deputies to replace those who have departed are conducted according to the procedure established by the present law.

### **Article 35. The Ballot**

All registered candidate people's deputies are included in alphabetical order with an indication of the surname, given name, patronymic, position held (employment), and place of work and residence of each people's deputy. The ballots are printed in the languages used by the population of the electoral district and delivered to the precinct election commissions no later than three days before the elections.

## **VII. Guarantees of the Activity of Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputies**

### **Article 36. The Right of Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputies to Participate in the Pre-Election Campaign**

Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies from the moment they are nominated participate in the pre-election campaign under equal conditions.

Candidate people's deputies have the right to speak at pre-election and other meetings, gatherings, and conferences, in the press and on radio and television.

State and social organs, leaders of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and organs for independent social activity of the population are obliged to render the Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy assistance in organizing meetings with the voters and obtaining the necessary reference and informational materials.

### **Article 37. The Pre-Election Program of the Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputy**

The Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy may present the program of his future activity. The program of the candidate people's deputy must not contradict the USSR Constitution, the Tajik SSR Constitution, or other Soviet laws. In the event that he is elected the candidate deputy is responsible to the voters for the implementation of his pre-election program.

### **Article 38. Authorized Representatives of the Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputy**

The Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy may have up to five authorized representatives who help in conducting the election campaign, campaign for his election as deputy, and represent his interests in interrelations with state and social organs, the voters, and also on election commissions.

The candidate deputy appoints his authorized representatives at his own discretion and submits their names for registration to the district election commission. The district election commission registers the authorized representatives after the candidate deputies are registered and issues them certificates. The authorized representative may not be on the corresponding election commission.

Upon request from the candidate deputy authorized representatives may be relieved from performance of their production or job duties while retaining their average earnings paid for with funds allotted for conducting the elections.

The authority of the authorized representative may be ended at any time before the elections both at his request

and at the suggestion of the candidate deputy, and the election commission is notified of this.

### **Article 39. Pre-Election Campaigning**

Labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units who have nominated candidate deputies and their authorized representatives are given the right to campaign for their candidates without hindrance.

Labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units are granted by the election commissions equipped premises meetings and rallies and mass media for pre-election campaigning.

Tajik SSR citizens, labor collectives, social organizations, collectives of students in vocational and technical schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions, voters in their place of residence and military servicemen in their military units are guaranteed the opportunity for free and comprehensive discussion of the political, business, and personal qualities of the candidates and also the right to campaign for or against candidates at meetings, in the press, and on radio and television.

Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies meet with their constituents both at meetings and in any other form that is convenient for the voters. Meetings with the voters are organized by the election commission in conjunction with the corresponding soviet of people's deputies or its presidium, labor collectives, and organs of social organizations.

The voters are notified of the times and places of meetings and gatherings no later than three days before they are held.

Campaigning is not allowed on the day of the elections.

Pre-election campaigning should be conducted within the framework of constructive businesslike discussion, eliminating cases of a disrespectful attitude toward one candidate deputy or another.

### **Article 40. Relieving a Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputy From Production or Job Duties in Order for Him to Participate in Pre-Election Measures**

Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies, after registering the time for conducting meetings with the voters and speeches in pre-election meetings, rallies, and on radio and television, are relieved of their production or job duties while retaining their average earnings paid for with funds allotted for conducting the elections.

**Article 41. The Right of the Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputy to Free Travel**

After registration Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies have the right to free travel on all kinds of passenger transportation (except taxis) within the corresponding electoral district. Candidate deputies living outside the electoral district have the same right for travel to the electoral district and return to their place of residence.

**Article 42. The Immunity of Tajik SSR Candidate People's Deputies**

A Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy may not be held criminally liable, be arrested, or be subjected to measures of administrative punishment imposed judicially without the agreement of the republic election commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Totaling Results of Elections****Article 43. Time and Place of Voting**

With elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies the voting is conducted on the day of the elections from 0700 to 2000 hours local time. The precinct election commission notifies the voters of the time and place of the voting no later than 10 days before the elections.

In the election precincts formed in military units and population points that are remote and hard to get to the precinct election commission may declare the voting over at any time if all voters included on the list have voted.

**Article 44. Organization of the Voting**

Voting is conducted in especially allotted premises which must be equipped with a sufficient number of booths and rooms for secret voting, where the places for turning in the ballots are determined and ballot boxes are installed. The ballot boxes are installed in such a way that in order to approach them the voters must go through the booths or rooms for secret voting.

The precinct election commission is responsible for organizing the voting, providing for the secrecy of the expression of the will of the voters, equipping the premises, and maintaining the necessary order in them.

On the day of the elections before the beginning of the voting the ballot boxes are checked, sealed, or stamped by the chairman of the precinct election commission in the presence of all the commission members.

Each voter votes in person; voting for others is not allowed. The ballots are issued by the corresponding election commission on the basis of a list of voters of the electoral precinct upon presentation of a passport or other certificate of identification. A check mark is made on the voter list when the ballot is issued.

When, because of their health or other factors, certain voters are unable to come to the premises to vote, the

precinct election commission at their request instructs individual commission members to organize voting in the place where these voters are located, which is noted on the voter list.

**Article 45. Conducting the Voting**

Ballots are filled out by the voters in the booth or room for secret voting. Nobody except the voter is allowed to be present when the ballot is being filled out. A voter who is unable to fill out the ballot by himself has the right to invite another individual into the booth or room at his own discretion except for a member of the election commission.

In elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies the voter crosses out on the ballot the names of candidates against whom he is voting.

The voter drops the completed ballot into the ballot box.

**Article 46. Counting Votes in the Election Precinct**

Votes are counted in the election precinct by the precinct election commission individually for each candidate deputy.

Ballot boxes and printed envelopes turned in to the precinct commission by voters who have moved are opened by the precinct election commission in the presence of all of its members after the commission chairman has declared the voting over. Opening ballot boxes and sealed envelopes of the voters before the end of the voting is prohibited. Before opening the ballot boxes all unused ballots are counted and destroyed by the precinct election commission.

From the voter list the precinct election commission establishes the overall number of voters in the precinct and also the number of voters who have received ballots and turned in sealed envelopes. On the basis of the ballots in the ballot boxes and the votes contained in the envelopes the commission establishes: the overall number of votes cast for and against each candidate deputy; the number of ballots and votes contained in envelopes that are declared invalid. Votes for the names of citizens written by the voters on the ballots in the ballot boxes and in the envelopes are not counted.

Ballots that are not in the standard form and also those on which the name of more than one candidate are left during the voting are declared invalid. Ballots on which the names of all the candidates are crossed out are considered invalid. The votes on them are counted as being cast against all the candidates. When there are doubts about the validity of the ballot or the voter decision in an envelope the question is resolved by the precinct election commission through voting.

The results of the counting of the votes are considered at a meeting of the precinct election commission and entered in a protocol which is signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and commission members

and is sent to the corresponding district election commission according to the procedure established by the republic election commission.

**Article 47. Establishing the Results of the Election for the Electoral District**

On the basis of the protocols from the precinct election commissions the district election commission determines: the overall number of voters in the district; the number of voters who have received ballots and the number of voters who have turned in sealed envelopes; the number of voters who participated in the voting; the number of votes cast for and the number cast against each candidate deputy; the number of ballots and votes in sealed envelopes that are declared invalid.

The Tajik SSR candidate people's deputy who is declared elected is the one who has received more than half of the votes of voters who participated in the voting.

The district election commission may declare the elections invalid because of violations of the present law committed during the course of the elections or the counting of the votes.

The elections are declared nullified if less than half of the voters on the voter lists have participated in them and also if all the registered candidate deputies have withdrawn.

The results of the elections for the electoral district are established at a meeting of the district election commission and entered in a protocol. The protocol is signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and sent to the republic election commission according to the procedure established by it.

The report of the results of the elections for the electoral district is published in the press by the corresponding district election commission by a deadline established by the republic election commission. The report indicates the overall number of citizens included on the voter lists; the number of voters who participated in the elections; the number of votes cast for and the number cast against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots and votes contained in envelopes; the surname, given name, patronymic, party affiliation, position held (employment), and place of work and residence of the deputy who was elected.

**IX. Procedure for Totaling and Publishing Results of Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

**Article 48. Registration of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

The republic election commission for elections of Tajik SSR people's deputies registers the elected Tajik SSR people's deputies on the basis of the protocols it has received from the election commissions.

The republic election commission may declare the elections invalid if during the course of the elections or the counting of the votes or determination of the results of

the elections there have been violations of the present law and it can refuse to register the Tajik SSR people's deputy.

**Article 49. Publication of the Results of Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies**

The republic election commission publishes the report on the results of the elections for the republic as a whole and the list of elected Tajik SSR people's deputies in the press after no more than 10 days in alphabetical order indicating the surname, given name, patronymic, position held (employment), party affiliation, place of work and residence of the deputy, and the electoral district from which he was elected.

**Article 50. Certificate and Badge of the Tajik SSR People's Deputy**

The district election commission, after publication in the press of the list of Tajik SSR people's deputies registered by the republic election commission, issues each elected deputy a certificate of his election.

After the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet has ratified the authority of the elected deputies, the election certificates issued to them are replaced with a certificate of a Tajik SSR people's deputy. The deputy is also issued a badge that says "Deputati khalki RSS Tojikiston [rendered in Tajik]. Tajik SSR People's Deputy."

**X. Repeat Voting, Repeat Elections, and Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies to Replace Those Who Have Departed**

**Article 51. Repeat Voting**

If more than two Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies have run in the electoral district and none has been elected the district election commission makes a decision to conduct repeat voting in the district for the two candidate deputies who have received the most votes. The district commission reports this decision to the republic election commission and informs the voters of the district. The repeat voting in the electoral district is conducted within no more than two weeks in observance of the requirements of the present law in the same electoral precincts and from the same lists of voters.

If in the repeat voting one of the candidates withdraws for some reason the voting is conducted for one candidate. Then in order to be elected the candidate deputy must receive more than half of the votes of the voters who participated in the voting.

With repeat voting the precinct election commission may declare the voting over at any time if all the voters included on the list have voted.

**Article 52. Repeat Elections**

If no more than two Tajik SSR candidate people's deputies have run in an electoral district and neither of them has been elected or the elections for the electoral district were nullified or the repeat voting did not make



it possible to determine which deputy was elected, the republic election commission instructs the district election commission to conduct repeat elections in the electoral district. It may also decide that it is necessary for the district or precinct election commissions to have new members. The voting is conducted in the same electoral precincts and from the voter lists compiled for conducting the general elections.

