

Improving the Legal Framework for The Activities of Political Parties in The Republic of Uzbekistan: A Comparative Legal Analysis

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Abstract: This article examines the modern legal framework governing the activities of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It addresses the participation of political parties in elections, their interaction with members of parliament, their role in parliamentary activities, and the formation of the leadership of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. Based on a comparative legal analysis of foreign experience, the article identifies key challenges in existing legal regulation and proposes directions for its improvement. Particular attention is paid to strengthening the political responsibility of parties, ensuring their effective participation in the political process, and strengthening the principles of political pluralism and representation of voters' interests.

Keywords: Political parties, legal status, party system, political pluralism, elections, parliament, member of parliament, Legislative Chamber, political representation, comparative legal analysis.

Introduction: The institution of political parties is one of the key elements of the modern political system and plays an important role in organizing and functioning the political process. The theoretical and methodological aspects of this institution cover a wide range of issues, ranging from its historical development to the current state of the multi-party system.

As emphasized by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, a political party can only be a real political force if it is able to meet the requirements of the times. In the context of digitalization, a crisis of trust, and the need to expand civic participation, researching the legal foundations of political party activities is gaining strategic importance for legal science and practice. Analyzing the role and functions of political parties allows for a better understanding of the mechanisms of political decision-making, conflicts, and the alignment of interests in society. This, in turn, helps to develop more effective management strategies and legal regulation of the functioning of political parties.

Thus, studying the theoretical and methodological aspects of the political party institution is necessary for

understanding and developing the modern political system, ensuring its stability and effective functioning.

Problems in the theory of political systems are addressed in the methodological works of R. Almond, R. Dahl, Z. Huntington, and other researchers, in which the political system is considered a set of institutions, norms, and processes that ensure the functioning of power and the interaction between the state and society. Thus, R. Almond, developing the structural-functional approach, highlighted the key functions of the political system, among which the articulation and aggregation of interests, carried out primarily through civil society institutions and voluntary associations of citizens, hold a special place. In this context, civil society acts not as an external element to the political system, but as its functionally significant subsystem.

H.T. Odilkoriyev defines the political system as a set of interconnected political organizations (state, political parties, public associations, non-governmental organizations), political norms, principles, institutions, and processes that serve to exercise political power in accordance with the will of the people. Other scholars link the stability of democratic political systems to the

level of political participation and the degree of pluralism in public life, introducing the concept of polyarchy based on elite competition, freedom of association, and the active role of citizens. Thus, he emphasized that a developed civil society is a necessary condition for democratic governance and the institutional legitimacy of power.

In this logic, the well-founded position of the Russian scholar V.A. Varyvdin appears, who notes: the relevance of the theoretical and practical aspects of this concept is due to the evident increase in the role of citizens and their voluntary associations in the spheres of social life—economic, political, social, and spiritual. For more than two millennia, scholars have been studying and analyzing civil society in an increasingly diverse and reliable manner. In our view, in addition to the classical analysis and research of civil society institutions, it is also important to consider its evolution in the context of the digital age and globalization. This will allow for a better understanding of what new forms of activity, including political parties, exist and how they influence the development of society as a whole.

Examining the problems of the modern institution of parties, M.I. Rosenko notes that "they claim to represent the interests of large social strata and to participate on their behalf in the adoption and implementation of responsible political decisions. Other functions are performed by pressure groups—interest groups that achieve their goals by exerting pressure on state authorities. Unlike parties, such groups protect only their own interests and do not claim legal representation in government bodies. Their activities are called lobbying. Supporting this point of view, it can be added that in the context of constitutional law, it is important to ensure a balance between the role of parties and pressure groups in the political process. Ensuring the effectiveness of parliamentary parties and their ability to reflect diverse public interests is a key aspect of the constitutional democratic development of society.

An important issue is the problem of defining the role and legal status of a political party. Specialists rightly note: the problem of the legal status of political parties is one of the least developed in legal science, specifically in constitutional law. Parties perform the functions of a link and mediator between the state and society, representing the interests of various social groups and strata within the political system of society. I.R. Bekov particularly highlights the following feature: political parties ensure the continuity and continuity of civil society's interaction with the state and other parts of the political system.

