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CONDUCTING ELECTIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN: ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION AND MODERN MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING LEGITIMACY

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the role and importance of the new electoral system. This year, the Republic of Uzbekistan held elections for the first time under a new mixed electoral system, which will combine elements of the majoritarian and proportional electoral systems. In previous years, parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan were held under a majoritarian system, which provided for the creation of single-mandate constituencies and voters voting for specific candidates from parties represented in a particular constituency.

KEYWORDS

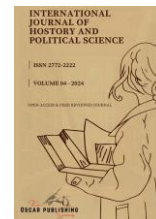
Elections, Central Election Commission, electoral rights, independence, legality, collegiality, transparency, fairness, parliamentary, Human Rights, voting, citizens, Parliament, electoral process.

INTRODUCTION

Elections are the most important institution of any democratic system, and their organization is one of the key tasks of the state, striving to ensure the legitimacy and transparency of the process. In Uzbekistan, in the context of the parliamentary elections to be held on October 27, 2024, the activities of the Central Election Commission (CEC) play a fundamental role in the preparation and conduct of the election campaign. Over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has created an effective legal framework aimed at

regulating the electoral rights of citizens, among which a special place is occupied by the laws "On the Election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan", "On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and other regulatory acts.

The activities of the Central Election Commission are based on a number of principles enshrined in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to Article 2 of the Law "On the Central Election



Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan", the main principles of the CEC are independence, legality, collegiality, transparency and fairness. These principles are aimed at ensuring the democratic foundations of the electoral process, which allows citizens to freely exercise their electoral rights. Particular attention in the preparation for the upcoming parliamentary elections is paid to issues of transparency, openness and publicity of all stages of the electoral process. The Central Election Commission operates in accordance with the requirements of the legislation and the Program of the main events for the preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The presence of international and foreign observers plays an important role in ensuring the transparency and democratic nature of elections. It is expected that more than 1,000 observers will be accredited for the elections on October 27, 2024, including about 400 from 50 countries, as well as 500 from 21 international organizations, including the CIS, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Organization of Turkic States. In addition, 60 observers will represent the election commissions of 26 countries.

On September 23, 2024, the Central Election Commission held a meeting to discuss the accreditation of observers and the establishment of the Operational Information Center. The active participation of international organizations, including a full-scale mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, demonstrates Uzbekistan's desire to ensure the transparency of elections.

Modern mechanisms for ensuring the transparency and legitimacy of elections in international practice:

With the development of technology, the mechanism for ensuring the transparency and legitimacy of elections has undergone significant changes. Modern methods used to organize elections are aimed at minimizing the possibility of fraud and increasing citizens' confidence in the electoral process.

The most significant mechanisms include the following:

1. Electronic voting. This method minimizes errors in vote counting and speeds up the process of processing the results.
2. Biometric technologies. These technologies prevent double voting and improve the accuracy of voter identification.
3. Transparent ballot boxes and video surveillance. These measures allow the public to observe the voting process, which promotes transparency.
4. Digital voter lists. Automation of list verification prevents the possibility of voting using absentee ballots.
5. Monitoring by independent observers. The presence of observers ensures control over compliance with all rules and procedures.
6. Public access to election results. Openness of results in real time helps increase citizens' confidence.
7. Strengthening control through the media. Publicity through the media increases confidence in the electoral process.

These mechanisms serve to strengthen the legitimacy of elections and minimize the risks of manipulation, which in turn helps strengthen democracy in the country.



Political advertising is an important element of the election campaign. During pre-election periods, it plays a decisive role in shaping public opinion and promoting political parties and candidates. The main goal of political advertising is to attract voters' attention to a candidate or party and to form their positive image.

There are two main types of political advertising: direct (campaigning) and indirect (image). Direct advertising is aimed at convincing voters to vote for a specific candidate or party through television commercials, leaflets, Internet banners, etc. Indirect advertising is based on creating a positive image through participation in social initiatives, publications in the media and other forms of influence.

However, political advertising can also be subject to manipulation, which can distort voters' perceptions and, ultimately, undermine the democratic process. Therefore, it is important that voters are informed about ways to critically perceive such advertising.

The Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan plays a key role in organizing and holding parliamentary elections, adhering to the principles of transparency, openness and independence. Modern mechanisms for ensuring the legitimacy of elections, supported by international observers, are aimed at minimizing violations and strengthening trust in the electoral process. Political advertising, as an important tool in the election process, also requires careful attention from citizens to ensure fairness and honesty of the elections.

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