Repeat elections are conducted no later than two months after the general elections. The formation of election commissions and the registration of candidate deputies and other measures are conducted according to the procedure established by the present law.

If there are repeat elections a Tajik SSR citizen who has not received the necessary number of votes during the general elections may not run again as a candidate people's deputy in the same electoral district.

#### **Article 53. Conducting Elections of Tajik SSR People's Deputies to Replace Those Who Have Departed.**

In the event that the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet declares the authority of individual Tajik SSR people's deputies to be invalid and also in the event that a deputy is recalled or the deputy's authority is curtailed early for other reasons, new elections are held in the corresponding electoral districts within three months of the deputy's withdrawal. The elections are scheduled by the republic election commission no later than two months before they are held and they are organized in observance of the requirements of the present law. And the district election commission is formed 50 days prior and the precinct commission a month prior to the elections and candidate registration ends a month before the elections.

In the event that a Tajik SSR people's deputy withdraws less than a year before the expiration of the term of office of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet, there are no elections of a new Tajik SSR people's deputy to replace the one who has withdrawn.

G. Pallayev, chairman,  
Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium  
A. Kasymova, secretary,  
Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium  
24 November 1989, Dushanbe

### **Turkmen SSR**

#### **Turkmen SSR Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies**

90US0220A Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA  
in Russian 24 Oct 89 pp 1-3

["Law of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic on Election of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR," 20 October 1989]

#### **[Text] I. General Provisions**

##### **Article 1. Fundamentals of Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

Elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are held by single-mandate electoral districts on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot. The term of office of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR is five years.

##### **Article 2. Universal Suffrage**

Elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are universal: Citizens of the Turkmen SSR who have reached the age of 18 years have the right to vote. A citizen of the Turkmen SSR who has reached the age of 21 by election day may be elected as a people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR.

Any direct or indirect restriction of voting rights of citizens of the Turkmen SSR according to origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, time of residence in a given locality, or occupation is prohibited.

Mentally ill citizens legally declared incompetent by the court, individuals in confinement, and also individuals in institutions for compulsory treatment cannot participate in the elections.

Citizens of other union republics who are residing on the territory of the Turkmen SSR and also service members of military units located on the territory of the Turkmen SSR may participate without special preferences.

##### **Article 3. Equal Suffrage**

Elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are equal: each voter has one vote; voters and also deputy candidates participate in the elections without special preferences.

##### **Article 4. Direct Suffrage**

Elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are direct: People's deputies are elected by the citizens directly.

##### **Article 5. Secret Ballot**

Voting in elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR is by secret ballot: Monitoring expression of the voters' will is not permitted.

##### **Article 6. Holding of Elections by Electoral Commissions**

The holding of elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR is ensured by electoral commission, which are formed from representatives of labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, and social organizations of voters by place of residence and of service members by military units.

**Article 7. Openness when Preparing and Holding Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

The preparation and holding of elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are accomplished openly and publicly by electoral commissions, labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, and social organizations.

Electoral commissions inform citizens about the formation of electoral okrugs, the composition, location, and work being conducted, voter lists, registered deputy candidates and their biographical data, the results of voting results for each candidate, and the election returns. Representatives of labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, social organizations, meetings of voters by place of residence and of service members by military units, bodies of state power, proxies of deputy candidates, and also representatives of the press, radio and television have the right to be present at meetings of electoral commissions during the sealing of ballot boxes before the start of elections, during voting and counting up of the votes at the electoral district, and when determining the results of the election by okrug and summing up the overall election results. Their appeals about violations of this law must be considered immediately by the electoral commissions.

The authority of these representatives must be certified by the appropriate document. Electoral commissions must be notified at least 2 two days prior to election day about the intention of representatives to be present in the polling place on election day or at the meetings of electoral commissions.

The mass media covers the course of preparing and holding elections. Electoral commissions, state and public bodies, and labor collectives provide them information on questions of preparing and holding the elections.

**Article 8. Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, Collectives of Educational Institutions, and Social Organizations in Preparing and Holding Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

Citizens of the Turkmen SSR participate in preparing and holding elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR both directly and through labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, social organizations, meetings of voters by place of residence and of service members by military units, and election meetings.

Labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, social organizations, and meetings of voters by place of residence and of service members participate in preparing and holding elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR both directly and through their representatives in electoral commissions.

**Article 9. The Right to Nominate Candidates for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

Labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, social organizations, and meetings of voters by place of residence and of service members by military units have the right to nominate candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR.

**Article 10. Deputies' Mandates from Their Electorate**

The procedure for submitting, summarizing, considering, and organizing fulfillment of mandates is established by legislation of the USSR and the Turkmen SSR.

**Article 11. Incompatibility of the Status of People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR with Official Position**

Individuals who are on the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers, except for the chairman of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers, heads of departments of the Turkmen SSR, the chairman and members of the Supreme Court of the Turkmen SSR, the chief state arbiter and state arbiters of the Turkmen SSR, and the chairman and members of the Constitutional Oversight Committee of the Turkmen SSR cannot be people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR simultaneously.

**Article 12. Expenses Associated with Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR. Material Support of the Elections.**

Expenses associated with preparing and holding elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are covered by budget funds of the republic. Use of funds of enterprises, institutions and organizations, and social organizations for this purpose is not permitted.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, educational institutions, and state and public bodies place at the disposal of electoral commissions the facilities, equipment, and transportation necessary for preparing and holding the elections.

Candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR, their proxies, and voters do not bear expenses associated with preparing and holding the elections.

**Article 13. Responsibility for Violation of Legislation on Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

Individuals using force, deception, threats, or other means to prevent a citizen of the Turkmen SSR from freely exercising his right to vote and be elected people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR or to campaign, and also members of electoral commission and officials of state and public bodies who forge election documents, knowingly miscount votes, violate the secrecy of voting, or commit other violations of this law bear responsibility as prescribed by law. Individuals who spread false and disparaging information about a deputy candidate by any means will also be called to account.

If a deputy candidate violates this law, the okrug commission can repeal the decision on his registration.

Statements about violations of election laws that are received by electoral commissions and state and public bodies during the preparations for the elections or after the elections must be examined within one week; those received on election day must be examined immediately.

## **II. Procedure for Ordering Elections and Forming Electoral Okrugs**

### **Article 14. Ordering Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

Elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are ordered by the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR no later than two and a half months before the expiration of the term of office of the people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR.

A report on election day is published in the press.

### **Article 15. Forming Electoral Okrugs**

There are 175 electoral okrugs formed for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR.

Electoral okrugs are formed by the Republic Electoral Commission for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR according to representation of oblast, rayon, and city (of rayons and republic-subordinate cities) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

One people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR is elected from each electoral okrug.

Electoral okrugs are formed taking into account the administrative-territorial division, with observance of a roughly equal number of voters throughout the territory of the Turkmen SSR. The quota of voters per electoral okrug for each election is established by the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet.

Lists of electoral okrugs indicating their boundaries and okrug centers are published by the Republic Electoral Commission no later than five days after elections are ordered.

## **III. Electoral Districts**

### **Article 16. Forming Electoral Districts**

The territory of rayons, cities, and rayons in cities is divided into electoral districts for voting and counting up votes during elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR. They are also formed in military units and are part of the electoral okrugs in which the units are located.

Electoral districts may be formed in locations of citizens situated in remote and inaccessible areas, which are part of the electoral okrugs in which they are located.

### **Article 17. Procedure and Norms for Forming Electoral Districts**

Electoral districts are formed by rayon, city (other than rayon-subordinate cities), and city-rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums by agreement with the okrug electoral commissions. Electoral districts are formed in military units by soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums by representation of commanders of units or troop formations.

Electoral districts are formed no later than 20 days after elections are ordered. In military units, and also in remote and inaccessible areas, electoral districts are formed within the same period, but in exceptional cases no later than five days before the elections.

Electoral districts are formed with at least 20 and not more than 3,000 voters.

The appropriate local Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium informs voters of the boundaries of each electoral district, indicating the composition and location of the district electoral commission and the polling place.

## **IV. Electoral Commissions**

### **Article 18. The System of Electoral Commissions**

Electoral commissions are formed for holding elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR:

- the Republic Electoral Okrug for Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR;
- okrug electoral commissions for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR;
- and district electoral commissions.

### **Article 19. Forming the Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

The Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR is formed by the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR taking into account the recommendations of oblast, rayon, and city (of rayons and republic-subordinate cities) soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums and of republic bodies of social organizations no later than two and one-half months before the elections. The commission includes a chairman, two deputy chairmen, a secretary, and 15 members.

The composition of the Republic Electoral Commission is published in the press.

The term of office of the Republic Electoral Commission is five years.

### **Article 20. Powers of the Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

The Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR:

- 1) Monitors execution of this law throughout the territory of the Turkmen SSR and ensures its uniform

application; if necessary, submits ideas to the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR on interpretation of this law; gives clarifications on the procedure for application of the law;

- 2) Directs the activities of electoral commissions;
- 3) Forms okrug electoral commissions; publishes in the press a list of okrugs, indicating their boundaries and centers;
- 4) Distributes monies to electoral okrugs; monitors providing commissions with facilities, transportation, and communications, and considers other questions of material and technical support of the elections;
- 5) Establishes the forms of ballots and absentee ballots for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR, voters' lists, minutes of election meetings and meetings of electoral commissions, and other documents, samples of ballot boxes and seals of electoral commissions, and the procedure for storing voting documents;
- 6) Hears reports from the leaders of ministries, state committees, and departments of the Turkmen SSR, and agencies of social organizations on questions associated with preparing and holding elections;
- 7) Monitors observance of equal conditions of participation of deputy candidates in the election campaign;
- 8) Registers elected deputies, sums up the election results for the republic as a whole and publishes in the press a report on the election results and a list of elected people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR;
- 9) Transfers to the Mandate Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR the documentation necessary to verify the powers of elected deputies;
- 10) Makes the decision on holding repeat elections;
- 11) Resolves issues associated with the recall of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR;
- 12) Orders elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR to replace deputies taken out of office and ensures that they are held;
- 13) Considers declarations and appeals of decisions and actions of electoral commissions and okrug electoral meetings and makes the final decision on them;
- 14) Exercises other powers in accordance with this law and other laws of the USSR and the Turkmen SSR.

#### Article 21. Forming Okrug Electoral Commissions

A okrug electoral commission is formed in each electoral okrug for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR at least two months before the election and consists of 9-11 members. If necessary, the composition of the commission may be changed by the body forming this commission.

