THE ELECTORAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

February 11, 2000, No. 370-Z

(as amended and modified by laws of the Republic of Belarus dated from July 4, 2000, No. 406-Z, dated from January 4, 2003, No. 183-Z, dated from October 6, 2006, No. 166-Z, dated from January 4, 2010, No. 99-Z, dated from November 8, 2011, No. 309-Z)

(Extractions)

Article 3. Main Principles of Holding Elections

Elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives shall be free and shall be held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives, deputies of local Councils of Deputies shall be held at single electoral constituencies.

Elections of members of the Council of the Republic shall be held on the basis of equal and indirect suffrage by secret ballot.

Article 4. Universal Suffrage

Elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives shall be universal: citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have reached the age of 18 shall be eligible to vote.

Citizens who are deemed incapable by a court or kept in places of confinement in accordance with a court sentence shall not take part in elections. Persons in respect of whom detention, as a measure of restraint, is selected under the procedure established by the criminal procedural legislation shall not take part in voting.

Article 5. Free Elections

Elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives shall be free: a voter shall decide personally whether to take part in elections and for whom to vote.

Article 6. Equal Suffrage

Voters shall participate in elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives on the equal basis: every voter shall have one vote.

Elections of the members of the Council of the Republic shall be equal: each deputy of local Councils of deputies of a basic level has one vote.

Candidates elected to state offices shall take part in elections on the equal basis.

Article 7. Direct Suffrage

Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, deputies of the House of Representatives, deputies of local Councils of deputies shall be direct. The President

of the Republic of Belarus shall be elected directly by the people of the Republic of Belarus. Deputies shall be elected by citizens directly.

Article 8. Indirect Suffrage

Election of members of the Council of the Republic shall be indirect: the members of the Council of the Republic are elected on the sittings of deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of every region and on the sittings of deputies of the Minsk city Council of deputies.

Article 9. Secret Ballot

Voting in elections shall be secret: control over expression of the will of voters during voting shall be prohibited.

Article 11. Ensuring by Commissions of Holding the Elections of the Deputies of the House of Representatives

Holding of elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives shall be ensured by commissions.

The commissions in their activities shall be guided by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the present Code, any other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus.

Decisions of the commissions taken within the bounds of their authorities shall be binding for execution by all state bodies, political parties, any other public associations, any other organizations as well as by citizens.

Decisions taken by a higher commission within the bounds of its authorities shall be binding for lower commissions.

Article 12. Ensuring of Holding the Elections and Recall of Members of the Council of the Republic

Holding the elections of members of the Council of the Republic and the recall of the elected members of the Council of the Republic shall be ensured by presidiums of the regional, Minsk city, district, city (regional cities) Councils of deputies and the relevant regional, Minsk city, district, city executive committees as well as by the Central Commission.

Article 13. Publicity at Preparing and Holding of Elections

The preparation and holding of elections of the deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic shall be open and public.

The relevant commissions, representative, executive and regulatory bodies shall inform citizens about their work on preparation and holding of elections, about formation of electoral constituencies, about composition, location and time of work

of the commissions, about lists of citizens eligible to vote, about candidates, results of voting, elections.

When holding the elections, observers shall have the right to be present – deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic, deputies of local councils of deputies, authorized persons of candidates for deputies, representatives of political parties, any other public associations, labour collectives, citizens, foreign (international) observers as well as representatives of mass media within the procedure determined by the Central Commission.

The observer is entitled to:

attend the meetings of the relevant commissions;

attend at the sittings of the deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, of the deputies of the Minsk city Council of deputies for the elections of members of the Council of the Republic;

be present at sealing of ballot boxes;

be present in voting premises on the day of voting from the moment of sealing of ballot boxes till the end of tabulating the results of voting;

be present at early voting, voting in location of citizens, at repeat counting of votes of citizens;

observe the issue of ballots, running of voting, observance of voting procedure established by the present Code;

appeal with proposals and comments on organization of voting to the head of the precinct commission or his deputy;

receive information on results of the voting counting and drawing up protocols of the relevant commissions on the results of elections;

familiarize himself with the protocols of precinct commissions on the results of voting and protocols of the relevant commissions on the results of elections signed and sent to a higher commission according to the present Code;

make a copy of the protocol of the precinct commission on results of voting on their own and at their own expense;

appeal to either the relevant or a higher commission, or a prosecutor about rectifying of a violation of the present Code or any other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections;

familiarize with the decisions of the sittings of deputies of local Councils of deputies of the basis level of the region, of deputies of the Minsk city Council of deputies for the elections of members of the Council of the Republic.

The observer is not entitled to:

be involved in propaganda in any form;

provide any informational, methodological, financial or other assistance to the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic;

put any obstacles in holding the voting;

undertake any actions violating secrecy of ballot;

carry out any polls of citizens who have come for voting and who have voted;

fill in the ballot for a citizen under his request;

put any obstacle for normal work of commissions, sittings of the deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, the deputies of the Minsk city Council of deputies and holding of the voting;

be present at tables where ballots are issued, near voting booths and ballot-boxes;

interfere in the work of commissions, sittings of the deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, the deputies of the Minsk city Council of deputies.

Foreign (international) observers from foreign states and international organizations shall be invited to the Republic of Belarus by the President of the Republic of Belarus, the House of Representatives, the Council of the Republic, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and the Central Commission.

Foreign (international) observers shall be accredited by the Central Commission. The term of powers of a foreign (an international) observer starts from the day of his accreditation and ends on the day of publishing the results of elections.

Foreign (international) observers shall carry out their observation within the procedure determined by part four of the present Article. Foreign (international) observers are also entitled to meet candidates, authorized persons of the candidates, and after the day of holding the voting to express their opinion about the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on elections, hold press-conferences and appeal to mass media.

Foreign (international) observers shall not have a right to use their status for performing any activity not related to observation of preparation and holding of elections.

The Central Commission is entitled to deprive a foreign (an international) observer of accreditation in case he violates the legislation of the Republic of Belarus or universal principles and norms of the international law.

Mass media shall cover preparation and holding of the elections according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus. Representatives of mass media are entitled to attend the meetings of commissions, to be present in voting premises, at sittings of deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, of deputies of the Minsk city Council of deputies for elections of the members of the Council of the Republic.

Candidates for deputies are entitled to be present at election precincts by counting of the votes.

Interference of persons mentioned in part three of the present article in the work of the commissions, holding of sittings of deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, of deputies of the Minsk city Councils of deputies shall be prohibited. Persons hindering the work of the commissions, holding of sittings of deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, of deputies of the Minsk city Councils of deputies as well as voting under the disposal of the chairperson of respective commissions presiding at sitting of deputies of local Councils of deputies of a basic level of the region, of deputies of the Minsk city Councils of deputies shall be expelled from the sittings, from the voting premises.

Article 15. Electoral Constituencies for Election of Deputies of the House of Representatives

As to hold the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives in the territory of the Republic of Belarus 110 constituencies shall be formed.

The average number of voters per each constituency for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives in the Republic of Belarus shall be established by the Central Commission no later than five months prior to termination of powers of the House of Representatives of the current convocation.

The number of voters in a constituency is determined on the basis of the number of citizens entitled to vote, residing within the territory of the constituency when holding recent elections or a referendum.

Constituencies are formed with nearly equal number of voters: deviation of the number of voters in a constituency for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives from the average number of voters in the constituency of the Republic of Belarus, and in a constituency for elections of deputies of the relevant local Council of deputies – from the average number of voters in the constituency for elections to the local Council of deputies, as a rule, cannot exceed 10 percent. The constituency shall comprise the single territory: formation of a constituency from the territories having no common borders shall not be allowed.

Lists of constituencies with indication of their names, numbers, borders, number of voters and locations of electoral commissions shall be published: for elections of deputies of the House of representatives – by the Central Commission no later than on the fifth day after the elections to the House of Representatives were fixed.

In case of dissolution of the House of Representatives the lections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall be held in the constituencies formed when holding the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives of the previous convocation.

One deputy is elected from each constituency.

Article 16. Procedure of Formation of Electoral Constituencies for Election of Deputies of the House of Representatives

The constituencies for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall be formed by the Central Commission as advised by the regional and Minsk city executive committees.

Constituencies for elections to the regional, Minsk city, district, city (regional cities and district towns and cities), rural settlement and village Councils of deputies shall be formed by the territorial electoral commissions for elections to the relevant local Councils of deputies as advised by, correspondingly, regional, Minsk city, district, city, rural settlement and village executive committees.

If elections of the different levels, or the elections and a referendum are held at the same time, voting stations shall be common for the lections of the different levels, for the elections and the referendum.

The bodies, which have formed voting stations, are obliged to notify no later than within 10 days the voters about borders of each constituency and voting station with indication of location of a precinct electoral commission and of the premises for voting.

Article 17. Election Precincts

For holding of voting and counting of votes at the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives, the territory of districts, cities, city districts shall be divided into election precincts.

Election precincts shall be formed in case there are no less than 20 and no more than 3 000 voters, participants of a referendum.

Election precincts can be formed in resort centres, preventive clinics, rest homes, hospitals and other day-care medical and preventive treatment facilities. Election precincts shall also be formed in military installations.

Article 18. Procedure of Election Precincts Formation

Election precincts for holding the elections shall be formed in districts and cities by district, city (in regional cities) executive committees, and in cities with division into districts – by local administrations. In military installations the election precincts shall be formed within the same procedure as advised by commanders of the military installations.

Out of the Republic of Belarus the election precincts for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives for the citizens of the Republic of Belarus travelling or residing in the territory of foreign states shall be formed by the heads of the diplomatic missions (consular institutions) of the Republic of Belarus operating in the territory of the relevant states within the procedure established by the Central Commission.

Election precincts shall be formed no later than two months prior the elections and no later than 25 days prior to a referendum.

Formation of the election precincts shall be carried out when holding the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives as agreed with the constituency commissions.

At the simultaneous holding of elections of different level, elections and referendum election precincts are common for election of different levels, elections and referendum.

The bodies which have formed the election precincts shall inform the voters no later than within ten days about borders of each election precincts with indicated location of precinct commission and the voting premises.

Article 19. Lists of Citizens Having the Right to Participate in Elections and the Procedure of Their Compiling

Lists of citizens having the right to participate in elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall be compiled for each election precinct and shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the precinct commission.

City, rural settlement, village executive committees, and in the cities with division into districts – local administrations, district executive committees in cities and urban-type settlements where city and urban-type settlement executive committees have not been formed, shall ensure voter registration and shall render to precincts commissions the lists of citizens of the Republic of Belarus residing in the territory of the relevant election precincts and having the right to participate in the elections which shall be signed by chairpersons of the relevant executive committees, and in the cities with division into districts – by heads of local administrations.

Lists of citizens- military servicemen as well as the members of the families of military servicemen and other voters residing in locations of military installations shall be compiled on the basis of the data provided by commanders of military installations. Military servicemen residing out of military installations shall be enrolled in the lists of citizens eligible to vote on a common basis in location of residence.

Lists of citizens eligible to vote in election precincts formed in resort centres, preventive clinics, rest homes, hospitals and other day-care medical and preventive treatment facilities shall be compiled on the basis of the data provided by the heads of the indicated institutions.

Lists of citizens eligible to vote in the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives at election precincts formed out of the Republic of Belarus shall be compiled on the basis of the data provided by the heads of the diplomatic missions (consular institutions) of the Republic of Belarus operating in the territory of the relevant foreign states.

Family names of citizens in the list shall be indicated in the order convenient for holding the voting.

Article 20. Procedure of Including the Citizens Eligible to Vote in Lists

All citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have reached the age of 18 prior to or on the day of elections, referendum, voting on recall of a deputy and who permanently or temporally reside in the territory of the election precinct and eligible to vote shall be included in the list of citizens eligible to vote.

A citizen eligible to vote can be included in the list only at one election precinct.