Based on this, says M. Ergasheva, political parties

represent one of the most important institutions of civil society. According to G. Almond, the articulation of interests is primarily a function of pressure groups, while aggregation is a function of parties. Parties and pressure groups often interact and combine these functions in their activities. They are often forced to consider and express the interests of different groups in order to maintain their electoral base and achieve success in elections. N.S. Rasulova rightly notes that political parties are the primary subject of the electoral process in modern Uzbekistan, where a structured multi-party system has been formed. At the same time, pressure groups can play a role in aggregating interests by collaborating with parties or even influencing their programs and decisions.

The place of political parties in the political system in post-Soviet countries is determined by their dual nature: they are both an element of civil society and a part of the state mechanism. A political party effectively grows into a state mechanism, which gives it the unique quality of a mediator between civil society and the state. The party is a channel for transmitting various interests of civil society to the state. Today, certain experience has been accumulated regarding the participation of parties in elections, as well as the functioning of parliamentary factions of political parties. That is why, in our view, the institution of a political party is of great importance for ensuring a smooth transition from civil society to the state and the functioning of the democratic system.

An important theoretical aspect related to the institution of a political party that requires deep and comprehensive research is the issue of methodology and methodology for studying the institution of a political party. As noted above and as is well known, political parties, unlike public associations, occupy a special place both in the state and in society, participating through their representatives in the formation and implementation of the state's domestic and foreign policy, and directly in various sectors of social construction. Moreover, in many cases, political parties ensure the relationship and interaction between the state and society, and its civil institutions.

It should be particularly noted that political parties solve the task of expanding the social base of people's representative bodies and ensuring that their social composition corresponds to the social structure of society. This gives the activities of political parties a more complex socio-political character, which requires a special approach and special methods for researching their activities. This circumstance explains the need to develop a special methodological approach and a special methodology for researching such a phenomenon of the political system as a political party.

Modern theory of political parties has developed certain scientific concepts and approaches to the methodology and methodology of studying the institution of a political party, which, in our opinion, require deep and comprehensive understanding and scientific substantiation in domestic legal science.

In the modern methodology of researching political parties, both in foreign legal literature and in domestic legal science, the historical method is particularly distinguished, which is primarily aimed at distinguishing the stages of the emergence and formation of political parties based on various criteria (usually, such criteria serve as important legislative or institutional changes in the political system, or cardinal changes within the political party itself). Regarding the historical traditions of party building, it is necessary to consider the specifics of legal regulation of party activities in pre-Soviet Turkestan.

Other scholars study the activities of political parties from the perspective of their place and role in making state, or more precisely, political decisions. In the context of the emergence of a multi-party system, parties often act as real "centers of action," acting as initiators of ideas and initiatives. At the same time, they perceive a political party not as a kind of state body, but as a set of social relations formed in the process of achieving the main political goal—the conquest of power. This is the so-called institutional method, which, by the way, has played a significant role in the formation of party theory.

In the methodology of studying political parties, the sociological method is also distinguished, which was advocated by M. Weber, M. Duverger, P. Bourdieu, J. Blondel, and K. von Boimé, who dedicated their works to the study of objective reality, specifically the political party from the perspective of its electorate. Other methodological approaches to studying the institution of a political party are generally recognized as the psychological method (M. Lazarus, W. Wundt, S. Siegele, H. Lebon, W. McDougall, E. Waksmath, F. Paulsen, H. Lasswell, H. Eisenk, A. Ponsonby, S. Long, A.I. Yuryev), as well as biological, anthropological, and economic methods used in various branches of science: jurisprudence, sociology, psychology, biology, anthropology, and economics. Furthermore, systemic, synergetic, and comparative methods of researching the institution of a political party are recognized as modern.

Here, We would like to specifically focus on the prospects and opportunities of the comparativistic method of researching political party activities, which allows for comparing the legal status of political parties based on the example of two or more countries,

identifying their common features, differences, and features, and identifying the patterns of legal regulation of these institutions and the characteristic trends of their legal development. In this dissertation, we take this method as a basis, which will allow us to identify the positive legal experience of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and propose measures for its adaptation in national legislation and law enforcement practice.

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