Representatives to make up the okrug electoral commission are nominated by labor collectives or their councils, meetings of authorized agents or boards of kolkhozes, collectives of educational institutions, oblast, rayon, city, or city-rayon bodies of social organizations, or meetings of voters by place of residence and service members by military units.

In large labor collectives, meetings to nominate representatives to make up the okrug electoral commission can be held by shops, sections, shifts, departments, brigades, or other structural subdivisions of enterprises, institutions, organizations, and farms provided they have at least 50 people working in them.

To determine the labor collectives and collectives of educational institutions and social organizations nominating representatives to make up the commissions, the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums may, if necessary, hold meetings of authorized agents of labor collectives and collectives of educational institutions and social organizations of the electoral okrug. Meetings of voters by place of residence, convened by the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, are authorized to nominate representatives to make up the okrug electoral commission if at least 50 voters participate in the meeting.

Okrug electoral commissions for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR are formed by the corresponding oblast, rayon, or city (of rayons and republic-subordinate cities) Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium.

The term of office of the okrug electoral commission expires after the Supreme Soviet recognizes the powers of an elected people's deputy.

#### Article 22. Powers of the Okrug Electoral Commission

The okrug electoral commission for elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR:

- 1) Monitors execution of this law on the territory of the okrug;
- 2) Observes the correctness of forming electoral okrugs;
- 3) Directs the activities of district electoral commissions;
- 4) Hears reports of executive and regulatory bodies of the corresponding soviets of people's deputies and leaders of enterprises, institutions, and organizations on questions associated with preparing and holding the elections;
- 5) Observes the compilation of voters' lists and the submission of them for general familiarization;
- 6) Resolves issues envisioned by this law associated with organizing the nomination of deputy candidates; monitors observance of equal conditions of participation of deputy candidates in the election campaign;

- 7) When necessary, convenes and holds okrug election meetings;
- 8) Registers nominated deputy candidates and issues them the appropriate credentials, publishes a report on the registered candidates, and ensures the publication of posters with biographical data on the deputy candidates;
- 9) In an instance provided for by Article 13 of this law, reverses its decision on registration of a deputy candidate;
- 10) Registers proxies of deputy candidates and issues them the appropriate credentials;
- 11) Jointly with labor collectives and social organizations, organizes meetings of deputy candidates with voters both in labor collectives and by place of residence; accounts for proposals on voter mandates;
- 12) Approves by electoral okrug the text of voting ballots and absentee ballots, and ensures that the ballots and absentee ballots are made and supplied to the district electoral commissions;
- 13) Establishes and publishes in the press the election results by electoral okrug and issues credentials to the elected deputy;
- 14) Decides on and holds a runoff election and organizes repeat elections, as well as elections to replace deputies taken out of office;
- 15) Considers declarations and appeals of the decisions and actions of district electoral commissions and makes decisions on them;
- 16) Ensures procedures for safeguarding election documents established by the Republic Electoral Commission;
- 17) Exercises other powers in accordance with this law.

#### **Article 23. Forming District Electoral Commissions**

The district electoral commission is formed at least 45 days before the election and consists of 5-15 members. When necessary, the composition of the district electoral commission may be increased by the agency forming this commission.

Representatives making up the district electoral commission are nominated by labor collectives or their soviets, meetings of authorized agents or boards of kolkhozes, collectives of educational institutions, rayon, city, or city-rayon bodies of social organizations, their primary organizations, bodies of social independence of the population, and meetings of voters by place of residence and service members by military units.

In large labor collectives, meetings to nominate representatives to make up the district electoral commission may be held by shops, sections, shifts, departments,

brigades, or other subdivisions of enterprises, institutions, organizations, and farms provided they have at least 50 people working in them.

A meeting of voters by place of residence, convened by a settlement or rural Soviet of People's Deputies or its ispolkom, is authorized to nominate representatives to make up the district electoral commission if at least 50 voters participate in the meeting.

district electoral commissions are formed by rayon, city (other than rayon-subordinate cities), and city-rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

The term of office of district electoral commissions expires after the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR recognizes the powers of the elected people's deputies.

#### **Article 24. Powers of a District Electoral Commission**

A district electoral commission:

- 1) Compiles voters' lists for the district;
- 2) Familiarizes voters with the voters' list, receives and considers declarations on irregularities in the list, and resolves the issue of making appropriate changes to the list;
- 3) Notifies the population about election day and the polling place;
- 4) Ensures preparation of the polling place and ballot boxes;
- 5) Organizes voting on election day in the electoral district, and also on the day of a runoff election and repeat elections;
- 6) Accepts absentee ballots from voters planning to be absent on election day;
- 7) Counts up votes cast at the election district;
- 8) Considers within the time periods specified by this law declarations and complaints on questions of preparing the elections and organizing voting, and makes decisions on them;
- 9) Exercises other powers in accordance with this law.

#### **Article 25. Organizing the Work of Electoral Commissions**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of okrug and district electoral commissions are elected at the first meeting of the corresponding commission, and its decision on this is published in the press.

Meetings of an electoral commission are empowered by law if at least two-thirds of the commission membership is present. Decisions of the commission are made by open voting by a majority of votes of the total composition of the commission. Commission members not

agreeing with its decision have the right to state a special opinion, which is attached in written form to the minutes of the commission meeting.

Decisions of the electoral commission made within the limits of their powers are binding for all state and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

The decisions and actions of the electoral commission may be appealed to a higher electoral commission in cases specified by this law, and also to the court.

By decision of the electoral commission, one of its members may be excused from performing production or service duties during the period of preparing and holding the elections, retaining his average salary using the funds allocated for holding the elections, for the following periods: up to two months for a okrug electoral commission member; up to one month for a district electoral commission member.

The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, or member of an electoral commission may be relieved of his duties on commission on the initiative of the commission itself, by representation of his nominating labor collective, social organization body, meeting of voters by place of residence or service member, or a body of social independence of the population, and also for reasons and in the procedure established in Article 32 of this law.

The nomination of a new representative to the electoral commission or the election of a new chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary of the commission is done in the procedure prescribed by this law.

#### **Article 26. Assisting Electoral Commissions in Exercising Their Powers**

State and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obligated to assist electoral commissions in exercising their powers and to provide them the necessary information and materials for their work.

An electoral commission has the right to consult state and social bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials on questions associated with preparing and holding elections. They are obligated to consider the question and give the electoral commission a response within three days.

### **V. Voters' Lists**

#### **Article 27. The Voters' List and Procedure for Compiling It**

A voters' list is compiled for each electoral district and signed by the chairman and secretary of the district electoral commission. The district electoral commission may enlist the help of representatives of the public in compiling the voters' list.

Executive committees of city, rayon, city-rayon, settlement, and rural soviets of people's deputies ensure the

registration of voters and pass on to district electoral commissions information about voters residing on the corresponding territory that is needed to compile the voters' lists.

Voters' lists of service members located in military units and also family members of service members and other voters, if they reside in the areas where military units are located, are compiled based on data submitted by commanders of military units. Service members residing outside military units are included on voters' lists for their place of residence without special preferences.

The names of voters are indicated on the voters' list in an order convenient for organizing voting.

#### **Article 28. Procedure for Including Citizens on Voters' Lists**

All citizens of the Turkmen SSR who have reached the age of 18 years on election day, residing on the territory of a given electoral district at the time the list is compiled and eligible to vote, are included on the voters' list.

A voter may be included on the voters' list in only one electoral district.

#### **Article 29. Familiarizing Citizens with Voters' Lists and the Right to Appeal Irregularities on the Voters' List**

Voters' lists are presented for general familiarization 15 days before the elections.

Citizens are provided an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the voters' list and to verify its correctness at the premises of the district electoral commission.

Every citizen is granted the right to appeal not being included on, being incorrectly included on, or being excluded from the list, and also inaccuracies made on the list in indicating data about the voter. A declaration about irregularities on the list is considered by the district electoral commission, which is obligated within two weeks, and on the eve of and on election day immediately, to consider the declaration, make the necessary corrections, or issue the declarer a copy of the justified decision for denying his declaration. This decision may be appealed no later than five days before the elections to the rayon (city) people's court, which is obligated to consider the appeal within three days. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. A correction to the voters' list in accordance with the decision of the court is made immediately by the district electoral commission.

### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

#### **Article 30. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

Nomination of candidates for people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR begins two months and ends 35 days before the elections.

Candidates for people's deputies are nominated:

1) By labor collectives and collectives of educational institutions numbering at least 200 people and located on the territory of the corresponding electoral okrug at general meetings (conferences, meetings of authorized agents of kolkhozes) convened by trade union committees or soviets of labor collectives. Labor collectives numbering less than 200 workers may hold joint meetings (conferences). A meeting is considered empowered by law if more than half of the total number of members of a collective attend; a conference or meeting of authorized agents is considered empowered by law if at least two-thirds of the delegates are present;

2) By social organizations at meetings of their republic governing bodies (congresses, conferences, plenums, soviets). Social organizations have the right to hold joint meetings of their republic bodies for nominating deputy candidates;

3) By meetings of voters by place of residence, which are convened by the okrug electoral commission jointly with the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium both on their initiative and on the initiative of bodies of social independence of the population, supported by at least 100 voters of the given okrug. The meeting is considered empowered by law if at least 200 voters residing on the territory of the electoral okrug are present;

4) By meetings of service members of military units convened by the command authority of military units.

An unlimited number of candidacies are discussed at meetings (conferences) of collectives and meetings of republic bodies of social organizations. Every participant in the meeting has the right to make proposals on deputy candidates, participate in their discussion, support or reject them, and to propose himself as a deputy candidate.

Only one deputy candidate may be nominated at a meeting (conference) of each collective. A meeting of each republic body of a social organization or at a joint meeting of several bodies, deputy candidates may be nominated for any electoral okrug. The decision on the nomination is made by open or secret ballot. The procedure for voting is established by the meeting (conference) of the republic body of a social organization.

A candidate is considered nominated if more than half of the participants of the meeting (conference) or of the total composition of the republic body of a social organization vote for him. Minutes are drawn up on the nomination of a deputy candidate for the corresponding electoral okrug, which are submitted to the okrug electoral commission within two days, but no later than the day after the close of nominations. The deputy candidate is informed of the decision on the nomination within the same time period.

The nominated candidate informs the okrug electoral commission in writing of his consent to run for office for the given electoral okrug before the day it registers deputy candidates or holds the okrug election meeting. The okrug electoral commission informs the deputy candidate in advance about the date of registration.