The citizens of the Republic of Belarus residing in the territory of a foreign state or having a long-term business trip shall be included in the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives at the election precinct formed out of the Republic of Belarus. The citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have arrived in a foreign state on a private, business, official

or tourist trip shall also be included in this list after appeal to the precinct commission.

Article 21. Familiarising with Lists of Citizens Having the Right to Participate in Elections. Right to Appeal against Errors in the List

Lists of citizens having the right to participate in elections shall be presented to voters for familiarizing 15 days prior to the elections, and at the election precincts formed at resort centres, preventive clinics, rest homes, hospitals and other day-care medical and preventive treatment facilities – two days prior to the elections.

Citizens having the right to participate in elections by having settled in the territory of the election precinct after presenting the list for familiarizing as well as citizens who have not been included in the list due to any other reason shall be additionally included in the list by the precinct commission on the basis of the documents identifying the person and proving his residence in the territory of this election precinct.

An opportunity to check of he is included in the list and if the data about him is provided in the right way shall be ensured to every citizen.

Every citizen shall have the right to appeal against his non-inclusion in the list or exclusion from the list as well as against the errors in indicating the data about the citizen made in the list. An application about errors in the list shall be considered by a precinct commission, which is obliged within two days, and on the eve – on the elections day to immediately consider the application, introduce all necessary corrections in the list or to issue an applicant a copy of reasoned rejection of his application. This decision can be appealed to a higher commission which is obliged to consider the claim no later than three days, and on the voting day – immediately. The decision of a precinct commission can also be appealed no later than five days prior to the elections to a district, city court, which is obliged to consider the claim within three days. The decision of a district, city court shall be final. Corrections in the list according to the decision of a higher commission or a court shall be carried out by a precinct commission immediately.

Lists of citizens having the right to participate in elections shall be clarified by the precinct election commission on the eve of each round of voting.

Article 22. Powers of the President of the Republic of Belarus in Organizing Preparation of Elections

The President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

1) appoint regular and extraordinary elections of the House of Representatives and determine organizational events to ensure their holding;

2) appoint regular and extraordinary elections of the Council of the Republic and determine organizational events to ensure their holding;

Article 23. Powers of the House of Representatives in Organising the Preparation of Elections

The House of Representatives shall:

2) when considering the republican budget specify funds for holding of elections of deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic.

Article 24. Powers of Local Executive, Regulatory and Representative Bodies in Organising the Preparation of Elections

The regional, Minsk city executive committees prepare proposals for formation of electoral constituencies for elections to the House of Representatives.

Presidiums of the regional, Minsk city Councils of deputies and the regional, Minsk city executive committees shall:

1) form constituency electoral commissions on the elections to the House of Representatives…;

3) convene sessions of the deputies of the local Councils of deputies of the basic level in the region, deputies of Minsk city Council of deputies on elections of members of the Council of the Republic.

Presidiums of Minsk city, district, city (in regional cities) Councils of deputies and the relevant executive committees nominate their candidates for members of the Council of the Republic.

Article 25. System of Commissions for Preparation and Holding of Elections

Preparation and holding of elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall be ensured by the Central Commission as well as by election commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives.

Article 26. Central Commission

The Central Commission is a state body, organizing within the bounds of its powers preparation and holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic, deputies of local councils of deputies, holding of republican referenda. The Central Commission makes decisions on issues related to organization of recall of deputies of the House of Representatives and members of the Council of the Republic.

The Central Commission rules the system of election commissions and commissions on referenda operating during preparation and holding of elections and republican referenda.

The Central Commission is a permanent operating body, it is a legal entity, it has its seal with the State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus and its name, an account in the bank.

Article 28. Commissions on Elections of Deputies of the House of Representatives

Preparation and holding of the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall be ensured by the following electoral commissions:

constituency electoral commissions;

precinct electoral commissions.

Article 32. Procedure of Formation of the Central Commission

The Central Commission shall be formed from 12 persons who are citizens of the Republic of Belarus having, as a rule, a higher education in law and work experience in organization and holding elections and referenda.

Six members of the Central Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus and six members shall be elected by the Council of the Republic. Candidates for the Central Commission shall be recommended respectively to the President of the Republic of Belarus ad to the Council of the Republic by joint decisions made by presidiums of regional, Minsk city councils of deputies and by regional and Minsk city executive committees.

The Chairperson of the Central Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus with consent of the Council of the Republic from the number of members of the Central Commission. The deputy Chairperson and the secretary of the Central Commission shall be elected from the number of members of the Central Commission at its first sitting. Candidates for election to the offices of the deputy of the Chairperson and the secretary of the Central Commission shall be proposed by the Chairperson of the Central Commission. The candidate for the office of the deputy Chairperson shall be agreed upon in advance with the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Term of powers of the Central Commission is 5 years. Term of powers of the Central Commission with its new composition shall start on the day of its formation in quorum.

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus and their authorized persons, candidates to deputies and their authorized persons, candidates to members of the Council of the Republic as well as persons as determined by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus cannot be included in the composition of the Central Commission. Powers of the person in the composition of the Central Commission in these cases shall be considered void from the moment of his registration as a candidate, authorized person or from the moment of acquisition by this person of the status according to which he cannot be included in composition of the Central Commission.

Members of the Central Commission, who are members of political parties, shall suspend their membership in the political party and within the period of their work in the Commission cannot take part in activities of political parties or perform their instructions.

The Chairperson, deputy Chairperson, secretary, members of the Central Commission can be relieved of their duties prior to expiration of their powers by the President of the Republic of Belarus with notification to the Council of the Republic in the following cases:

written application for abdication;

cease of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

systematic failure to discharge one's duties;

performance of actions discrediting the Central Commission;

coming in force of judgment of guilt.

Election (appointment) of members of the Central Commission instead of persons withdrawn from its composition shall be carried out within the procedure established by the present article.

Article 32^1. Organization of Work of the Central Commission and Ensuring Its Activity

The fundamental principles of activities of the Central Commission are legitimacy, independence, collegiality, openness and publicity.

The Central Commission shall summon its first sitting no later than three days after its formation in quorum.

Sittings of the Central Commission shall be called as and when necessary by the Chairperson of the Central Commission as well as by the requirement of no less than one third of its members.

Sitting of the Central Commission shall be legally qualified if no less than two thirds of its total composition, determined in the first part of article 32 of the present Code, participate in it.

Decisions of the Central Commission shall be made in the form of resolutions by voting by raising hands with a majority of votes of the total composition of the Commission. If the number of votes "for" and "nay" is equal, the decision voted for by the Chairperson, shall deem to be taken.

The Chairperson and secretary of the Central Commission shall work full time.

In case of temporary absence of the deputy Chairperson or secretary of the Central Commission, their duties on decisions of the Central Commission can be imposed on its other members. By that the decision on imposing duties of the deputy Chairperson of the Central Commission shall be agreed upon in advance with the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Under the decision of the Central Commission the deputy Chairperson and members of the Commission within a period of preparation and holding of elections and republican referenda as well as in other cases determined by the present Code can

be dispensed from their working (official) duties with payment of salaries as account allocated for preparation and holding of elections and republican referenda.

To ensure activity of the Central Commission the Office of the Central Commission shall be established. The number of employees in the Office of the Central Commission shall be determined by the President of the Republic of Belarus under proposals of the Chairperson of the Central Commission. The structure and staff schedule of the Office of the Central Commission shall be approved by the Chairperson of the Central Commission.

The Chairperson, secretary and employees of the Office of the Central Commission except for persons performing maintenance services shall be state employees.

Financing of the activities of the Central Commission and its Office shall be carried out within the funds provided in the republican budget for work of the Central Commission.

The Chairperson of the Central Commission shall organize the work of the Commission, shall carry out general management of its Office, appoint to positions and relieve from positions of the Office employees, shall manage finances within limits of expenditure estimate.

Within the period of preparation and holding of elections and republican referenda the Chairperson of the Central Commission is entitled to temporally increase the number of employees in the Office and set an amount of payment for their work within the funds allocated for these purposes.

Procedure of work of the Central Commission shall be determined by the regulation approved by the Central Commission.

Article 33. Powers of the Central Commission

The Central Commission within its competence shall:

1) organize preparation and holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic, deputies of local councils of deputies, holding of republican referenda;

2) carry out control over execution of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on elections, referendum, recall of a deputy and a member of the Council of the Republic;

3) clarify the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on elections, referendum, recall of a deputy and a member of the Council of the Republic for the purpose of its uniform application;

4) appeal, if necessary, to subjects of law of the legislative initiative with proposals on interpretation of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus in elections, referendum, recall of a deputy and a member of the Council of the Republic;

5) carry out management of the work of election commissions, commissions on referendum, commissions on holding of voting for recall of deputies, shall consider

their information, render methodical and organizational-technical assistance to these commissions;

6) if required, take decision on the issues related to the competence of a lower commission;

7) form constituencies for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives, and determine the average number of voters per constituency in the Republic of Belarus;

8) make decisions on procedure of participation of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus residing or travelling abroad in the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, deputies of the House of Representatives and republican referendum as well as on procedure of formation of election precincts; as advised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, it shall take decisions on registration of election precinct formed out of the Republic of Belarus to administrative and territorial units or constituencies in the territory of the Republic of Belarus;

9) give opinion on legality of nomination of candidates for members of the Council of the Republic, register the nominated candidates to the Council of the Republic, tally the results of elections of members of the Council of the Republic, register the elected members of the Council of the Republic and publish their list in press, call the first session of the Council of the Republic after the elections;

10) register:

initiative groups of citizens for nomination of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus;

candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, their authorized persons and issue the relevant certificates to them;

an initiative group of citizens for holding of a republican referendum and questions proposed by it to the republican referendum;

an initiative group of voters for collection of signatures in support of the proposal about initiation of the issue on a recall of a deputy of the House of Representatives;

11) ensure observance of equal legal conditions of election campaigns of political parties, public associations, candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, for a deputy;

12) determine the procedure of use of mass media during an election campaign;

13) draw up and approve expenditure estimates for holding of elections, republican referendum, recall of a deputy of the House of Representatives within the limits of the funds provided by the republican budget; create a non-budgetary fund for holding of elections, republican referendum for voluntary donations therein of means from organizations, including public associations, from citizens and approve a statement on the fund; distribute financial means allocated from the republican budget and non-budgetary fund to election commissions, referendum commissions, commissions on holding of voting for recall of a deputy of the House of Representatives;

14) control target use of financial means allocated from the republican budget, non-budgetary fund, electoral funds of candidates for the office of the President of

the Republic of Belarus, for a deputy of the House of Representatives; inform the House of Representatives about expenditure of financial means allocated from the budget for holding of elections, a republican referendum, a recall of a deputy of the House of Representatives; publish its report on expenditure of the financial means of the non-budgetary fund;

15) establish forms of ballots and of the list of citizens having the right to participate in elections, referendum, voting on recall of deputies, protocols of commissions and other documents on elections, referendum, recall of deputies, samples of ballot-boxes and seals of commissions, procedure of storage of documents on elections, referendum;

16) ensure publication of ballots for elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and for voting at a republican referendum and their supply to regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, on holding of a republican referendum;

17) determine measure to ensure safety of ballot-boxes and of documents on elections within the period of early voting;

18) hear statements of state bodies and bodies of public associations on issues related to preparation and holding of the elections;

19) when holding elections of the different level at the same time, holding elections and referendum, it shall establish that the lists of citizens having the right to participate in the elections of different level, elections and referendum as well as territorial commissions are common for elections of different level, for elections and referendum;

20) control over supply of premises, vehicles, communication to commissions, consider other issues of their material and technical supply;

21) tally the results of elections;

23) issue a certificate on his election to the elected President of the Republic of Belarus;

24) solve issues related to holding of the second round of voting, repeat elections and elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus if the office falls vacant;

26) consider appeals against decisions of election commissions and take decisions on them;

27) consider appeals of citizens and organizations on issues of holding of elections;

28) study and generalize practice of application of elections legislation of the Republic of Belarus;

29) introduce proposals on improvement of elections legislation of the Republic of Belarus to subjects of law of legislative initiative;

30) create working groups and other structures for organizational, legal and technical provision of elections;

31) when holding elections, a republican referendum, determine procedure and types of motivation of members of commissions, employees of the Office of commissions, people ensuring accounting services for the commissions as well as employees of the structures indicated in point 30 of the present part;

32) establish and develop ties with bodies of foreign states and international organizations involved in issues of organization and holding of elections and referenda;

33) exercise other powers according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Issues mentioned in points 3, 4, 6–10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24–26, 29 and 31 of part one of the present article shall be considered by the Central Commission collegially.

Appeals of citizens and organizations shall be subject to collegial consideration in case the decisions thereon have not been taken by lower commissions. Under the initiative of the Central Commission or if required by no less than one third of its members at the sitting of the Central Commission other appeals of citizens and organizations shall be considered.

Appeals that do not require collegial consideration under the instructions of the Chairperson of the Central Commission shall be considered by members of the Central Commission as well as by the employees of the Office.

Decisions of the Central Commission can be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus in cases determined by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 33[1]. Members of the Central Commission with the Consultative Capacity

A political party, which has nominated a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives, is entitled to send to the Central Commission a member of the commission with consultative capacity from the day of submission to the relevant constituency electoral commission of the documents required for registration of the candidate for a deputy of the House of Representative, nominated by this party.

Term of powers of members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity sent by political parties shall begin from the day of receiving by the Central Commission of decisions of the governing bodies of the political parties on sending their members with consultative capacity to the Central Commission.

Members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity shall be issued certificates, the form of which shall be established by the Central Commission.

Candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives, their authorised persons cannot be members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity.

Powers of a member of the Central Commission with consultative capacity can be terminated in advance:

under decision of the governing body of the political party on recall of the members of the commission sent by it;

under decision of the Central Commission when all candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives nominated by the political party dropped out of all electoral constituencies.

Article 34. Formation of Commissions on Elections of Deputies of the House of Representatives

Commissions on elections of Deputies of the House of Representatives formed from representatives of political parties, other public associations, labour collectives as well as representatives of citizens proposed to be included in composition of commissions by submitting an application shall be formed:

constituency electoral commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives – by presidiums of regional, Minsk city councils of deputies and regional, Minsk city executive committees composed of 9-13 members of the commission not later than 75 days prior to the elections;

precinct commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives – by district, city executive committees, and in the cities with division into districts – by local administrations composed of 5-19 members of the commission no later than 45 days prior to the elections. When required the composition of precinct commission can be increased or decreased. When elections of the different level, elections and referendum are held at the same time, the precinct commissions shall be common on elections of different level, on elections and referendum.

Bodies forming a commission, as a rule, form no less than one third of its composition from the representatives of political parties and other public associations. This provision shall not be applied by formation of precinct commissions in hospitals and other day-care medical and preventive treatment facilities as well as out of the Republic of Belarus.

Judges, prosecutors, heads of local executive and regulatory bodies cannot be included in composition of the commission.

State employees may not compose more than one third of the commission composition. This provision shall not be applied when precinct commission is formed out of the Republic of Belarus.

Joint decisions of the presidium of the relevant local council of deputies and executive committee shall be made by the majority vote of the composition. In a joint sitting of these bodies no less than two thirds of the composition of the presidium of local council of deputies or executive committee shall participate. The representatives of political parties, other public associations, labour collectives of citizens who proposed their representatives to be included in the composition, are entitled to attend the sitting of bodies which form the commissions.

The decision of the bodies that have formed the commission can be appealed within three days after its taking to the relevant regional, Minsk city, district, city court by subjects who proposed their representatives to be included in its composition. The appeal shall be signed respectively by the head of the political party (organizational structure), other public association (structural division), by citizens who proposed their representative to be included in composition of the commission by submitting their application. The court shall consider the complaint within three days, its decision shall be final.

Decision on formation of commissions within seven days after it has been made shall be published in press. Decision on formation of rural settlement, village

territorial commissions within the same period can be called to citizens' notice in another way. Last name, first name, middle name of each member of the commission, the way of his nomination to the composition of the commission, his location and telephone numbers of the commission shall be indicated in the decision.

Outside the Republic of Belarus when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, deputies of the House of Representatives and of a republican referendum the precinct commissions shall be formed by heads of diplomatic missions (consular institutions) of the Republic of Belarus operating in the territory of the relevant foreign states.

Article 35. Procedure of Nominating Representatives into Composition of Constituency and Precinct Commissions

Political parties, other public associations, labour collectives of organizations or collectives of their structural divisions from among their members as well as citizens by submitting an application can nominate only one representative each into the relevant constituency, precinct commissions.

The following bodies have the right to nominate their representatives into composition of the commissions:

the governing bodies of political parties, of other republican public associations – to constituency electoral commissions for elections of deputies of the House of Representatives;

governing bodies of regional, Minsk city, district, city (in regional cities), district city organizational structures of political parties, other public associations – into precinct commissions;

governing bodies of city (in district cities) of organizational structures of political parties, other public associations, assemblies of their primary organizations – into precinct commissions. The primary organization of a political party, other public association is entitled to nominate its representative into the precinct commission of that election precinct where the primary organization is located;

assemblies of labor collectives, organizations and of collectives of their structural subdivisions with no less than 10 employees, located in the territory of a district, city, city district, rural settlement, village council, – into the relevant constituency and precinct commissions.

The governing bodies of political parties, other public associations shall nominate representatives into the composition of commissions at their sittings.

Citizens have the right to nominate their representatives into the composition of constituency and precinct commissions by submitting an application. The application shall be signed by no less than 10 citizens eligible to vote and residing in the relevant territory.

When nominating a representative into composition of the relevant commission the minutes of the assembly, sitting or an application signed by citizens shall be submitted no later than three days prior to the day of formation of the relevant commission as determined by the present Code to the bodies which form the commission.

The minutes shall contain the name of the governing body of a political party, other public association that has nominated its representative into composition of the commission, his address and telephone number, the number of members of the body (collective), the results of the voting, the date of taking the decision, family name, first name, middle name, date of birth, the position taken (occupation), place of work and place of residence of a person nominated as a member of the commission. The relevant data shall be indicated in the minutes of an assembly of a labour collective, a primary organisation of a political party, other public association. The minutes shall be signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the assembly, sitting. In the application submitted by citizens who nominate their representative into composition of the commission by submitting application, the relevant data about the person nominated as a member of the commission as mentioned in this part of the present article shall be indicated including family name, first name and middle name, date of birth and place of residence of each citizen who has signed the application.

Article 37. Organization of Work of Constituency and Precinct Commissions

The first sitting of constituency and precinct commissions shall be called by the bodies which formed the commissions no later than three days after the date of their formation.

The chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of a commission shall be elected at the first sitting of the relevant commission from among its members.

A close relative of a candidate for deputies, his/ her spouse as well as a person directly subordinated to him may not be the chairperson of the commission.

Sitting of the commission shall be called and held by the chairperson and in case of his absence or under his instructions – by the deputy chairperson. Sittings of the commission shall also be held when required by no less than one third of the members of the commission. Members of the commission shall be notified about the sitting of the commission in advance.

Sittings of the commission shall be legitimate if no less than two thirds of its composition take part in them. If the number of votes “for” and “nay” is equal, the decision voted for by the chairperson shall deem to be taken. Members of the commission who do not agree with its decision are entitled to express their special opinion, which is attached in writing to the minutes.

A member of the commission is entitled:

to bring in proposals into the agenda of sittings of the commission as well as proposal on issues within the competence of the commission;

to speak at sittings of the commission and to demand voting on the proposals brought in;

to ask questions to the participants of the sitting of the commission problems according to the agenda and to receive answers to them;

to familiarize himself with the documents and materials of the commission, where he is a member and of lower commissions;

to exercise other powers according to the competence of the commission.

A member of the commission is obliged:

to observe the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, to fulfill the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections; not to commit actions discrediting the commission;

to participate in sittings of the commission, and in case of impossibility to participate in the sitting - to inform the authorities of the commission thereabout;

to take part in preparation of sittings of the commission and in checks carried out by the commission;

to fulfill decisions of the commission, instructions of the commission and its authorities.

Decisions and actions of the commission can be appealed to a higher commission and in cases determined by the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus, - also to a court.

Under the decision taken by the commission its individual members can be relieved within the period of preparation and holding of elections from their working (official) duties with paying their average salary at account of financial means allocated for holding of elections.

Payment for the work of members of the commission and its office employees can also be carried out on the basis of actual hours worked in the commission.

Persons who are members of the commission have no right to take part in propaganda for or against a candidate for deputies.

Article 38. Assistance to Commissions in Exercising Their Powers

State bodies, public associations, organization, officials are obliged to assist commissions in their exercising their powers, to provide data and materials needed for their work.

The commissions have the right to appeal on issues related to preparation and holding of elections to state bodies, public associations, to heads of organisations, other officials, who are obliged to consider the issue and give the answer to the commission no later than within three days.

Article 42. Powers of Constituency Electoral Commissions on Elections of Deputies of the House of Representatives

Constituency electoral commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall:

1) organize holding the elections and carry out control over observance of the requirements of the present Code and any other legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections in the territory of electoral constituencies;

2) administer the activities of precinct electoral commissions;

3) hear statements of officials (employees) of local executive and regulatory bodies, organisations on the issues, related to preparation and holding of the elections;

4) register initiative groups of citizens for collecting signatures of voters as to support the persons proposed for nomination as candidates for deputies, and as to hold propaganda for them being elected; issue the relevant certificates to the members of the initiative groups;

5) assist in organization of nomination of candidates for deputies;

6) register candidates for deputies and their authorized persons and issue the relevant certificates to them; assist in production of slogans with biographical data and electoral programs of the candidates for deputies;

7) carry out control over observance of equal legal conditions of the electoral activities of candidates for deputies;

8) provide assistance to candidates for deputies in organization of meetings with voters;

9) control composition of the lists of citizens eligible to vote during the elections as well as their submission for familiarizing;

10) manage financial means allocated for preparation and holding of elections in electoral constituencies, distribute part of them among precinct electoral commissions, candidates for deputies, and carry out control over the target use of the allocated finances; control provision of the precinct commissions with premises, vehicles, communication means, consider other issues of material and technical and organisational provision of the elections;

11) approve the texts of ballots for electoral constituencies, ensure publication of ballots and provision with them of the precinct electoral commissions;

12) establish and publish in press the results of the lections in electoral constituencies;

13) issue certificates on election to deputies after their registration by the Central Commission;

14) organize holding of repeat elections;

15) consider applications and appeals against decisions and actions of precinct electoral commissions and take decision thereabout;

16) enjoy other powers according to the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus.

Constituency electoral commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall establish in the territory of the relevant electoral constituency the uniform numeration of voting stations, shall organize holding of the second round of voting.

The powers of constituency electoral commissions shall terminate after the House of Representatives recognizes the powers of the elected deputies.

Article 44. Powers of Precinct Commission on Elections of a Deputy of the House of Representatives

Precinct commission on elections of a deputy of the House of Representatives shall:

1) ensure observance of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections in the territory of their election precincts;

2) clarify and sign the lists of citizens having the right to participate in elections within the election precinct;

3) familiarize the voters with the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections, consider applications on errors in the list and decide on an issue of introducing the relevant modifications therein;

4) inform the voters about location, schedule of work and the telephone number of the precinct commission as well as about the elections day, time and location of voting;

5) ensure implementation of the voters' right to early voting during the elections as determined by the present Code as well as safety of ballots;

6) ensure preparation of the premises for voting, ballot-boxes and other equipment;

7) control in the territory of election precinct the observance of rules about placement of propaganda materials;

8) ensure the target use of financial means allocated for holding of the elections;

9) organize voting on the elections day;

10) carry out counting of votes and establish the results of voting within the precinct;

11) consider applications and appeals against issues of preparation of the elections, of organization of voting, counting of votes and decide on them;

12) hear statements of officials (employees) of local executive and regulatory bodies, organizations on the issues, related to preparation and holding of the elections;

13) enjoy other powers according to the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus.