A citizen of the Turkmen SSR cannot be a people's deputy in more than two soviets of people's deputies simultaneously.

When nominated as deputy candidates, the individuals listed in Article 11 of this law indicate in their declarations their intention to leave the positions held in the event they are elected as deputies or inform in writing the withdrawal of their candidacy. Individuals who are already deputies of two soviets indicate in their declaration the intention to relinquish powers in one of the soviets in the event they are elected deputies of the Turkmen SSR.

#### Article 31. The Okrug Election Meeting

A okrug election meeting may be held to discuss the candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR nominated for the electoral okrug and to make decisions on submitting the candidates for registration to the okrug electoral commission. The meeting is convened by the okrug electoral commission and is held with its participation after period for nominating deputy candidates has ended. A okrug election meeting is not held if no more than three deputy candidates are nominated for the okrug. The decision to convene the meeting is published no later than three days before it is to be held.

Delegates to participate in the election meeting are sent by labor collectives or their soviets, collectives of educational institutions, bodies of social organizations, meetings of voters by place of residence or of service members by military units, and by nominated deputy candidates according to quotas established by the okrug electoral commission. The number of representatives for each deputy candidate should be equal. At least one-half but not more than two-thirds of the delegates to participate in the meeting are sent by labor collectives or their soviets, collectives of educational institutions, bodies of social organizations, meetings of voters by place of residence and of service members by military units that did not take part in nominating deputy candidates according to equal quotas established by the okrug electoral commission.

The decision to nominate delegates to the okrug election meeting and a list of them are passed to the okrug electoral commission no later than two days before the meeting is to be held. Participants in the okrug election meeting are informed in advance about where it is to be held, and a list of all deputy candidates nominated for a given okrug and basic information about them are presented.

At the meeting, a deputy candidate is given the opportunity to outline the program of his future activities. Any

meeting participant has the right to discuss the deputy candidates and make their proposals on them. All candidates are subject to discussion.

Any number of deputy candidates may be submitted for registration. The decision is made by open or closed voting. The procedure for voting is established by the meeting. A decision is considered adopted if more than half of the meeting participants taking part in the voting vote in favor of it and provided that the meeting remains empowered by law at the time of voting. The results of discussion of the deputy candidates are reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

A decision of the meeting may be appealed to the okrug electoral commission or to the Republic Electoral Commission within three days.

**Article 32. Registration of Candidates for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

Candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR are registered by the okrug electoral commission on representation of labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, republic bodies of social organizations, meetings of voters by place of residence or of service members by military units that have nominated deputy candidates, and of the okrug election meeting, if it was held.

Registration of deputy candidates begins 35 days and ends 25 days before election day.

The decision on registration of deputy candidates is made provided the following documents are available: minutes of meetings to nominate deputy candidates for the given electoral okrug and minutes of the okrug election meeting, if one was held, and also declarations of deputy candidates on their consent to run for office for the given electoral okrug.

The okrug electoral commission draws up minutes on the registration of deputy candidates, which are submitted along with the declarations and registration cards of the deputy candidates to the Republic Electoral Commission.

The okrug electoral commission is obligated to register all deputy candidates nominated, observing the requirements of this law. A refusal to register may be appealed within three days to the Republic Electoral Commission.

A deputy candidate may be registered in only one electoral okrug. Each registered deputy candidate is issued credentials.

A deputy candidate may not be a member of the Republic Electoral Commission or of okrug or district electoral commissions of the electoral okrug in which he has been nominated as a candidate. An individual who is nominated as a deputy candidate and is a member of these commissions is considered relieved of his duties on the commission at the time of his registration as a deputy candidate.

No later than four days following the registration of deputy candidates, the okrug electoral commission publishes in the press a report on the registration, indicating the last, first and patronymic names, year of birth, position held (occupation), place of work, and residence of each deputy candidate.

**Article 33. Reversal of a Decision on Nomination of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR. Withdrawal of Candidacy by a Candidate.**

A labor collective, collective of an educational institution, a republic body of a social organization, or a meeting of voters by place of residence or of service members by military unit that have nominated a candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR have the right at any time before the elections to reverse their decision on nominating a deputy candidate. The decision on this matter is made in the procedure provided for nominating deputy candidates and is submitted to the okrug electoral commission.

A deputy candidate may withdraw his candidacy at any time before the elections by informing the okrug electoral commission of this in writing.

The electoral commission informs the voters of the okrug about the reversal of the decision on nominating a deputy candidate or his withdrawal of candidacy.

**Article 34. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR To Replace Deputies Who Have Quit**

In the event candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR quit after the period for nominating candidates has ended and there are no other candidates left in the electoral okrug, the okrug electoral commission proposes that labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, republic bodies of a social organization, and meetings of voters by place of residence or of service members by military units nominate new candidates. If deputy candidates quit less than 25 days before the elections, the election of a people's deputy from the corresponding okrug is held two months after the general elections.

Nomination of a deputy candidate to replace those who have quit is done in the procedure established by this law.

**Article 35. Election Ballot**

The ballot includes in alphabetical order all registered candidates for people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR, indicating the last, first, and patronymic names, position held (occupation), place of work, and residence of each deputy candidate. The ballots are printed in the languages used by the population of the electoral okrug.



## **VII. Guarantees of the Activities of Candidates for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

### **Article 36. The Right of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR To Speak at Meetings, Use the Mass Media, and Receive Information**

After they have been registered, candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR have the equal right to speak at election meetings or other meetings and conferences, and to speak out in the press and on radio and television.

State and social bodies and leaders of enterprises, institutions, organizations, and collectives of educational institutions, and bodies of social independence of the population are obligated to assist candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR in organizing meetings with voters and in obtaining the necessary reference and information materials.

A deputy candidate is not permitted to use his official position for conducting an election campaign.

### **Article 37. Election Program of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR gives his program of future activities. A candidate's program must not contradict the Constitution of the USSR, the Constitution of the Turkmen SSR, or other laws of the USSR and the Turkmen SSR.

### **Article 38. Proxies of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR may have up to five proxies who help him conduct his election campaign, campaign for his election as a deputy, and represent his interests in relations with state and social bodies, voters, and also in the electoral commissions.

After his registration, a candidate for people's deputy determines his proxies at his own discretion and informs the okrug electoral commission about them for registration. The electoral commission issues the proxies credentials after registration. A candidate for people's deputy has the right to change his proxies at any time before the elections.

A proxy cannot be a member of the corresponding electoral commissions. The powers of a proxy expire after the powers of the elected people's deputy are recognized.

### **Article 39. Campaigning**

Labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, social organizations, voters by place of residence, and service members by military units that have nominated a deputy candidate are granted the right of unrestricted campaigning for their candidates after their nomination. The corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their ispolkoms provide them equipped facilities for meetings and rallies, and also mass media for campaigning.

All citizens, labor collectives, collectives of educational institutions, and social organizations are guaranteed the opportunity of free and thorough discussion of the political, business, and personal qualities of deputy candidates, and also the right to campaign for or against a candidate at meetings, in the press, and on radio and television.

Candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR hold meetings with their electorate at meetings and in other ways convenient for the voters. Voters' meetings are organized by the okrug electoral commission jointly with the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies or its presidium.

Voters are notified in advance of the time and place of the meetings.

Campaigning on election day is not permitted.

### **Article 40. Excusing a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR from Production or Service Duties To Participate in Election Measures**

After registration, a candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR is excused from performing production or service duties, retaining the average wage using funds allocated for holding the elections, for the period of holding meetings with voters and speaking at election meetings, rallies, and on radio and television.

### **Article 41. Right of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR to Free Travel**

After registration, a candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR has the right to free travel on all types of passenger transport (except taxis) within the corresponding electoral okrug. A deputy candidate residing outside the electoral okrug also has the same right for travel to and from his place of residence.

### **Article 42. Immunity of a Candidate for People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

A candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR cannot have legal actions taken against him, cannot be arrested, and cannot have administrative penalties imposed by a court without the consent of the Republic Electoral Commission.

## **VIII. Procedures for Voting and Summing Up Election Results**

### **Article 43. Time and Place of Voting**

In elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR, voting is done between 7:00 and 20:00 local time on election day. The district electoral commission notifies the voters of the time and place of voting no later than 10 days before the election.

In electoral districts formed in military units and in remote or inaccessible areas, the district electoral commission may declare voting over at any time if all voters on the list have voted.

#### **Article 44. Organizing Voting**

Voting is done at facilities specially set aside, which must be equipped with a sufficient number of booths or rooms for secret voting, have places identified for issuing ballots, and have ballot boxes set up.

The ballot boxes are set up in such a way that when approaching them the voters must pass through booths or rooms for secret voting.

The district electoral commission is responsible for organizing voting, ensuring the secrecy of expression of voters' will, equipping the facilities, and maintaining the necessary order in them.

On election day, prior to the start of voting, the ballot boxes are checked and sealed by the chairman of the district electoral commission in the presence of all members of the commission.

Each voter votes in person; voting for others is not permitted. Ballots are issued by the district electoral commission based on the voters' list of the electoral district upon presentation of a passport or other identification. A mark is made on the voters' list indicating issuance of a ballot.

When individual voters, for health or other reasons, are unable to come to the polling place, the district electoral commission may at their request task individual members to arrange voting at the residence of these voters.

#### **Article 45. Conducting Voting**

The ballot is filled out by the voter in a booth or room for secret voting. The presence of anyone other than the voter when filling out the ballot is prohibited. A voter unable to fill out the ballot independently has the right to invite into the booth or room another person at his discretion, other than electoral commission members, representatives of labor collectives or social organizations, and proxies of deputy candidates.

In elections for people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR, the voter crosses out the names of the candidates he voting against.

The voter drops the completed ballot in the ballot box.

#### **Article 46. Procedure for Absentee Voting**

A voter unable to be present on election day for his place of residence (business trip, leave, sanatorium, rest home, medical institution, or other similar reasons) has the right to pass in advance to the district electoral commission the expression of his will on the deputy candidates on the ballot.

No earlier than 20 days before election day, a voter may obtain a form for registering voter opinion at the electoral district or a ballot if the printed ballots are already at the election district. The form or ballot is issued to the voter based on the voters' list and upon presentation of a passport or other identification. A mark is made on the

voters' list indicating issuance and the date. During the period prior to posting the voters' list for general familiarization, the mark indicating issuance of the form to the voter is made in a special bound journal.