The powers of precinct commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives shall terminate after completing the elections in the territory of the election precinct.

Article 45. Electoral Propaganda

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, political parties, other public associations, labour collectives, authorized persons of candidates for deputies, initiative groups conducting propaganda for election of the candidates for deputies, shall be provided with the right to free and comprehensive discussion of electoral programmes of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, their political, business and personal qualities and traits, to holding propaganda for or against the candidate at assemblies, meetings, in mass media as well as during meetings with voters.

At the session of deputies of the local Councils of deputies of the basic level in the region, deputies of Minsk city Council of deputies on election of members of the

Council of the Republic every deputy participating in the session shall have the right to freely and comprehensively discuss professional and personal qualities of candidates for members of the Council of the Republic, hold propaganda for or against the nominated candidates for members of the Council of the Republic.

Foreign citizens and people without citizenship are not entitled to take part in propaganda.

Candidates for deputies shall hold meetings with their voters at assemblies or in any other form convenient for voters. Under mutual agreement of the candidates the joint meetings with voters can be held.

Local executive and regulatory bodies under agreement with the relevant election commissions shall determine premises for holding meetings with the candidates for deputies with the voters as well as for electoral assemblies organized by the voters. Provision of other premises for these purposes can be carried out by heads of organizations at the request of the candidates for deputies, their authorized persons and voters. The premises shall be provided free of charge within the order of submitting written appeals of the candidates, their authorized persons, voters.

Candidates for deputies are entitled at the expense of their own electoral fund to rent buildings and premises to hold meetings with their voters. The buildings and premises for these purposes shall be provided to the candidates at equal conditions.

Candidates for deputies, their authorized persons within the procedure determined by article 45^1 of the present Code can hold mass events (outdoor assemblies, meetings, picketing) as to carry out electoral propaganda.

Mass events with the purpose of carrying out electoral propaganda except for mass events indicated in part six of the present article, shall be held according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on mass events.

Candidates for deputies shall have the right to manufacture election posters, slogans, statements, inscriptions, leaflets, photo materials (hereinafter referred to as posters). To pay for manufacturing of posters of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives the financial means in the amount of 50 basic values shall be provided. Propaganda printed materials shall contain the following data: name and address of the organization (the individual entrepreneur) who produced these printed materials, license number for printing activity and date of its issue, number of copies and number of its order. Distribution of anonymous propaganda printed materials is prohibited.

When holding the elections of deputies the relevant commission shall publish common posters with biographic information about the candidates for deputies as to place them at the election precincts and in other determined locations. Expenditures for these purposes shall be paid at the expense of the means allocated from the republican budget for preparation and holding the elections.

When holding the elections, local executive and regulatory bodies under agreement with the relevant commissions, allocate in the territory of precincts the places most frequently attended by citizens as to place propaganda printed materials. Executive and regulatory bodies can prohibit to place propaganda printed materials in locations not designed for it.

Removal, gluing up, blurring, spoiling of slogans shall not be admitted if these slogans have been manufactured and placed with observance of the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

At all election precincts no later than 14 days prior to the elections the stands with information materials about the candidates shall be arranged. The stands with such information materials shall be kept in the voting premises on the day of elections as well.

Propaganda (including calls to boycott the elections) on the election day shall not be admitted. Propaganda printed materials earlier displayed outside the voting premises shall remain in their former places.

Article 45[1]. Holding of Mass Events Organized by Candidates for deputies, Their Authorized Persons

Local executive and regulatory bodies under agreement with the relevant election commissions shall determine the places where the candidates for deputies, their authorized persons as to carry out electoral propaganda can hold mass events (outdoor assemblies, meetings, picketing) within the procedure determined by the present article.

To organize a mass event mentioned in part one of the present article a candidate for deputies, the authorized person of the candidate shall send a notification to the local executive and regulatory body, on the territory of which its holding is planned (in Minsk the notification shall be sent to Minsk City executive Committee) no later than two days prior to the perspective day of holding the event. In the notification the form of a mass event, location (locations) of its holding, date, time of the beginning and end of the event; family name, first name and middle name of the applicant, data about his residence and telephone number as well as the date of submission of the notification shall be indicated. If the local executive and regulatory body has earlier received a notification from another candidate for deputies, his authorized person about holding of a mass event at the same location and time and there is no agreement on holding of the joint mass event, the local executive and regulatory body shall no later than the following day after receiving the notification inform the applicant about a proposal to change location and (or) time for holding the mass event.

Ensuring public order and safety of citizens when holding a mass event shall be imposed on the local executive and regulatory body and internal affairs bodies. Candidates, their authorized persons are obliged to contribute to ensuring public order.

A mass event as well as its preparation shall be terminated under the requirement of the head or a deputy head of the relevant local executive and regulatory body, an internal affairs body in case of:

failure to follow the requirements determined by part two of the present article by the candidate, authorized person;

development of danger for life and health of citizens.

Article 46. Use of Mass Media in Electoral Campaign

Candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives shall use on the basis of equal rights the state mass media from the time of registration of the candidates.

The state mass media, mass media partially financed from the state budget or local budgets as well as mass media, one of the founders of which is presented by state bodies or organizations, are obliged to provide equal opportunities for electoral statements of candidates, holding the propaganda on elections.

Candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives shall have the right to publish for free in mass media, indicated in part two of the present article, his electoral program in volume not exceeding two printed pages, submitting the text of the above mentioned program no later than 20 days prior to the elections.

The list of mass media where electoral programmes of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives shall be published free of charge shall be determined by the Central Commission.

When publishing the electoral programmes of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives the order of their submission shall be observed.

Candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives shall have the right to free of charge statements on the state television as well as on the radio. The National State Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus shall submit, within 10 days after fixing the date of the elections, to the Central Commission a limit time for statements of the candidates on the state television as well as on the radio. The mentioned broadcasting time shall fall on the period, when TV and radio programmes have the greatest audience.

The order and number of statements by the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives on television as well as on the radio shall be determined by the Central Commission. The statements of candidates shall be ensured on equal conditions .

The Central Commission shall reserve a part of the limit time as to hold debates of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives. The debates shall be held upon agreement of the candidates. The candidate is entitled to authorize an authorized person to participate in the debates. Failure to participate in the debates shall not result in increase of broadcasting time provided to the candidate for free.

Candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives are entitled at expense of their own electoral funds to get broadcasting time and printing space in state and non-state mass media. A mass medium shall determine common for all candidates conditions of payment for the broadcasting time, printing space. Data about conditions of payment for broadcasting time, printing space shall be posted by mass media on their websites in the global computer network Internet or shall be delivered to the candidates by any other means.

Journalists, official figures in mass media shall be prohibited to air television and radio programmes, to participate in broadcasting elections by means of mass media if the indicated persons are the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives or their authorized persons.

Mass media shall cover preparation and holding of the elections. Information about the sittings of the Central Commission and its decisions shall be published in the republican press, and those ones of the electoral commissions – in local press.

State mass media are obliged under requirement of the Central Commission to provide it with an opportunity to render information about the course of the electoral campaign.

Within the last five days prior to the elections it shall not be admitted to publish the results of public polls related to the lections, forecasts of their results.

Article 47. Inadmissibility of Abuse of the Right to Hold Electoral Propaganda

Propaganda electoral materials, statements at assemblies, meetings, in press, on television, radio shall not contain propaganda of war, calls for violent change of the constitutional order, violation of territorial integrity of the Republic of Belarus, insults and slander related to officials of the Republic of Belarus, candidates for deputies. Propaganda of social, racial, national, religious or language superiority, issue and dissemination of statements and materials causing social, racial, national or religious strives shall be prohibited.

Candidates for deputies, their authorized persons, organizations and persons campaigning for election of the candidates are not entitled to distribute to citizens any financial means, gifts or other material valuables, to hold discounted sale of goods, to provide goods and services free of charge except for propaganda printed materials specially published for the electoral campaign with observance of the requirements of the present Code. When holding the electoral propaganda it shall be prohibited to influence the citizens by means of promises to provide them with financial means, material valuables.

If the requirements of the present article are violated the relevant commissions shall take measures as to stop abuse of the right to hold the electoral propaganda and the electoral commissions are entitled to overrule the decision about registration of a candidate.

Article 48. Expenditures for Preparation and Holding of Elections

Expenditures for preparation and holding of elections of deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic shall be covered at expense of the means of the republican budget. Expenditures for these purposes can also be covered at expense of finances of organizations, public associations and citizens of the Republic of Belarus, who can transfer their financial means to the non-budgetary fund created by the Central Commission for additional financing of expenses on preparation and holding of elections of deputies of the House of Representatives. For additional financing of expenses for electoral propaganda the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives are entitled to create their own electoral funds.

The procedure of distribution and use of the financial means allocated for preparation and holding of the elections from the republican budget and voluntarily donated to the non-budgetary fund shall be determined by the Central Commission.

The financial means allocated from the budget and non-budgetary fund for holding of electoral propaganda, shall be distributed equally between all candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives and shall be spent upon their demand within the procedure determined by the Central Commission. The Central Commission shall inform by means of mass media no later than in three days after termination of registration of candidates about the amount of the financial means allocated from the budget to the candidates for their electoral propaganda.

The Central Commission shall inform the House of Representatives about spending the allocated from the republican budget financial means for preparation and holding of the elections no later than six months after the day of electing deputies of the House of Representatives as well as shall publish a report on spending the financial means of the non-budgetary fund.

The state bodies, other organizations shall provide free of charge the required premises, equipment, communication means (except for expenses for subscription fees and for talks) as well as vehicles (with payment of the expenses by the commissions at expense of the allocated financial means) necessary for preparation and holding of the elections into disposal of the commissions.

State mass media, mass media partially funded by means of the republican or local budget as well as mass media, one of the founders of which is presented by state bodies or organizations shall make public the materials provided by the commissions and electoral programmes of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives free of charge.

Political parties, other public associations, other organizations, citizens of the Republic of Belarus are not entitled to render other material assistance during preparation and holding of elections, except for depositing financial means to the non-budgetary fund and electoral funds of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives determined by part one of the present article.

Direct or indirect participation of foreign states and organisations, international organizations, organizations with foreign investments, foreign citizens, persons without citizenship in financing and other material assistance during preparation and holding of elections shall be prohibited.

Use by a person nominated by a candidate for a deputy or by a candidate for a deputy of financial means or other material assistance in violation of the requirements of the present article shall result in the relevant rejection of registration of the candidate or revocation of the decision on his registration.

Article 48[1]. Electoral Funds of Candidates for Deputies of the House of Representatives

The candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives are entitled to establish their own electoral funds to finance additional electoral campaign expenditures.

The candidates' electoral funds may be formed from the following financial resources:

1) candidates' own cash resources which shall not exceed 20 base values during the holding of the election of deputies of the House of Representatives;

2) voluntary donations of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus. The limit of the citizen's donation shall not exceed 10 base values during the holding of the election of deputies of the House of Representatives;

3) voluntary donations of legal entities. The limit of the donation from a legal entity shall not exceed 10 base values during the holding of the election of deputies of the House of Representatives.

The maximum sum of all the expenditures from the electoral fund of any candidate shall not exceed 1,000 base values during the holding of the election of deputies of the House of Representatives.

Donations to the electoral funds of the candidates shall be prohibited in case they are provided by:

1) foreign states and organizations;

2) foreign nationals and stateless persons;

3) international agencies;

4) organizations with foreign investments;

4^1) organizations if, during a year preceding the day of the donation they received the foreign gratuitous assistance from foreign states, foreign organizations, international organizations, foreign nationals and stateless persons as well as anonymous donators if the foreign gratuitous assistance received by these organizations was not returned by them to the foreign states, foreign organizations, international organizations, foreign nationals and stateless persons which gave them this foreign gratuitous assistance or if this foreign gratuitous assistance was not transferred to the budget of the state before the day of the donation to the electoral funds because it was impossible to return it;

5) citizens of the Republic of Belarus under the age of 18;

6) bodies of state administration and bodies of local self-government;

7) organizations which are fully or partially financed from the budget;

7^1) organizations registered under the established procedure registered less than a year before the day of the donation;

8) charity and religious organizations;

9) anonymous donators.