In conditions precluding monitoring of his expression of will, the voter crosses off the names of those candidates he is voting against on the form or ballot. The completed form or ballot is ballot box for absentee voters. This ballot box is sealed ahead of time in the presence of all members of the district electoral commission. On election day, prior to the start of voting, all unused opinion registration forms are counted and canceled by the district electoral commission.

#### **Article 47. Counting Votes at the Electoral District**

In elections of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR, votes are counted at the electoral district separately for each deputy candidate.

The ballot boxes, including those for absentee voters, are opened by the district electoral commission after the chairman of the commission announced the close of voting. Opening ballot boxes before the end of voting is prohibited. Before opening the ballot boxes, all unused ballots are counted and canceled by the district electoral commission.

The district electoral commission determines the total number of voters in the district according to the voters' list, and also the number of voters given ballots and absentee opinion registration forms. Based on the ballots and forms located in the ballot boxes, the commission establishes the total number of voters participating in the voting; the number of votes cast for and against each deputy candidate, and the number of ballots and forms considered invalid. Write-in votes entered by voters on the ballot or form are not counted. An absentee ballot or opinion registration form on which a vote has been cast for a deputy candidate who dropped out before election day is not counted in counting up the votes.

Ballots and forms that are not of the prescribed sample are considered invalid. When doubts arise as to the validity of a ballot or form, the matter is resolved by the district electoral commission by voting. If more than one candidate is left on a ballot or absentee opinion registration form, they are considered invalid.

The results of the vote count are considered at a meeting of the district electoral commission and entered into the minutes. The minutes are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and immediately sent to the okrug electoral commission as prescribed by the Republic Electoral Commission. Special opinions of commission members and declarations and complaints received by the commission concerning violations committed during the voting or during the vote count are attached to the minutes.

**Article 48. Establishing the Election Results for the Electoral Okrug**

Based on the minutes of the district electoral commissions, the okrug electoral commission determines the total number of voters for the okrug; the number of voters given ballots and absentee opinion forms; the number of voters participating in the voting; the number of votes cast for and against each deputy candidate; and the number of ballots or forms considered invalid.

A candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR is considered elected if he received more than half of the votes of voters participating in the voting.

The okrug electoral commission may consider the elections invalid due to violations of this law committed during the course of the elections or when counting up the votes.

The elections are considered invalid if less than half of the voters on the voters' list participated in them, and also in connection with the death of a deputy candidate if one candidate was registered for the okrug.

The election results for the okrug are established at a meeting of the okrug electoral commission and entered into the minutes. The minutes are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the commission and sent to the Republic Electoral Commission in the procedure established by it.

A report on the election results for the electoral okrug is published in the local press by the corresponding okrug electoral commission within time periods established by the Republic Electoral Commission. The report indicates: the total number of citizens included on the voters' lists; the number of voters participating in the voting; the number of votes cast for and against each candidate; the number of invalid ballots and forms; the last, first, and patronymic names, position held (occupation), party affiliation, place of work and residence of the elected deputy.

**IX. Procedure for Summing Up and Publishing Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR****Article 49. Registration of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

The Republic Electoral Commission for Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR, based on the minutes received from the okrug electoral commissions, registers the elected people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR.

The Republic Electoral Commission may refuse to register a people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR and consider the elections invalid if violations of this law took place during the course of the elections or during the counting up of the vote or in determining the election results.

**Article 50. Publishing the Results of Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR**

The Republic Electoral Commission publishes in the press within seven days a report on the election results for the republic as a whole and a list of the elected people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR in alphabetical order, indicating the last, first and middle names, position held (occupation), party affiliation, place of work and residence, and the electoral okrug from which elected deputy.

**Article 51. Certificate and Chest Badge of People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR**

After publishing in the press the list of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR registered by the Republic Electoral Commission, the okrug electoral commission issues each elected deputy a certificate of his election.

After confirmation of powers of the elected deputies by the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR, the certificates of election issued to them are exchanged for a certificate of People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR. The deputy is also issued a "People's Deputy of the Turkmen SSR" chest badge.

**X. Runoffs, Repeat Elections, and Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR To Replace Deputies Who Have Quit****Article 52. Runoffs**

If three or more candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR were on the ballot for an electoral okrug and none of them were elected, the okrug electoral commission makes the decision to hold a runoff in the okrug for the two deputy candidates receiving the most votes. The okrug electoral commission reports this decision to the Republic Electoral Commission and informs the voters of the okrug. The runoff in the electoral okrug is held within two weeks, with observance of the requirements of this law.

The candidate for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR in the runoff receiving the most votes of voters participating in the voting is considered elected.

In the event one of the candidates drops out for various reasons, the runoff is held just for the remaining deputy candidate. He is considered elected if he receives more than half of the votes of voters participating in the voting.

During a runoff, the district electoral commission may declare voting over at any time if all voters included on the list have voted.

**Article 53. Repeat Elections**

If no more than two candidates for people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR are on the ballot for an electoral okrug and neither of them was elected, or the elections for the electoral okrug were considered invalid, or the runoff did not make it possible to determine the elected deputy, the

Republic Electoral Commission makes the decision and instructs the okrug electoral commission to hold repeat elections. In so doing, it may decide on the need to hold elections by a okrug and district electoral commissions of a new composition. Voting is conducted at the same electoral districts and according to the voters' lists compiled for holding the general elections.

When holding repeat elections, those candidates who were not elected people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR in the general elections may again run for office.

Repeat elections are held within two weeks after the general elections. The formation of electoral commissions, nomination and registration of deputy candidates, and other measures are conducted in the procedure prescribed by this law. Voters of the okrug are informed of the holding of repeat elections.

The candidate receiving more than half of the votes of voters participating in the voting is considered elected.

#### **Article 54. Holding Elections of People's Deputies of the Turkmen SSR To Replace Deputies Who Have Quit**

In the event of a recall of a deputy or termination of deputy powers for other reasons before the expiration of his term, new elections are held in the corresponding electoral okrugs within three months from the time the deputy quits office. The elections are ordered by the Republic Electoral Commission no later than one month before they are held and are organized observing the requirements of this law. In doing so, the okrug electoral commissions are formed no later than five days after the elections are ordered; district electoral commissions are formed within seven days. Registration of deputy candidates ends 15 days before the elections.

In the event a people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR quits less than one year before the expiration of the term of office of people's deputies of the Turkmen SSR, elections for a new people's deputy of the Turkmen SSR are not held.

### **Ukrainian SSR**

**[Ukrainian SSR Law on Elections of Republic People's Deputies published in FBIS-SOV-89-235, 8 Dec 89, p 80]**

### **Uzbek SSR**

#### **Uzbek SSR Draft Law on Supreme Soviet Elections**

90US0071A Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian  
30 Aug 89 pp 2-3

["Draft Law of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic on the Election of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies"]

[Text] I. General Statutes

#### **Article 1. The Foundations of the Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies in one-seat electoral okrugs are held on the basis of the universal, equal, and direct electoral right, with secret balloting and free expression of the people's will.

#### **Article 2. The Universal Electoral Right.**

Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies is universal: Uzbek citizens who have attained 18 years of age have the right to vote.

A citizen of the Uzbek SSR who has attained 21 years of age may be elected an Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy.

Any direct or indirect limitation on Uzbek SSR citizens' electoral rights based upon origin, social or property status, race and national affiliation, sex, education, language, attitude toward religion, length of residence in a given location, type and nature of occupation is forbidden.

Mentally ill citizens, those declared legally incompetent, individuals detained in locations and deprived of freedom, as well as those sent for forced treatment by a court order do not participate in the elections.

#### **Article 3. The Equal Electoral Right.**

Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies are equal: A voter has one vote; voters and candidates for deputies participate in the elections on an equal basis.

Men and women have equal electoral rights.

Servicemen have electoral rights equal to those of all citizens.

#### **Article 4. The Direct Electoral Right.**

Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies are direct; the people's deputies are directly elected.

#### **Article 5. Secret Balloting.**

Balloting in elections to Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies is secret; control over the expression of the people's will is not permitted.

#### **Article 6. Electoral Rights of Citizens of Other Republics.**

In the territory of the Uzbek SSR, citizens of other union republics exercise the same electoral rights as citizens of the Uzbek SSR.

#### **Article 7. Conduct of Elections by Electoral Commissions.**

Electoral commissions ensure the conduct of elections for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies; they are formed of representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence

voters' meetings, military unit servicemen's meetings, and meetings of organs of the population's social independent activity.

**Article 8. Glasnost While Preparing for and Holding Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The preparation for and conduct of elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies is implemented by electoral commissions, labor collectives, and public organizations openly and publicly.

The electoral commissions inform the citizens of the work, of the formation of electoral okrugs and election districts, of the composition, location, and time of the electoral commissions' work, and the lists of voters. The electoral commissions inform the citizens of the results of the conference of the okrug voters' representatives, if one has taken place, the registration of the candidates, the voting results for each candidate, and the election results.

The representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, military unit servicemen's meetings, meetings of organs of the population's social independent activity, proxies, and representatives of the press, television, and radio have the right to attend the electoral commissions' meetings, including the registration of candidates for deputy, the tallying of votes in the election district, the determination of the okrug election results, and the summation of the general election results. The authority of these representatives must be identified by the appropriate document or by decision of the labor collective, public organization, voters' meeting, servicemen's meeting, or organ of the population's social independent activity. The appropriate electoral commissions must be informed in advance of their intention to be in attendance either in the polling place on election day or at electoral commission meetings.

The mass information media casts light upon the course of the preparations for and the conduct of the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies in the languages used by the electoral okrug's population. The electoral commissions, state and public organs, and labor collectives present them with information associated with preparing for and holding the elections.

**Article 9. The Participation of Citizens, Labor Collectives, and Public Organizations in Preparing for and Holding Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

Uzbek SSR citizens participate in preparing for and holding elections of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies both through labor collectives, public organizations, residence voters' meetings, military unit servicemen's meetings, meetings of organs of the population's social independent activity, conferences of the okrug voters' representatives, and directly.

Labor collectives and public organizations participate in preparing for and holding the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies both through their representatives in the electoral commissions, and directly.

**Article 10. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Uzbek Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

The right to nominate candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy belongs to labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, in conjunction with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings.

**Article 11. The Voters' Instructions to the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The votes issue instructions to their deputies.

The order of introduction, generalization, examination, and execution of the orders is established by Uzbek SSR law.

**Article 12. The Incompatibility of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy Status with an Official Position.**

Individuals who are members of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, with the exception of the Uzbek Council of Ministers chairman, the Kara-Kalpak ASSR Council of Ministers chairman, the Uzbek SSR deputy ministers, state committee chairmen, and department heads and their deputies; the Uzbek SSR Supreme Court chairman, deputy chairman, and members; the oblast and Tashkent city court chairman, deputy chairman, and members; the Uzbek SSR chief state arbitrator and state arbitrators; the Uzbek SSR Constitutional Inspection Committee chairman, deputy chairman, and members cannot simultaneously be Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies.

**Article 13. Expenses Associated with the Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies. The Material Provisions for the Elections.**

The expenses associated with preparing for and conducting the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies are incurred at state expense. Financing an electoral campaign by other sources is prohibited.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations, state and public organs put the premises and equipment necessary for preparing for and holding the elections at the disposal of the electoral commissions.

The candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy and voters do not incur the expenses associated with preparing for and holding the elections.

**Article 14. Responsibility for Violation of the Legislation on the Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

Individuals who hinder by means of force, deceit, threat, or any other means the Uzbek SSR citizen's free exercise of his right to vote for or be elected an Uzbek SSR

Supreme Soviet deputy, conduct an electoral campaign, or members of electoral commissions or state and public organ officials who falsify election documents or wittingly tally votes incorrectly bear the responsibility established by law. Individuals who publish or disseminate by other means false information marring the honor and dignity of the candidates for deputy, or who display an abusive attitude toward the electoral commission members are also held accountable.

## **II. Procedure for Designating Elections and the Formation of Electoral Okrugs.**

### **Article 15. Designating Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies are designated by the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet no later than four months before the expiration date of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies' authority.

Notification of election day is published in the press.

### **Article 16. Formation of Electoral Okrugs.**

A total of 500 electoral okrugs are formed for the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies.

Electoral okrugs are formed by the Central Electoral Commission for elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies at the nomination of the Kara-Kalpak ASSR Supreme Soviet, the oblast and Tashkent city soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums. The administrative-territorial division of the autonomous republic, oblasts, and Tashkent city are taken into consideration upon definition of the borders of the electoral okrugs.

As a rule, electoral okrugs are formed with an equal population of voters on the republic's entire territory. The Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet determines the norm of voters in an electoral okrug for each election.

One Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy is elected from each electoral okrug. The Central Electoral Commission publishes the list of electoral okrugs with their boundaries no later than 10 days after the elections have been designated.

## **III. Election Districts.**

### **Article 17. Formation of Election Districts.**

In order to conduct voting and tallying of votes for the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, the territories of the rayons, cities, and city rayons in electoral okrugs are divided into election districts. Election districts are also formed in military units, and are part of the electoral districts based upon the unit's location.

Election districts may be formed as part of the electoral okrugs according to their location in sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment institutions, and in areas with citizens located in remote places with difficult access.

### **Article 18. The Order and Norm of the Formation of Election Districts.**

Election districts are formed by rayon, city (other than cities with rayon subdivisions), and city rayon soviets of people's deputies, or their presidiums, in accordance with okrug electoral commissions. In military units, election districts are formed by local soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums at the nomination of the units' and combined forces' commander.

Electoral districts are formed no later than two months before the elections. In military units and in remote places with difficult access, districts are formed in the same time period, and in exceptional circumstances, no later than five days before the elections.

As a rule, election districts are formed with a quantity of no fewer than 20 and no more than 3,000 voters.

The executive committee of the corresponding soviet of people's deputies allocates each election district premises in which to organize the voting.

The corresponding local soviet of people's deputies or its presidium informs the voters of the boundaries of each election district, with indications of the location of the district electoral commission and the polling place.

## **IV. The Electoral Commissions.**

### **Article 19. The System of Electoral Commissions.**

Electoral commissions are formed in order to hold elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies:

- the Central Electoral Commission for elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies;
- okrug electoral commissions for the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies;
- election district commissions.

### **Article 20. The Formation of the Central Electoral Commission for Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The Central Electoral Commission for elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies is formed no later than four months before the elections of a chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and 20 commission members.

Representatives to the body of the Central Electoral Commission are nominated at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives; republic, oblast, rayon, city, and city rayon public organizations; meetings of teacher and employee collectives in conjunction with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings. The Kara-Kalpak ASSR, oblast, and Tashkent city soviets of people's deputies or

their presidiums may hold conferences of their authorized agents for the determination of the labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, in conjunction with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings which have nominated representatives to the body of the Central Electoral Commission.

The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the Central Electoral Commission may be relieved of their responsibilities in a commission of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet upon their personal declaration or as nominated by the Central Electoral Commission.

The nomination and confirmation of a new chairman within the body of the Central Electoral Commission is conducted in the order established by this law.

The term of authority of the Central Electoral Commission is five years.

**Article 21. The Authority of the Central Electoral Commission for the Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

In organizing the conduct of the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, the Central Electoral Commission for elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies:

1) Exercises control of the execution of this law over the republic's entire territory, ensuring its uniform application; if needed, it presents the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet with an interpretation of this law;

2) Directs the electoral commissions' activities; reverses the decisions of the okrug electoral commissions on the elections of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies in cases where these decisions contradict this law; determines the order of introducing changes to the body of the electoral commissions;

3) Forms the electoral okrugs;

4) Allocates financial resources to the electoral commissions; controls the provision of premises, transportation, and communications to the electoral commissions, and considers other matters of the elections' material and technical support.

5) Establishes the forms of the election ballots for the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, the list of voters, the minutes of the pre-election meetings and sessions of the electoral commissions, and other election documents, the models of the electoral commissions' ballot boxes and seals, and the order of preservation of the election documents;

6) Hears the reports of the Uzbek SSR ministries, state committees, and departments, executive committees of

the local soviets of people's deputies, and other state and public organs on matters associated with preparing for and holding the elections;

7) Registers the elected candidates, calculates the election results in the entire republic, publishes a report in the press on the election results and lists of the elected Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies;

8) Transfers to the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet mandate commission the documentation necessary to verify the deputies' authority;

9) Resolves issues associated with holding repeat elections;

10) Resolves issues associated with organizing review of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies;

11) Designates elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies to replace departed deputies and ensures their conduct;

12) Considers the applications and grievances about the decisions and actions of the electoral commissions and carries them to a final decision;

13) Transfers to the procuracy organs material on violations of the Law on Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies which entail criminal accountability;

14) Exercises other authority in accordance with this law and other Uzbek SSR laws.

**Article 22. The Formation of Okrug Electoral Commissions.**

Okrug electoral commissions are formed of 9-15 members in each electoral okrug for elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies no later than three and a half months before the elections.

Representatives to the body of the okrug electoral commission are nominated by labor collectives or their councils, republic, oblast, rayon, and city rayon public organizations or their authorized agents, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, in conjunction with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings and military unit servicemen's meetings. If necessary, the corresponding soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums may hold conferences of their authorized agents for the determination of the labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, in conjunction with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings which have nominated representatives to the body of the Central Electoral Commission.

Okrug electoral commissions for the elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies are formed by the corresponding oblast and Tashkent city soviets or their presidiums, and by the autonomous republic's Supreme Soviet or its presidium in the Karakalpak ASSR.

**Article 23. The Authority of the Okrug Electoral Commission**

In organizing the elections in the okrug for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, the okrug electoral commission:

- 1) Exercises control of the execution of this law over the okrug's territory;
- 2) Directs the activity of the district electoral commissions;
- 3) Hears the reports of the executive and managerial organs of the local soviets of people's deputies, enterprise and organization managers on matters associated with preparing for and holding the elections;
- 4) Observes the compilation of the lists of voters and their presentation for general familiarization;
- 5) Organizes the nomination of candidates for deputy;
- 6) Convenes and if necessary conducts a conference of the okrug's voters; establishes norms of representation of labor collectives, public organization organs, voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings for participation in the conference;
- 7) Registers the candidates nominated for deputy, and issues them the appropriate identification; ensures the publication of posters with biographical data on the candidates for deputy;
- 8) In conjunction with the labor collectives and public organizations, organizes meetings of the candidates for deputy with the voters;
- 9) Confirms the text of the electoral okrug's election ballot; ensures the preparation of the ballots and their provision to the district electoral commissions;
- 10) Determines and publishes in the press the election results for the electoral okrug, and issues identification to the elected deputy;
- 11) Organizes run-off voting, repeat elections, and elections to replace departed deputies;
- 12) Resolves issues associated with conducting a review of the deputy;
- 13) Considers statements and grievances on the decisions and actions of the district electoral commissions and makes decisions on them;
- 14) Exercises other authority in accordance with this law.

**Article 24. The Formation of District Electoral Commissions.**

The district electoral commission is formed of 5-19 members no later than 45 days before the elections. As needed, the body of the district electoral commission may be expanded or reduced.

Representatives to the body of the district electoral commission are nominated by labor collectives or their councils; rayon, city, or city rayon organs of public organizations or their primary organizations; meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions; residence voters' meetings; military unit servicemen's meetings, and meetings of organs of the population's social independent activity.

District electoral commissions are confirmed by rayon, city (except in cities having rayon subdivisions), and city rayon soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums.

**Article 25. The Authority of the District Electoral Commission.**

The district electoral commission:

- 1) Compiles lists of voters in the districts;
- 2) Familiarizes the voters with the list of voters; receives and considers statements on irregularities on the list and resolves the matter of changing them accordingly;
- 3) Receives voting envelopes from voters who do not have the opportunity to be at their place of residence on election day to participate in the voting;
- 4) Informs the population of election day and the polling place;
- 5) Ensures the preparation of a polling place and ballot boxes;
- 6) Organizes the voting in the election district on election day;
- 7) Tallies the votes cast in the election district;
- 8) Considers statements and grievances on matters of election preparation and organization, and decides upon them;
- 9) Exercises other authority in accordance with this law.

**Article 26. The Organization of the Electoral Commissions' Work.**

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the electoral commission are elected at the first meeting of the appropriate commission.

Electoral commission meetings are competent if no less than two-thirds of the commission's body participates in them. Commission decisions are made with open balloting by a majority of the votes of the commission's overall body. Commission members who do not agree



with its decision have the right to express their own opinion, which is appended to the minutes in written form.

The electoral commissions' decisions made within the limits of their empowerment are binding upon all state and public organs, enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

An electoral commission's decisions and actions may be appealed to a superior electoral commission, and in cases stipulated by this law, in court as well.

During the period of preparing for and holding the elections, and at its decision, a member of the electoral commission may be released from execution of production or service obligations while maintaining his average salary at the expense of the funds allocated for holding elections.