To establish his own electoral fund a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives shall open a special electoral account in a branch of the open joint stock company "Belarusbank Savings Bank". An application of the candidate and a copy of the decision of the constituency electoral commission on the registration of the candidate shall be the grounds for opening the account.

The candidate is entitled to appointing his representative on financial matters. The registration of the candidate's representative on financial matters shall me made by the constituency electoral commission following an application from the candidate. The candidate's representative on financial matters is entitled to open a special electoral account, to command the funds available on this account, and to

submit reports on the receipt to the account and expenditures. The candidate is entitled to recall his representative on financial matters at any time after having accordingly informed the constituency electoral commission and the branch of the bank where the candidate has opened a special electoral account.

The candidate is entitled to open only one special electoral account. The procedure for opening the account, performing transactions through the account, and closing the account shall be determined by the Central Commission with the concurrence of the open joint stock society "Belarusbank Savings Bank." No payment shall be exacted for the services of the bank in opening the account and performing transactions through the account. The bank shall pay no interests for using the cash resources deposited into the special electoral account. The relevant constituency electoral commission shall inform in mass media about opening of special electoral accounts of candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives.

When making donations into the special electoral account of the candidate, the donating citizen shall insert in the payment document the following personal data: surname, name, patronymic, date and place of birth, series and number of the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus. Voluntary donations of legal entities shall be made by cashless transfers of money into the special electoral account while the warrant for payment shall have the following data about the legal entity: account number of the payer, name, bank details, legal address.

The right to command the resources of the electoral funds shall be conferred on their founding candidates.

The resources of the electoral funds can serve to pay for:

1) on-air broadcasting time and printing space in the mass media;

2) leasing of buildings and premises, equipment, transport expenditures, communication service;

3) propagandistic printing materials;

4) consultation and propagandistic work (services);

5) stationary items and other expenditures directly related to the pre-election campaign.

The candidate is entitled to return to the donator any donation into the electoral fund with the exception of the donations made by anonymous donators. In case the voluntary donation into the electoral fund has been made by a donator who is not entitled to such a donation or in case the size of the donation exceeds the value stipulated by part two of this Article, the candidate must, within seven days from the receipt of the donation to the special electoral account, return this donation to the donator either fully or the part of it which exceeds the maximum size of the donation explaining herewith the reason for this return.

The control over the receipt and use of the resources of the electoral funds shall be exercised by constituency electoral commissions and financial bodies.

The branch of the bank in which the special electoral account has been opened shall, on weekly basis, report to the commission that registered the candidate the data on the receipt and spending of the funds put down to the account of the respective candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives. The relevant commission, within two days after receiving the data, shall forward to the mass media the

information to be published on the total sum of the money receipts to the electoral fund and on the total sum of expenditures.

The candidates shall submit financial reports to the commission that registered them in observing the following time scale: the first financial report shall be submitted not earlier than 15 days and not later than 10 days prior to the election day; the concluding financial report shall be submitted within five days after the election.

In case the decision to register the candidate has been annulled or the candidacy has been withdrawn, the respective commission shall inform of it in writing the branch of the bank thus making it stop all the operations with the candidate's special electoral account.

All the banking operations involving the special electoral account shall be stopped on the day of the election except returning the unspent resources to the electoral fund and entering in the above-stated account the resources that were transferred before the election day.

The unspent monetary resources in the special electoral account shall be transferred, within three days after the election, by the candidate for deputy of the House of Representatives to the citizens and legal entities which made donations to the candidate's electoral fund, in proportion to the resources invested. Upon termination of the appointed time, the branch of the bank where the special electoral account has been opened shall transfer the monetary resources remaining in that account into the republican budget. Upon application by the candidate, the relevant constituency electoral commission may prolong the time-limit for carrying out transactions through the special electoral account.

Within the time-limit stipulated in part fourteen of this article, the candidate for deputy of the House of Representatives shall submit to the commission that registered him the financial report on the size and all the sources for establishing his electoral fund, and on all the expenditures herein. The report shall be supplemented by primary financial documents that confirm the entry, return and spending of the resources of the electoral fund, certificates about the remaining resources and (or) about the closure of the candidate's special electoral account. This procedure shall also be applied to the persons whose candidacy registrations have been annulled and to the persons who withdrew their candidacies prior to the election day.

If there is a second round of voting, the operations on paying the expenditures by using special electoral accounts of the candidates who take part in the second round of voting shall be resumed on the day on which the constituency electoral commission has decided to hold the second voting and shall be ceased on the day of the second round of voting.

Article 49. Liability for Violation of Requirements of the Present Code

Persons hindering by means of violence, threats, cheating, bribery or in any other way the citizen of the Republic of Belarus from his right to participate or not to participate in elections, to elect and to be elected the deputy of the House of Representatives, to hold electoral propaganda, involved in propaganda on the lections day as well as members of commissions, officials of state bodies and public

associations and other persons who have committed forgery of documents on elections, knowingly wrong vote counting or other distortion of the results of voting, who have violated secrecy of ballot, who have failed to submit the necessary documents to the commissions, or have failed to fulfill their decisions, or who have used financial means and material resources for preparation and holding of elections illegally, or who have made other violations of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections shall be liable therefore in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Persons who have published or in other way disseminated knowingly false data discrediting a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives, for a member of the Council of the Republic shall also be brought to responsibility.

In case of disseminating of false data about a candidate the Central Commission or the relevant territorial, constituency commission is entitled upon a written request of the candidate to take a decision to provide him an opportunity to speak in public with refutation of the false data.

When a person nominated by a candidate for a deputy or a candidate for a deputy, his authorized person or an initiative group of citizens for collecting signatures to support a person proposed to be nominated as a candidate and holding of propaganda for his election violates the requirements of the present Code or other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections, the person nominated by the candidate, the candidate or the initiative group shall be warned by the constituency commission, and in case of repeated violation of the requirements of the present Code or other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections, the constituency commission can reject the registration or revoke its decision on registration of the candidate.

If the requirements determined by article 47, part eight of article 61, part seven of article 68, articles 73 and 75 of the present Code have been violated, the constituency commission can reject the registration of a candidate for a deputy or without prior notice can revoke its decision on his registration, and if the requirements determined by part eleven of article 48 of the present Code have been violated, it shall reject the registration of a candidate for a deputy or without prior notice shall revoke its decision on his registration.

If the limit of spending the amount of the electoral fund has been exceeded by a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives by more than 15 base values or if a candidate has used the same amount of financial means beside the finances of the electoral fund, the constituency electoral commission can without prior notice revoke its decision on registration of the candidate.

Article 49[1]. Procedure and Terms of Consideration of Appeals against Violations of the Legislation of the Republic of Belarus on Elections

Appeals against violations of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on elections that have been submitted to commissions, state bodies and other organizations shall be considered within three days from the day of their submission,

and as for the appeals on the elections day – immediately. Appeals that contain the data requiring check shall be considered no later than within ten days from the day of their submission.

The applicant is entitled to familiarize himself with the materials related to consideration of his appeal.

Appeals against decisions of commissions shall be considered at sittings of the commissions. The applicant shall be informed about the date, time and location of the sitting and is entitled to be present when considering his appeal.

Commissions after having considered the appeal shall take one of the following decisions:

revoke the appealed decision completely or in its part and take decision thereon;

dismiss a complaint;

leave a complaint without consideration if the applicant has not followed the procedure and terms of submitting the complaint determined by the present Code.

A higher commission is entitled when required to consider an appeal against the issue related to the competence of a lower commission.

Article 50. Time and Location of Voting

When electing deputies of the House of Representatives the voting shall be held from 8 a. m. till 8 p. m. The precinct commissions shall inform voters about the time and location of voting no later than 10 days prior to the elections.

At election precincts formed in military installations, resort centres, preventive treatment facilities, rest homes, hospitals and other day-care medical preventive treatment facilities the precinct commissions can declare the voting closed earlier than 8 p.m. if all voters, participants of referendum included in the list have voted.

Article 51. Organization of Voting at Election Precinct

Voting shall be held in specially assigned premises where a sufficient number of booths or rooms for vote by secret ballot are equipped, where places of issue of ballots are determined and ballot boxes are installed. Ballot boxes shall be placed in such a manner that the voters at approaching them necessarily pass through the booths or rooms for vote by secret ballot. Ballot boxes shall be in sight of the members of precinct commission and of the persons mentioned in part three of article 13 of the present Code.

Liability for organization of voting, ensuring of secrecy of voters' expression of will as well as that of participants of referendum, equipment of the premises and maintaining order in them shall be incurred by a precinct commission.

On the elections day before the start of voting the ballot-boxes shall be checked, sealed by the chairperson of the precinct commission at presence of no less than two thirds of the composition of commission.

Article 52. Holding of Voting at Election Precinct

Every voter shall vote personally, voting by proxy shall not be admitted.

The voting ballot shall be issued to the voter by a member of the precinct commission on the basis of the list of citizens having the right to participate in elections after submission of the passport of citizen of the Republic of Belarus or other document determined by the Central Commission. When receiving the ballot a voter shall put a signature in the relevant line of the indicated list.

The ballot shall be filled in a booth or a room for secret ballot. When filling in the ballot presence of anybody except for the voter shall be prohibited.

A voter having no opportunity to independently fill in the ballot is entitled to invite to the booth or a room for secret ballot another person as he thinks fit except for members of the precinct and higher commissions, candidates for deputies, their authorized persons as well as persons mentioned in part three of article 13 of the present Code.

When voting during the elections a voter shall put any sign in an empty square placed on the right from the family name of the candidate he votes for. If a voter votes against all candidates, he shall put any sign in an empty square placed on the right from the line “Against all candidates”.

If the ballot contains a family name of only one candidate, when voting for the candidate a voter shall put any sign in a square with the work “for”, and if voting against the candidate he shall put any sign in the square with the word “against”.

A voter shall put the filled in ballot into a ballot box.

In case if a voter thinks he has made a mistake when filling in the ballot, he is entitled to address a member of the precinct commission who has issued him the ballot with a request to issue him a new ballot instead of the spoilt one. The member of the precinct commission having received the spoilt ballot, which shall contain the genuine signature of the voter, shall issue the voter a new ballot making a note thereabout in the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections, opposite the family name of the voter who has made a mistake. The spoilt ballot shall be cancelled and the act thereabout shall be composed and signed by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson or a secretary or two members of the precinct commission.

Article 53. Early Voting at Elections

A voter having no opportunity on the elections day to be at the location of his residing is entitled no earlier than five days prior to the elections in conditions excluding control over his expression of will to fill in the ballot in the premises of the precinct commission and to put it in the sealed separate ballot-box for voting of the voters who will be absent on the elections day in the location of their residing. The official approval of reasons of voter’s lack of opportunity to come to the voting premises on the elections day shall not be required.

Early voting shall be carried out from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m. in presence of no less than two members of the precinct commission.

On the first day of early voting the ballot boxes shall be sealed within the procedure determined by part three of article 51 of the present Code.

In the period of early voting daily after termination of voting the chairperson or a deputy chairperson of the precinct commission shall glue the split for putting in the ballots in the ballot box with a sheet of paper. The chairperson or a deputy chairperson and a member of the precinct commission shall put signatures on this sheet. Opening of this split for putting in ballots in the ballot box shall be done daily before the beginning of early voting by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson of the precinct commission. When the split for putting in ballots in the ballot box is glued and opened, the observers, foreign (international) observers, representatives of mass media are entitled to be present. Keeping of the ballot-box shall be ensured by the chairperson of the precinct commission.

In the period of early voting daily the chairperson and a deputy chairperson of the precinct commission shall compose a protocol where the number of ballots received by the precinct commission, the number of citizens who received the ballots for voting (on the last day of early voting – the total number of citizens who have received ballots for voting), the number of spoilt ballots and the number of the ballots not used shall be indicated. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson and a member of the commission. A copy of the protocol shall be put up for general familiarization in the premises of the precinct commission.

When receiving the ballot a voter shall genuinely put a signature in the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections and shall indicate the date of early voting.

Early voting shall be held with observance of the requirements of the present Code.

Early voting shall not be held at election precincts formed in resort centres, preventive treatment facilities, rest homes, hospitals and other medical treatment facilities as well as before the second round of voting.

Article 54. Voting At Voter's Location During Elections

The precinct commission is obliged to provide an opportunity to participate in voting to the voters who due to their state of health or any other reasonable excuse cannot come on the lections day to the premises of voting. For these purposes the electoral commission shall have no more than three portable ballot-boxes.

The precinct commission under request of the voters expressed in written or verbal form shall assign to no less than two members of the commission to organise voting at location of these persons on the elections day within the following procedure:

verbal and written requests from voters about organization of voting at their location on the elections day shall be put in a specially composed list signed by the chairperson or the secretary of the precinct commission where the data about these persons provided in the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections shall be indicated. The official approval of reasons of the voter's lack of opportunity to come to the premises of voting shall not be required. Voters can address a request about organization of voting at their location on the election day at any time after

formation of the precinct commission and on the elections day no later than two hours prior to termination of voting;

members of the precinct commission shall receive ballots and shall prove the fact of receiving them by putting their signatures. The number of the issued ballots shall correspond to the number of the received requests of voters;

to organize voting at the voters' location the chairperson or the secretary of the precinct commission shall write down into a separate supplementary sheet all data about these persons from the main list of the citizens having the right to participate in the elections, and shall sign it. In this supplementary sheet the voters who vote at their location when receiving the ballot shall sign genuinely. Then in the main list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections shall be a mark done that these persons have voted at their location. Supplementary sheets of the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections where the voters are mentioned who have voted at their location shall be kept with the main list of the citizens having right to participate in the elections.

Voting at the voters' location shall be held with observance of the requirements of the present Code.

Article 55. Vote Counting at Election Precinct when Holding the Elections of Deputies of the House of Representatives

The precinct commission shall open ballot boxes after the chairperson of the commission declares the voting closed. Opening of the ballot boxes before the end of voting shall be prohibited. Before opening the ballot boxes the number of the ballots not used, which then are cancelled, piled in packets and sealed, shall be counted and announced. The way of cancellation of the ballots shall be determined by the precinct commission. On the packets the name and number of the election precinct, the number of ballots not used shall be written. The packets shall be signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the precinct commission in presence of members of the commission.

Opening of the ballot boxes and counting of votes when holding the elections shall be done in the following order: firstly the ballots shall be counted which are in the ballot box that was used during early voting, then – the ones in the portable ballot boxes used for voting at the voters' location, and after that – in the ballot boxes that were on the elections day in the premises for voting. The results of counting of votes shall be announced by the chairperson of the commission.

Counting of votes of the voters shall be done directly by the members of the precinct commission without interruption till obtaining the results of the ballot.

When electing a deputy of the House of Representatives the counting of votes at the election precinct shall be carried out separately for each candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives.

The precinct commission in accordance with the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections shall establish the total number of voters at the election precinct as well as the number of voters having received the ballots.

On the basis of the ballots that were in the ballot boxes mentioned in part two of the present article the precinct commission shall firstly in a separate way and then by summarizing the data shall establish:

when electing deputies of the House of Representatives – the total number of voters who have participated in the ballot, including the voters who have participated in early voting, the number of voters who have voted at their location and the number of voters who have taken part in voting at the election precinct on the election day; the number of votes given for each candidate for deputies and the number of votes given against all candidates for deputies, (if voting was for one candidate, - the number of votes given against the candidate); the number of rejected ballots.

To introduce changes in the lists of citizens having the right to participate in the elections after the counting has begun shall be prohibited.

When holding the elections the ballots shall be recognized as rejected if they are of a non-standard pattern, the ballots on the reverse side of which there are no signatures of persons composing the precinct commission, and when electing deputies of the House of Representatives – also the ballots where the sign has been put in more than one square or has not been put in any of them, or the ballots where there is only one family name of the candidate and the sign either has been put in both squares or has not been put in any of them.

In case of occurrence of doubts in reliability of the ballot the issue shall be resolved by the precinct commission by raising hands. By that on the reverse side of every ballot like that there shall be a note on recognition of this ballot either valid or rejected. This not shall be countersigned by no less than two persons composing the precinct commission. The rejected ballots shall be packed separately.

After completing the counting of votes the sitting of the precinct commission shall be held where the results of the counting of votes shall be established and put in the protocol. In the protocol beside the data determined in parts five and six of the present article the number of ballots received by the precinct commission, the number of spoilt ballots, the number of ballots not used shall be mentioned. Filling in the protocol with a pencil and introducing of any corrections shall not be admitted. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, the deputy chairperson, the secretary and the members of the commission. At the sitting of the precinct commission special opinions if any as well as complaints and applications about violations by voting or by counting the votes shall be considered.

A copy of the protocol of the precinct commission after its signing shall be put up for general familiarization in the location determined by the commission.

When electing deputies of the House of Representatives the protocol shall be immediately submitted for information by the chairperson, or the deputy chairperson, or the secretary of the precinct commission to the relevant constituency electotal commission as well as to the body that has formed this commission. Special opinions of the members of the commission, applications of authorized persons of the candidates and other persons about violations during voting and counting of the votes, if there are any, as well as the decisions of the commission taken thereto shall be attached to the protocol sent to a higher commission.

In case the body that has formed the commission detects violations of the requirements of this Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus, which occurred in the running of voting or when counting votes, the relevant higher electoral commission or the Central Commission shall be immediately informed thereabout.

Статья 56. Calling of Elections of Deputies

Elections to the House of Representatives of the new convocation shall be called by the President of the Republic of Belarus no later than 30 days prior to termination of powers of the House of Representatives of the current convocation.

In case of dissolution of the House of Representatives according to conditions and within the procedure determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the President shall call at the same time the lections of the new convocation. Extraordinary elections to the House of Representatives shall be held within three months after the date of early termination of powers of the House of Representatives of the current convocation.

The announcement of the election day shall be promulgated in mass media on the following day after calling the elections.

Article 57. Requirements to Candidates for Deputies

A citizen of the Republic of Belarus, who has reached the age of 21, permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus may be elected a deputy of the House of Representatives.

Article 59. Incompatibility of Deputy's Status with Official Position as well as with the Relevant Powers

Combining duties of a deputy of the House of Representatives with simultaneous office of either the President or a judge shall not be admitted.

A deputy of the House of Representatives cannot be simultaneously a member of the Council of the Republic, a deputy of the local Council of deputies.

Neither chairpersons of the regional, Minsk city, district, city (except for regional cities) executive committees nor judges can be deputies of the local Councils of deputies.

A deputy of the local Council of deputies cannot be simultaneously a deputy of the House of Representatives.

The persons, indicated in parts one-for of this article can be registers as candidates for deputies if in the relevant application submitted to the electoral commission they specify the following:

statement on their dismissal from office or on termination of powers of a member of the Council of the Republic, a deputy of the local Council of deputies when elected as a deputy of the House of Representatives;

statement on their dismissal from office or on termination of powers of a deputy of the House of Representatives when elected as a deputy of the local Council of deputies.

Article 60. Right and Terms of Nominating Candidates for Deputies

The right to nominate candidates for deputies shall belong to political parties, registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus no later than six months prior to calling the elections, to labor collectives as well as to citizens by means of collecting signatures.

Nomination of candidates for deputies shall start 70 days prior to and shall finish 40 days prior to the elections.

Citizens having no right in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus to take offices in state bodies and other state organisations in connection with their criminal record may not be nominated as candidates for deputies.

Article 62. Procedure of Nominating Candidates for Deputies by Political Parties

Nomination of candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives from political parties shall be carried out by the superior bodies of the political parties.

A political party is entitled to nominate only one candidate for deputies from the number of members of this political party in each electoral constituency.

The list of the registered political parties is submitted to the Central Commission by the Ministry of Justice no later than 5 days after calling the elections.

Article 63. Procedure of Nominating Candidates for Deputies of the House of Representatives by Labor Collectives

Nomination of candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives from labor collectives of organizations shall be carried out at assemblies (conferences) of voters in labor collectives.

Assemblies (conferences) of voters in labor collectives of organizations located in the territory of an electoral constituency, having no less than 300 employees and having the rights of a legal entity, shall be convened by the administration of the organization both at its own discretion or at discretion of a group of voters with total number of no less than 150 persons working in this organization.

In case of rejection by the administration of the proposal to hold an assembly (a conference) at the discretion of the group of voters, its initiators are provided with a copy of a reasoned decision. This decision can be appealed against by the initiators of the assembly call within three days after it was taken, to a district, city court (an appeal shall be signed by the majority of initiators of the assembly call). The court decision shall be final.

The assembly should be attended by more than a half of the composition of labor collective. Conferences are held in labor collectives, if a call of assemblies is

complicated by a large number of employees, multi-shift working conditions or territorial separateness of structural subdivisions, and they shall be eligible if no less than two thirds of the delegates, elected within the procedure established by the labor collective, participate in their work. The decision of an assembly (a conference) of the labor collective shall be taken by the majority vote of its participants.

A candidate for deputies of the House of Representatives can be nominated from several smaller collectives with the total number of employees no less than 300 persons at their joint assembly. Herewith, more than a half of the composition of each labor collective of the organization, having the rights of a legal entity, shall attend it.

A labor collective can nominate only one candidate for deputies of the House of Representatives.

Article 65. Procedure of Nominating Candidates for Deputies of the House of Representatives by Means of Collecting Signatures of Voters

Nomination of a candidate for deputy of the House of Representatives by means of collecting signatures of voters is performed by a group of electors (the initiative group) including not less than 10 persons. The list of the members of the initiative group specifying its head together with the application on registration of the group is submitted to the relative constituency electoral commission not later than 65 days before the elections by the person who has the intention to be nominated as candidate for deputy. The list specifies the surname, name and patronymic, the date of birth, the profession, the post (occupation), the place of work and the place of residence, the party membership of the person proposed for nomination as candidate for deputy as well as the surname, name and patronymic, the date of birth and the place of residence of each member of the group and of its head. The person who has intention to be nominated as candidate for deputy, or the head of the initiative group is entitled to put changes into the documents submitted for registration of the initiative group, prior to consideration of constituency electoral commission of the issue on registration of the initiative group, as well as to familiarize with the materials of inspection of those documents.

The constituency electoral commission considers, within a five-day period, the application, register the initiative group and issue to the members of the initiative group the respective certificates and the signature lists for collecting signatures of voters in support of the person suggested for nomination as candidate for deputy (hereinafter the signature list). The registration of the initiative group shall be denied when the requirements of the present Code are violated. The denial of the registration of the initiative group may be appealed against within three days in a superior commission by the person who has intention to be nominated as candidate for deputy while the decision of the superior commission may be appealed against within the same time period in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus. The court considers the complaint within three days.

A person suggested for nomination as candidate for deputy of the House of Representatives in the electoral constituency by a group of electors must have support

of not less than 1000 electors who reside in the territory of the present electoral constituency.

The signature list shall include signatures of voters residing on the territory of the electoral constituency.

The collecting signatures of voters for the nomination of a candidate for deputy and certifying the signature list is performed in the order provided for by parts four, six, seven, eight, nine and ten of Article 61 of the present Code. Violation of the requirements of part eight of Article 61 of the present Code may serve as the basis for rejection to register the candidate for deputy or revocation of the decision about his registration.