#### **Article 27. Assistance to the Electoral Commissions in the Exercise of Their Authority.**

State and public organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obligated to assist the electoral commissions in exercising their authority, granting them the information and materials necessary for their work.

The electoral commission has the right to address matters associated with preparing for and holding the elections to state and public organs, to enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials who are obligated to consider the matter raised and answer the electoral commission within three days.

### **V. Lists of Voters**

#### **Article 28. The List of Voters and the Order of its Compilation.**

The list of voters for each election district is compiled by the electoral commission and signed by its chairman and secretary. The district electoral commission may involve representatives of the public in the work of compiling the list.

The executive committees of city, city rayon, settlement, and kishlak [village] soviets of people's deputies ensure the tabulation of voters and issue the district electoral commissions the information on the voters residing in the corresponding territory necessary for the compilation of lists of voters.

The lists of military servicemen-voters located in military units, as well as the family members of military servicemen and other voters residing in regions situated in military units are compiled on the basis of the data provided by the military units' commanders. Servicemen residing outside of military units are included on the residence-based lists of voters on general grounds.

Lists of voters in electoral districts formed in sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment institutions are compiled on the basis of data provided by the managers of the indicated institutions.

The list indicates the voters' surnames in the order convenient for organization of polling.

#### **Article 29. The Order of Citizens' Inclusion in the List of Voters.**

All Uzbek SSR citizens, as well as citizens of other union republics who have attained 18 years of age by or on election day, and who reside permanently or temporarily in the territory of the given election district at the moment the list is compiled are included in the list.

#### **Article 30. Familiarizing Citizens With the Lists of Voters and the Right to Appeal Irregularities in the List of Voters.**

The lists of voters are presented for general familiarization 15 days before the elections, and in election districts formed in sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment institutions, and in remote regions with difficult access, two days before the elections. The district electoral commission informs the voters of the time and place for familiarization with the list.

Citizens are provided the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the list of voters and ascertain that it is correctly compiled in premises of the district electoral commission.

Each citizen is granted the right to appeal non-inclusion, incorrect inclusion on the list, or exclusion from the list, as well as any inaccuracies in the voter data. Statements about irregularities on the list are considered by the district electoral commission, which is obligated to consider the application immediately, within two days, or, if on the eve of elections, on election day, and make the necessary corrections to the list, or issue the petitioner a copy of the grounds for deciding to reject his application. This decision may be appealed to the rayon (city) people's court no later than five days before the elections; it is obligated to consider the complaint within a three-day period. The decision of the rayon (city) people's court is final. The correction to the list of voters is immediately made by the district electoral commission in accordance with the court's decision.

### **VI. Nomination and Registration of Candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

#### **Article 31. The Order of Nomination of Candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

The nomination of candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies begins three months before the elections and ends two months before the elections.

The nomination of candidates for deputy is conducted at meetings (conferences) of labor collectives, meetings of

the collective of teachers and employees, in conjunction with trainees and students of higher and secondary educational institutions numbering no fewer than 200 people and situated in the territory of the corresponding electoral okrug. Collectives numbering fewer than 200 people working and located in the territory of one electoral okrug may conduct nominations for candidates for deputy at a joint meeting (conference), and the labor collective has the right to participate in one joint meeting (conference) for the nomination of a candidate for deputy.

The nomination of candidates for deputy from public organizations is implemented by their oblast, rayon, city, and city rayon organs—conferences or plenums.

The meeting for nomination of a candidate for deputy is considered competent if more than half of the overall number of labor collective members participates, and the conference is competent if no less than two-thirds of the delegates participate.

Residence-based voters' meetings for nomination of candidates for deputy are convened by the soviets of people's deputies or their presidiums, in conjunction with the okrug electoral commission, both at its own initiative and at the initiative of the organs of the population's independent social activity, supported by no fewer than 100 voters in the given okrug.

The proposal to conduct a residence-based voters' meeting is considered by the soviet of people's deputies or its presidium jointly with the okrug electoral commission within three days. The okrug's voters are informed of the date, time, and place of the meeting. In the event that the proposal is rejected, the organ of the population's independent social activity is issued a copy of the grounds for the decision. This decision may be appealed in the rayon (city) people's court, which is obligated to consider the appeal within five days. The decision of the rayon (city) court is final.

A meeting is competent if no fewer than 300 voters residing in the territory of the given electoral okrug are in attendance.

Servicemen's meetings for the nomination of candidates for deputy is convened by the military units' command.

At the meetings, conditions are created for the discussion of an unlimited number of candidacies. Every meeting participant has the right to introduce a proposal on candidates for deputy, to participate in discussing them, to support the proposed candidacies, or to introduce proposals to reject them. The meeting participant may also offer his own candidacy for discussion as a candidate for deputy. A labor collective, public organization, meeting of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings may nominate one candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy from a single electoral okrug.

The decision to nominate a candidate for deputy is made at the meeting by open or secret ballot. The order of voting is determined by the meeting.

A candidate is considered nominated if more than one-half of the meeting's (conference's) participants, or the majority of the overall composition of the corresponding organ of a public organization voted for him. Minutes are compiled on the nomination of a candidate for deputy; their format is determined by the Central Electoral Commission. The candidate for deputy is informed of the decision made within two days.

As a rule, citizens working or residing in the territory of the corresponding electoral okrug are nominated for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies.

An Uzbek SSR citizen cannot simultaneously be a deputy in more than two soviets

#### **Article 32. The Conference of the Okrug Voters' Representatives.**

In accordance with the Uzbek SSR Constitution, conferences of okrug voters' representatives may be formed; they are convened by the okrug electoral commissions.

The participants of the conference of okrug voters' representatives are delegated by labor collectives, organs of public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings according to the norms determined by the okrug electoral commission, and every labor collective, organization, residence voters' meeting, and organ of the population's independent social activity which have nominated a candidate for deputy must be represented by a quantity of delegates proportional to the quantity of voters. The delegation of voters' representatives may be conducted at meetings or conferences.

The conferences of okrug voters' representatives decides upon the presenting candidates for deputy for registration in the corresponding electoral commission. The conference delegates are presented in advance with the list of all the candidates for deputy nominated in the given okrug, and basic information about them.

At the conference, each candidate for deputy is granted the opportunity to speak about the program for his future activity. Any conference participant has the right to discuss the candidates for deputy and introduce his proposals about them.

Any number of candidates for deputy is presented for registration. The decision is made by open or secret ballot. The order of voting is established by the conference. A decision on concrete candidates for deputy is considered to have been made if more than half of those participating in the balloting have voted for him. The results of the discussion of the candidates for deputy are reflected in the conference minutes. The conference's

decision may be appealed to the okrug electoral commission or the Central Electoral commission within three days.

**Article 33. The Registration of Candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

Candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy are registered by the okrug electoral commission at the nomination of labor collectives, organs of public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings which have nominated candidates for deputy, or conferences of okrug voters' representatives, if one has been conducted.

Registration of candidates for deputy begins two months before the elections and ends one month before the elections.

The decision on registering candidates for deputy is made if the following documents are present: the minutes of the meetings for nomination of candidates for deputy in the given electoral okrug and the minutes of the conference of okrug voters' representatives, if one was conducted, as well as the statements of consent of the candidates for deputy to be on the ballot in the given electoral okrug. Upon their nomination as candidates for deputy, individuals enumerated in Article 12 indicate in their statements their intention to relinquish positions held in the event of their election as deputies, or announce the withdrawal of their candidacies. The electoral commission compiles minutes on the registration of candidates for deputy; together with the statements of the candidates for deputy, they are presented to the Central Electoral Commission.

The corresponding electoral commission registers the candidates for deputy nominated in observance of the requirements of this law. Refusal to register may be appealed within three days to the Central Electoral Commission.

A candidate for deputy may be on the ballot in only one electoral okrug at one time. The candidate for deputy informs the okrug electoral commission of his consent to be on the ballot no later than three days after the end of the period for nominating candidates for deputy.

A candidate for deputy may not belong to the Central Electoral Commission, nor to the okrug or district electoral commissions of the electoral okrug in which he has been nominated a candidate for deputy. An individual nominated as a candidate for deputy who belongs to one of the indicated commissions is considered to have been relieved of his duties in the commission from the moment of his registration as a candidate for deputy.

No later than four days after the registration of candidates for deputy, the corresponding electoral commission publishes a report in the press on the registration,

indicating the surname, name, patronymic, year of birth, position held (occupation), party status, place of employment and residence of each candidate for deputy.

**Article 34. Rescinding a Decision to Nominate a Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy. A Candidate's Withdrawal of his Nomination.**

A labor collective, organ of a public organization, meeting of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, or a military unit servicemen's meeting which have nominated a candidate for Uzbek Supreme Soviet deputy have the right to rescind their decision to nominate the candidate for deputy at any time, but no later than five days before the elections. The decision on this matter is made in the order stipulated for the nomination of candidates for deputy, and is presented to the appropriate electoral commission.

At any time before the elections, the candidate for deputy may withdraw his candidacy upon submitting notice to this effect to the appropriate electoral commission.

**Article 35. The Order of Nomination of Candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies to Replace Departed Deputies.**

In the event of the departure of candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy after the end of the nomination or registration period for candidates for deputy, if no other candidates remain in the electoral okrug, with the permission of the Central Electoral Commission, the okrug electoral commission appeals to the labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings for proposals to nominate other candidates for deputy. If the candidates for deputy depart less than 15 days before the elections, the elections for the deputy from the corresponding electoral okrug are conducted two months after the general elections. The nomination of candidates to replace those who have departed is conducted in the order established by this law.

**Article 36. The Election Ballot.**

The election ballot includes, in alphabetical order, all registered candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, indicating the surname, name, patronymic, position held (occupation), place of employment, and residence of each candidate for deputy. Election ballots are printed in the Uzbek and Russian languages, as well as in the languages used by the majority of the electoral okrug's population.

**VII. Guarantees of the Activity of the Candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

**Article 37. The Pre-Election Program of the Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

The candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy is granted the right to speak about the program of his future activity.

The program of the candidate for deputy must not be directed against the foundations of the state and social structure fixed in the USSR Constitution and the Uzbek SSR Constitution; contain war propaganda, appeals for national hatred and the infringement of the citizen's constitutional rights.

**Article 38. The Right of the Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy to Speak at Meetings, to Use the Mass Information Media, and to Receive Information.**

From the time of their registration by okrug electoral commissions, candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy have an equal right to speak at pre-election and other meetings, conferences, sessions, in the press, on television and radio.