Article 66. Documents of Nomination of Candidate for Deputies Submitted to Constituency Electoral Commission

The superior bodies of political parties, assemblies (conferences) of voters in labor collectives shall take decisions on nominating a candidate for deputies and put it in the minutes. In the minutes the name of the superior body of the political party, data about labor collective, their addresses and telephone numbers, the number of members of the body of the political party, labor collective, the number of participants of the sitting of the political party body, of the assembly (conference) of the collective, the date of the session, assembly (conference), the voting results, the taken decision with indication of the last, patronymic and first names, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and of residence, party membership of the person nominated as a candidate for deputies as well as the electoral constituency where he is nominated, shall be indicated.

All documents for registration of a candidate for deputies shall be submitted to the constituency electoral commission at the same time and no later than 40 days prior to the elections. When providing the documents a person, nominated as a candidate for deputies, shall submit the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus.

The following documents shall be submitted to a constituency electoral commission as to register a candidate for deputies of the House of Representatives:

written application with consent to be nominated in this electoral constituency;

biographical data of the person nominated as a candidate for deputies with indicated data as determined by the Central Commission;

income and property declaration of the person, nominated as a candidate for deputies, filled out according to the form approved by the Council of Ministers;

written application about consent, if elected a deputy of the House of representatives, for dismissal from the office or for termination of the relevant powers – for persons mentioned in parts one and two of article 59 of this Code.

When nominating a candidate for deputies of the House of Representatives a political party for his registration shall, in addition to the documents indicated in part three of this article, submit the following:

the minutes of the superior body of the political party about nomination of a candidate for deputies;

a copy of the certificate of state registration of the political party;

a copy of the statute of the political party;

a copy of the document confirming membership in the political party of the person, nominated as a candidate for deputies.

When nominating a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives by a labor collective, for his registration, in addition to the documents indicated in part three of this article, the following shall be submitted:

the minutes of an assembly (a conference) of the labor collective of the organization about nomination of a candidate for deputies;

a copy of the certificate of state registration of the organization.

When nominating a candidate for deputies of the House of Representatives by means of collecting signatures of voters, for registration, in addition to the documents indicated in part three of this article, the signature lists shall be submitted.

Voter, who nominated a candidate for deputies by means of collecting signatures, have the right, prior to submission of the signature lists to a constituency electoral commission, to withdraw their signatures from the signature lists by submitting an application therefor to the relevant electoral commission.

The signature lists are kept in constituency electoral commissions, and after the election day, they are transferred for keeping to the bodies, which formed the commissions.

Article 67. Verification of Reliability of Voters' Signatures On Signature Lists on Elections of Deputies

Constituency electoral commissions verify reliability of voter's signatures. Herewith no less than 20 percent of the voters' signatures on signature lists from the number of signatures required for registration of a candidate for a deputy shall be verified.

Recognition of signatures on signature lists as reliable shall be carried out according to the procedure determined by parts fourteen, sixteen and seventeen of article 61 of this Code. If there are signatures on a signature list of voters, who do not reside in the territory of the electoral constituency, these signatures shall not be verified and taken into account.

In case the total number of unreliable signatures of voters detected during verification exceeds 15 percent of the total number of verified signatures on the signature lists, additional verification of 15 more percent of signatures on the signature lists from the total number of signatures required for registration of a candidate for a deputy, shall be carried out.

In case the total number of unreliable signatures of voters detected during verifications exceeds 15 percent of the total number of verified signatures on the signature lists, further verification of signatures on the signature lists shall be stopped.

Constituency electoral commissions shall draw up protocols on the results of verification of reliability of voters' signatures on signature lists.

Article 68. Registration of Candidates for Deputies

Registration of candidates for deputies is carried out by the relevant constituency electoral commission.

Registration of candidates for deputies shall begin 40 days prior to and shall finish 30 days prior to the elections.

In individual cases the term of registration of candidates for deputies of the House of representatives can be prolonged under a reasoned decision of the Central Commission, but for no longer than for the period of five days.

A person nominated as a candidate for deputies is entitled to familiarize himself with the materials of documents verification submitted for the registration.

Decision on the registration of a candidate for a deputy shall be taken at submitting the respective documents, mentioned in article 66 of this Code, to a constituency electoral commission prior to the beginning of the registration.

At submitting the data in the tax and property declaration having essential nature, by a person nominated as a candidate for a deputy, that do not correspond to reality, the constituency electoral commission is entitled to reject registration of a candidate for a deputy or to reject its decision to register him. The Central Commission shall provide comments on which data about income and property having the essential nature do not correspond to reality.

If more than 15 percent of the total number of verified signatures of voters on signature lists for nomination of a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives from the total number of verified voters' signatures on signature lists for nomination of a candidate for a deputy are recognised as unreliable, the relevant constituency electoral commission shall reject registration of the candidate for a deputy.

Any number of candidates for deputies can apply for registration.

A candidate for a deputy can be nominated only in one electoral constituency. A candidate for deputies shall inform the relevant constituency electoral commission no later than three days after termination of the term of nomination of candidates for deputies about his consent to be nominated in a certain electoral constituency and about his refusal from nomination in other electoral constituencies if he is nominated as a candidate for a deputy in several electoral constituencies. Failure to meet this requirement is a ground for rejection of registration of a candidate for a deputy in all electoral constituencies.

The relevant constituency electoral commission shall check compliance of the procedure of nomination of candidates for deputies with the requirements of the present Code and shall make a decision on registration of candidates for deputies or a reasoned decision on rejection of registration. The decision of the commission on rejection of registration as a candidate shall be issued no later than the following day after taking the decision.

The protocol of registration of a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives shall be submitted to the Central Commission.

A constituency electoral commission shall issue the relevant certificates to the candidates for deputies within two days after their registration.

The decision of a constituency electoral commission on rejection of registration as a candidate for deputies of the House of Representatives can be appealed against by the person, nominated as a candidate for a deputy, to the Central Commission within three days after taking the decision. The decision of the Central Commission within the same period can be appealed against by the person nominated as a candidate for a deputy to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus shall examine the appeal within three days, its decision shall be final.

Powers of the person nominated as a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives, who is a member of the Central Commission, a constituency, precinct electoral commission shall be considered void from the moment of his registration as a candidate for a deputy.

A constituency electoral commission no later than four days after registration of candidates for deputies shall transfer an announcement to mass media for further publication about the registration indicating the last, patronymic and first names, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership as well as data on income and property of each candidate for a deputy within the limits determined by the Central Commission or shall inform voters thereabout in some other way.

Article 69. Withdrawal by Candidate for Deputy of His Candidature

A candidate for deputies at any time prior to the election day can withdraw his candidature submitting an application therefor to the relevant constituency electoral commission. In case of withdrawal by a candidate for deputies of his candidature without a reasonable excuse, which shall be mentioned in the decision of the commission, the candidate for deputies shall compensate all expenses covered by it for the candidate for deputies including the expenses for electoral propaganda.

The decision of the commission on recognition of withdrawal by a candidate for deputies of his candidature without a reasonable excuse can be appealed against to a court.

If the candidate refuses to voluntarily compensate the expenses determined by the constituency electoral commission as provided by part one of the present article, the recovery shall be carried out by judicial means.

In case of drop out of all candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives the repeat elections shall be held within the procedure determined by article 81 of the this Code.

Article 70. Revocation of Decision on Nomination of Candidate for Deputy

A political party, a labor collective which has nominated a candidate for a deputy is entitled no later than three days prior to the lection day to revoke its decision on nomination a candidate for a deputy. The candidate for a deputy is informed about the time of holding the session of the supreme body of the political

party, of the assembly (conference) of the labor collective on revocation of the decision on nomination of the candidate for deputies. The decision on this issue shall be taken according to the procedure determined for nomination of candidates for deputies, and shall be immediately submitted to the relevant constituency electoral commission.

In case of revocation of the decision on nomination of a candidate for a deputy without a reasonable excuse, the political party or the labor collective, which has nominated the candidate for a deputy, shall compensate to the constituency electoral commission all expenses covered by it for the candidate for a deputy, including the expenses for electoral propaganda. In case of refusal to voluntarily compensate the expenses determined by the constituency electoral commission, the recovery shall be carried out by judicial means.

Article 71. Procedure of Nomination of Candidates for Deputies to Substitute Withdrawn Candidates

In case of withdrawal of candidates for deputies after termination of the term of registration of candidates for deputies, if there are no other candidates in the electoral constituency, as well as in case the persons nominated as candidates for deputies prior to registration revoked their applications for nomination in the electoral constituency or these persons were refused from registration due to violation of the requirements of this Code, which results in absence of other candidates for deputies in this electoral constituency, the constituency electoral commission shall propose correspondingly to the political parties, labor collectives to nominate new candidates for deputies. Nomination of candidates substituting the withdrawn ones shall be carried out according to the procedure determined by the Code. If candidates for deputies withdrew less than 20 days prior to the election day, repeat elections of the deputy of the House of Representatives shall be held according to the procedure determined by article 87 of this Code.

Article 72. Ballot for Elections of Deputies

The text of the ballot for elections of deputies shall be approved by the relevant constituency electoral commission.

The ballot shall include in alphabetic order all the registered candidates for deputies indicating the family name, first name and middle name, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership of each candidate for deputies. An empty square shall be placed on the right side of the data of each candidate. A line "Against all candidates" shall be placed at the end of the list of candidates with empty square on its right side. If the ballot contains only one candidate for deputies, the text of the ballot shall have words “for” and “against” under which empty squares are placed.

Publication of ballots for the elections of deputies shall be ensured by constituency electoral commissions.

When holding the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives it shall be admitted to publish ballots by precinct commissions located out of the Republic of Belarus.

The number of printed ballots cannot be less than the number of voters included in the lists of citizens having the right to participate in the elections of deputies. The number of reserve ballots shall not exceed 5 percent of the number of voters.

Transfer of the ballots from a higher election commission to a lower election commission including a precinct commission shall be carried out under an act. The precinct election commissions shall be provided with the ballots no later than a day preceding the early voting day, and the precinct election commissions where early voting is not held – no later than on the day preceding the election day. Liability for safety of the ballots shall be carried out by chairpersons of the commissions who receive, transfer and keep the ballots.

Every ballot shall contain explanation about the procedure of its filling in.

Ballots shall be printed in either Belarusian or Russian. On the backside of the ballot signatures of at least two persons who are members of the precinct commission shall be put.

In case of drop out of a candidate for deputies on the eve of the elections and impossibility to print new ballots, constituency electoral commission shall assign to the precinct commissions to put a mark with ink or fountain-pen "dropped out" opposite the family name of the candidate who has dropped out. Thereabout there shall be a notice in the premises for voting and the voters shall be informed thereabout when issued the ballots.

Ballots for the elections of deputies after summarizing the results of voting shall be deposited by the precinct election commissions with the protocols to the relevant constituency electoral commissions and shall be kept in the archives of the relevant local executive and regulatory bodies for six months after the elections day, and then shall be destroyed according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus regulating the issues of archive management and records management.

Article 73. Equality of Rights and Liabilities of Candidates for Deputies

All candidates for deputies shall have equal rights and bear equal liabilities.

The candidate for deputies is not entitled to use advantages of his official position in the interests of being elected. The use of advantages of his official position shall mean:

attracting persons being subordinate or in any other official dependence for carrying out within their working time of activities contributing to nomination and (or) being elected;

use of premises which are utilised by state bodies, organisations as to carry out activities contributing to nomination and (or) being elected, in case other candidates for deputies addressing the same issue cannot use these premises under the same conditions;

use of telephone and other types of communication, office equipment designed to ensure functioning of the state bodies, organisations as to carry out activities contributing to nomination and (or) being elected;

free or discounted use of vehicles which are state owned as to carry out activities contributing to nomination and (or) being elected;

holding of signatures collection, electoral propaganda during official trips.

Provisions determined by paragraphs four and five of part two of the present article shall not cover the persons using communication means and vehicles according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on state safeguarding.

When the requirements of the present article are violated the constituency electoral commission is entitled to reject registration of a candidate or cancel its decision on his registration.

Article 74. Right of Candidates for Deputies to Speak at Assemblies, Use Mass Media, Receive Information

Candidates for deputies from the time of their registration shall have the equal right to speak at electoral and other assemblies, sessions, sittings, in the press, on the state radio and on the state television. Violation of this right can be appealed against to the constituency electoral commission.