State and public organs, enterprise, institution, and organization managers are obligated to render assistance to the candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy in organizing meetings with voters, and receiving necessary informational materials.

**Article 39. The Proxies of the Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

The candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy is granted the right to have up to five proxies who help him conduct his electoral program, campaign for his election to deputy, represent his interests in mutual relations with state and public organs, the voters, and in electoral commissions.

The candidate for deputy determines proxies at his own discretion, and reports on them to the okrug electoral commission for registration. The okrug electoral commission registers the proxies after the registration of the candidates for deputy, and issues them identification.

At the request of the candidate for deputy, the proxies may be released from fulfillment of production or service obligations while maintaining his average salary at his place of employment. Expenses incurred by enterprises, institutions, or organizations in association with this are reimbursed from the funds allocated for holding the elections.

A proxy may not belong to the corresponding electoral commission.

**Article 40. The Pre-Election Campaign.**

The candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy has the right to hold encounters with his voters, both at meetings, and in other ways convenient for the voters.

Voters' meetings are organized by the electoral commission in conjunction with the corresponding soviet of people's deputies or its presidium. Labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings which have nominated candidates for deputy are granted the right to campaign for their candidates on an equal basis, without hindrance. The electoral commissions grant them premises equipped for meetings and rallies, as well as the opportunity to utilize the mass information media to conduct the pre-election campaign.

Citizens of the Uzbek SSR, labor collectives, public organizations, meetings of teacher and employee collectives, jointly with trainees and students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, residence voters' meetings, and military unit servicemen's meetings are guaranteed the opportunity for free and multilateral discussion of the political, business, and personal qualities of the candidates for deputy, as well as the right to campaign for or against a candidate at meetings, in the press, on television and radio.

The times and locations for meetings and encounters are announced in advance.

Campaigning is prohibited on election day.

**Article 41. The Release of a Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy from Production or Service Obligations for Participation in Pre-Election Measures.**

After his registration, for the time spent holding encounters with voters, speaking at pre-election meetings, on television or radio, the candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy is released from fulfilling production or service obligations while maintaining his average salary at the expense of the funds allocated for holding elections.

**Article 42. The Right of the Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy to Free Transportation.**

After registration, the candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy has the right to free transportation on all types of passenger transport (with the exception of taxis) within the boundaries of the corresponding electoral okrug. A candidate for deputy residing outside of the limits of the electoral okrug has the same right to transportation to the electoral okrug and return to his place of residence.

**Article 43. The Immunity of the Candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy.**

A candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy cannot be held criminally responsible, arrested, subjected to measures of administrative punishment, or have a court order imposed upon him without the consent of the Central Electoral Commission.

**VIII. Procedure for Voting and Tallying the Election Results.****Article 44. The Time and Place of Voting.**

For elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, balloting is held on election day from 7:00 to 20:00 local time. The district electoral commission informs the voters of the time and place of voting no later than 20 days before elections.

In electoral districts formed in military units, in remote locations where access for citizens is difficult, and in sanatoriums, rest homes, hospitals, and other in-patient treatment institutions, the district electoral commission may declare the voting completed at any time if all the voters on the list have voted.

**Article 45. The Organization of Voting.**

Voting is conducted in specially designated premises which must contain a sufficient quantity of booths or rooms for secret balloting, and defined areas for issuing ballots and setting up ballot boxes. The ballot boxes are set up so that while approaching them, those voting must necessarily pass before the booths or rooms for secret balloting.

The district electoral commission bears the responsibility for the organization of voting, ensures the secrecy of the voters' expression of their will, the equipment of the premises, and the support of the necessary order on them.

Before the start of the voting on election day, the ballot boxes are verified, sealed, or stamped by the chairman of the corresponding electoral commission in the presence of all the commission members.

Each voter casts his ballot personally; voting on behalf of others is prohibited. Election ballots are issued by the corresponding electoral commission on the basis of the election district's list of voters upon the voter's presentation of his passport or other identification. The issuance of election ballots is noted in the list of voters.

A voter who does not have the opportunity to be at his place of residence on election day may demand of the district electoral commission at his place of residence electoral documents, make a decision regarding the candidates, and leave the completed documents in a sealed envelope with the electoral commission. The voter records his receipt of electoral documents in the list of voters. The format of the electoral documents is established by the okrug electoral commission.

In cases when individual voters cannot go to the polling place due to the state of their health or other reasons, at their request, the district electoral commission may entrust no fewer than two commission members to organize voting at the voters' place of residence.

Voters who were for some reason not included on the list of voters are included in an appendix to the list of voters on the basis of a document establishing their identity.

**Article 46. Conducting the Elections.**

The election ballots are filled out in the booths or rooms for secret ballot by those voting. The presence of anyone other than the voter while completing the election ballot is prohibited. A voter who is not capable of completing his ballot independently has the right to invite another individual, other than a member of the electoral commission, into the booth or room for secret balloting at his own discretion.

In electing Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, the voter crosses out on the ballot the surnames of the candidates against whom he is voting.

The completed ballot is dropped in the ballot box.

**Article 47. Tallying the Votes in the Election District.**

For the elections of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies, the tally of the votes is conducted by the district electoral commission individually for each candidate for deputy.

The ballot boxes are unsealed by the district electoral commission in the presence of all its members after the commission chairman has declared the voting to be final. Unsealing the ballot boxes before the termination of the voting is prohibited. Before the ballot boxes are unsealed, all unused election ballots are counted and invalidated by the electoral commission.

On the basis of the fundamental list of voters and its appendix, the district electoral commission determines the total number of voters in the district, as well as the number of voters who were issued ballots and electoral documents. On the basis of the ballots located in the ballot boxes, and the electoral documents, the commission determines: the total number of voters who participated in the voting; the number of votes cast against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots and electoral documents declared invalid. Votes for the names of citizens supplementally written in the ballot or electoral document by voters are not counted.

Non-standard types of election ballots and electoral documents are also invalidated, as are ballots and documents on which the name of more than one candidate has been left after voting. If any doubts arise as to the validity of a ballot or document, the matter is resolved by the district electoral commission by means of a vote.

The results of the tallying of votes are examined at a meeting of the district electoral commission, and are entered into the minutes.

The minutes are signed by the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the electoral commission, and are sent to the corresponding okrug electoral commission in the order established by the electoral commission.

**Article 48. Determination of the Election Results in the Electoral Okrug.**

On the basis of the minutes of the district electoral commissions, the okrug electoral commission determines: the number of voters issued election ballots and electoral documents; the number of voters who participated in the election; the number of votes cast for and the number of votes cast against each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots and electoral documents invalidated.

The candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy who received in the elections over half of the votes of those voters who participated in the election is considered to have been elected.

The okrug electoral commission may invalidate the elections because of any violations of this law allowed during the course of the elections or the vote tally.

The elections are nullified if less than one-half of the voters on the list of voters participated in them.

The election results in the electoral okrug are established at a meeting of the okrug electoral commission and are entered into the minutes. The minutes are signed by the commission chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members, and are sent to the Central Electoral Commission in the order established by it.

A report on the election results in the electoral district is published in the press of the corresponding okrug electoral commission in the periods established by the Central Electoral Commission. The report indicates the total number of citizens included on the list of voters; the number of voters who participated in the elections; the number of votes cast for, and the number of votes cast against each candidate; the number of invalidated ballots and electoral documents; the surname, name, patronymic, position held (occupation), party status, place of work, and residence of the elected deputy.

**IX. Procedure for Calculating and Publishing the Results of the Elections for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

**Article 49. Registration of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

On the basis of the minutes which come to it from the electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission registers the elected Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies.

The Central Electoral Commission may invalidate the elections if during the course of the elections, the vote

tally, or the determination of the election results there occurred a violation of this law, and refuse registration of an Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy.

**Article 50. Publication of the Results of the Elections for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies.**

The Central Electoral Commission publishes in the press a report on the election results in the entire republic, and the list of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies elected within 10 days, indicating the candidate's surname in alphabetical order, name, patronymic, position held (occupation), party status, place of work, residence, and the electoral okrug in which he was elected deputy.

**Article 51. The Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy's Identification and Lapel Pin.**

After publication in the press of the list of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies registered by the Central Electoral Commission, the okrug electoral commission issues each elected deputy identification as to his election.

After confirmation of the elected deputies' authority by the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet, the identification issues them as to their election to deputy is exchanged for the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy's identification. The deputy is also issued an "Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputy" lapel pin.

**X. Run-off Voting, Repeat Elections, and Elections of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies to Replace those who have Departed.**

**Article 52. Run-off Voting.**

If more than two candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy were on the ballot in an electoral okrug and none of them was elected, the okrug electoral commission decides to hold run-off voting in the okrug with the two candidates for deputy who received the greatest number of votes. The okrug electoral commission reports this to the Central Electoral Commission and informs the okrug's voters. Run-off voting is held within a two-week period in observance of the requirements of this law.

The candidate for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy for whom the greatest number of participating voters cast their ballots in the run-off voting is considered to have been elected with regard to the other candidate.

**Article 53. Repeat Elections.**

If no more than two candidates for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy were on the ballot in an electoral okrug and neither one of them was elected, or if the elections in the electoral okrug were nullified, or run-off voting did not allow the determination of an elected deputy, the Central Electoral Commission charges the okrug electoral commission with holding repeat elections in the electoral okrug. In this case, it may decide on the necessity of holding elections for new bodies of the okrug

and district electoral commissions. The voting is conducted in the same election districts and according to the lists of voters compiled for the general elections.

Repeat elections are held no later than two months after the general elections. The formation of electoral commissions, the registration of candidates for deputy, and other measures are conducted in the order established by this law.

A candidate for deputy who did not receive more than half of the votes of the participating voters cannot be nominated for repeat elections in the given or any other electoral okrug.

**Article 54. Holding Elections for Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Deputies to Replace Those Who Have Departed.**

In the event that the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet recognizes the authority of certain Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet

deputies to be invalid, as well as in the event of a deputy's review, or the premature cessation of the deputy's authority for other reasons, new elections are held in the corresponding electoral okrugs within two months of the moment of the deputy's departure. The elections are designated by the Central Electoral Commission no later than one month before they are to be held, and are organized in observance of this law. In this case, the okrug electoral commission is organized in 25 days, and the district electoral commissions, in 15 days; registration of candidates for deputy terminates 15 days before the election.

In the event of the departure of an Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputy less than six months before the expiration of Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet deputies' term of authority, elections of a new deputy to replace the one departed are not held.