State bodies, public associations, heads of organisations, bodies of territorial public self-government are obliged to contribute to organisation of meetings of candidates for deputies with voters as well as to provide reference and information materials required by them for holding of the electoral campaign, except for materials limited in use by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 75. Electoral Programme of Candidate for Deputies

A candidate for deputies shall have the right to make a statement with his programme of his future activity, the text of which is determined by the candidate. The programme of the candidate shall not contain warmongering, calls for violent change of the constitutional order, violation of territorial integrity of the Republic of Belarus, to social, national, religious and racial enmity, insults and slander in relation to officials of the Republic of Belarus, other candidates for deputies.

If the requirements of the present article are violated, the constituency electoral commission is entitled to cancel its decision on registration of the candidate.

Article 76. Authorized Persons of Candidate for Deputies

A candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives can have up to 15 authorized persons.

The authorized persons shall help the candidate in holding his electoral campaign, hold propaganda for his being elected, represent the candidate’s interests in mutual relations with the state bodies, public associations, voters as well as in commissions.

A candidate for a deputy shall determine his authorized persons as he thinks it fit and in a written application shall inform about them relevantly to the constituency electoral commission for registration. The application shall contain the family name, first name and middle name and residence of the authorized person. The Commission shall within three days from the moment of submission of the application register the authorized persons and issue certificates to them.

A candidate for a deputy shall have the right to recall at any time prior to the elections day his authorized persons having informed thereabout the commission which shall cancel the certificates issued to them. The authorized person can at any time to abdicate.

An authorized person of a candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives cannot be a member of the Central Commission, of a constituency and precinct electoral commissions where he represents his candidate for a deputy, and since the moment of his registration by the relevant commission he shall deem to be relieved of his duties in the commission.

An authorized person of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus cannot be included in the Central Commission, territorial and precinct commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and from the moment of his registration by the relevant commission shall deem to be exempt of his duties in the commission.

Authorized persons of a candidate for a deputy at a request of the candidate shall be exempt from their working (official) duties without preservation of salary after their registration till the elections day. The grounds for such exemption shall be a decision of the commission on registration of the authorized person and an application of the authorized person to the employer on providing him with a vacation without preservation of salary for participation in electoral events.

Article 77. Exemption of Candidate for a Deputy from Working (Official) Duties for Participation in Electoral Events and Ensuring Their Activity

After registration candidates for a deputy of the House of Representatives (except for the Chairperson of the Republic House of Representatives), shall be exempt from execution of their working (official) duties from the day of their registration till the elections day without preservation of salary. The grounds for such exemption shall be a decision of the commission on registration of the authorized person and an application of the authorized person to the employer on providing him with a vacation without preservation of salary for participation in electoral events.

Candidates for a deputy at their own application at the same time can be provided with a regular vacation.

A candidate for a deputy cannot be sent without his consent to a long-term business trip as well as drafted for military service or for military training from the day of his registration till the lections day.

Article 82. Establishing Results of Elections in Constituency for Elections of Deputy of the House of Representatives

On the basis of the protocols received from the precinct electoral commissions and composed according to the requirements of article 55 of the present Code the constituency electoral commission shall establish:

the total number of voters in the constituency;

the number of voters who have received ballots;

the number of voters who have participated in voting including the number of voters who have participated in early voting, the number of voters who have voted at their location and the number of voters who have taken part in voting on the election day in the premises of the voting station;

the number of votes given for each candidate for deputies and the number of votes given against all candidates for deputies (if voting was carried out for one candidate, – the number of votes given against the candidate);

the number of ballots recognized as rejected;

the number of ballots issued to the precinct electoral commissions;

the number of spoilt ballots;

the number of ballots which have not been used.

The candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives shall deem to be elected in the first round of the lections in the electoral constituency if more than a half of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have taken part in voting, have voted for him, if the elections deem to have taken place.

The elections shall deem to have taken place if more than a half of the voters of the constituency included into the list of citizens eligible to vote, have taken part in voting.

A constituency electoral commission can recognize the elections as invalid due to the violations of the requirements of the present Code committed during the elections or count of votes if they have influenced the results of the elections. The decision of the constituency electoral commission can be appealed against to the Central Commission within three days after it was taken.

A constituency electoral commission shall establish at its sitting the results of voting in its constituency and shall draw up a protocol thereabout. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and members of the commission and shall immediately, but no later than in five days after completing the voting be transferred for information to the Central Commission and to the bodies which have formed the constituency electoral commission. Special opinions of the members of the commission, applications of the authorized persons of the candidates for deputies and other persons about violations of the requirements of the present Code and about the decisions thereon taken by the constituency electoral commission if there are any shall be attached to the protocol, sent to the Central Commission.

In case the bodies which have formed the commission detect violations of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts committed during voting or counting of votes, the Central Commission shall be immediately informed thereabout.

If mistakes, errors in the protocols of precinct and constituency electoral commissions are detected as well as other violations committed during voting and counting of votes, the Central Commission is entitled to take a decision on the repeat count of votes by the relevant constituency electoral commission. An application for the repeat count of votes shall be submitted to the Central Commission no later than on the third day after the elections. The repeat count of voters' votes shall be carried out by the constituency electoral commission at presence of a member (members) of the Central Commission, and if required – of precinct electoral commissions as well.

The announcement about the results of the elections in the constituency shall be rendered by a constituency electoral commission to mass media for publication no later than five days after the elections. The announcement shall contain the total number of voters included in the lists of citizens eligible to participate in the elections; the number of voters who have participated in voting; the number of votes given for each candidate and the number of votes given against all candidates for deputies (if voting was carried out for one candidate, - the number of votes given against the candidate); the number of ballots recognized as rejected; the last, patronymic and first names, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership of the elected deputy. In case if recognition of the elections as having not taken place, invalid or in case of calling the second round of voting, the constituency electoral commission shall inform thereabout and shall publish the list of candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives participating in the second round of voting.

Article 83. Second Round of Voting

If neither of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives has gained the required number of votes, the second round of voting on the two candidates who have gained the highest number of voters' votes shall be held no later than two weeks under the decision of a constituency electoral commission. The constituency electoral commission shall inform thereabout the Central Commission and the voters of the constituency thereabout on the following day after fixing the second round of voting. The second round of voting shall be held with observation of the requirements of the present Code.

Elections in the second round of voting shall deem to have taken place if more than 25 percent of voters included in the list of citizens having the right to participate in elections, have taken part in voting. The candidate for a deputy who has gained the majority of votes of the citizens participating in voting shall deem to be elected.

In case one of the candidates for a deputy of the House of Representatives included in the ballot for balloting in the second round of voting has withdrawn his candidature, the second round of voting shall be held for one candidature. Herewith the candidate shall deem to be elected if he has gained more than a half of voters' votes who have taken part in voting.

Article 84. Establishing Results of Elections by the Central Commission

The Central Commission shall establish, on the basis of the protocols of constituency electoral commissions, the results of the elections of deputies in their constituencies, shall register the elected deputies of the House of Representatives.

The elections can be recognized by the Central Commission as invalid due to the violations of the requirements of the present Code committed during the elections or count of votes, or when establishing the results of the elections if they have influenced the results of the elections or if they do not allow to reliably determine the results of the voters' expression of will, or the Central Commission can reject registration of a deputy of the House of Representatives. The decision of the Central Commission on recognition of the elections as invalid can be appealed against by a candidate for a deputy within three days after it was taken to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 85. Publishing the Results of Elections of Deputies of the House of Representatives

The announcement about the results of deputies of the House of Representatives in the Republic of Belarus and the list of the deputies in alphabetical order with indication of the last, patronymic, first names, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership, the constituency where he has been elected a deputy, shall be rendered by the Central Commission to mass media for publication no later than three days after the moment of signing the protocol about the results of the elections.

Article 87. Repeat Elections

If in a constituency when holding the first round of elections or the second round of voting, the elections have been recognized as not having taken place or invalid, or in the first round of elections no more than two candidates have run for office and none of them got the required number of votes, or if one candidate remained for running for office, who did not get the required number of votes, or in case of withdrawal of all candidates for deputies, the Central Commission shall assign the constituency electoral commission to hold repeat elections in the constituency. Herewith it can take a decision to hold the elections by the constituency commission and precinct electoral commission in the new composition. Voting shall be carried out at the same voting stations with the lists composed for holding the main elections and verified on the eve of the repeat elections.

Repeat elections shall be called by the Central Commission no later than three months prior to holding them and shall be organized with observance of this Code. The repeat elections in the first round shall deem to have taken place if more than a half of voters of the constituency included in the lists of citizens having the right to participate in the elections, have taken part in voting. The repeat elections in the second round of voting shall deem to have taken place of 25 percent of voters in the constituency included in the lists of citizens eligible to participate in the elections, have taken part in voting.

The candidate for a deputy of the House of Representatives shall deem to have been elected in the first round of the repeat elections if he has got a half of votes of citizens participating in voting. In the second round of voting at the repeat elections the candidate shall deem to have been elected if he has got the majority of votes of the citizens participating in voting. In case one of the candidates for deputies of the House of Representatives included in the ballot for elections in the second round of voting has withdrawn his candidature, the second round of voting shall be carried out for one candidature. Herewith the candidate shall deem to have been elected if he gas got more than a half of votes of the citizens participating in voting.

If holding repeat elections, the citizens of the Republic of Belarus, in case of whom the decisions have been taken on rejection of their registration as candidates for deputies according to article 47, parts four and six of article 49, part seven of article 68, article 75 of this Code as well as the citizens who have withdrawn their candidatures with reasonable excuses in the first round of voting, cannot run for office again.

Article 155. Major Terms Used in the Present Code

The following major terms are used in the present Code:

propaganda materials are printed and other materials containing signs of electoral propaganda, referendum propaganda, recall of a deputy and designed for mass dissemination when holding elections, a referendum, a recall of a deputy;

electoral propaganda is an activity of citizens of the Republic of Belarus, political parties, other public associations, labour collectives, candidates, their authorized persons, initiative groups which carry out collection of signatures for nomination of a candidate and propaganda for their election having the purpose to motivate or motivating voters to participate in the elections, to vote for these or those candidates or against them;

elections are the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, of deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic, deputies of local Councils of deputies held according to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and the present Code;

deputy is a person elected by the voters of the relevant electoral constituency to the House of Representatives or the local Council of deputies on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot;

voter is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus having according to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and the present Code the right to elect for state bodies;

election campaign is a period from the official publication of the decision of the President of the Republic of Belarus or a state body authorized by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the present Code on call of elections till the day of the official publication of the results of the elections;

election commissions are commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, commissions on elections of deputies of the House of Representatives, commissions on elections of deputies of local Councils of deputies;

election constituency is a territory from which the President of the Republic of Belarus, deputies of the House of Representatives, deputies of local Councils of deputies are elected directly by citizens of the Republic of Belarus;

candidate is a person registered by the relevant commission as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus;

observer is a deputy of the House of Representatives, a member of the Council of the Republic, a member of a local Council of deputies, an authorized person of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, for the deputy's office as well as a representative of a political party, other public association, labour collective, of citizens carrying out observance over preparation and holding of the elections, a referendum, a recall of a deputy, a member of the Council of the Republic according to the procedure determined by the present Code;

foreign (international) observer is a person representing a foreign state or an international organization acquiring the right to carry out observance of preparation and holding the elections, a referendum, a recall of a deputy, a member of the Council of the Republic according to the procedure determined by the present Code;

debates are statements of two or more candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, for the office of deputies of the House of Representatives about a wide range of essential social problems including the messages concerning the electoral programmes of other candidates delivered in the course of public opinion share, share of questions;

voluntary donation of a citizen is a gratuitous contribution by a citizen of the Republic of Belarus of his own financial means to a special electoral account of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus or to a non-budgetary fund established by the Central Commission;

voluntary donation of a legal entity is a gratuitous transaction by a legal entity of financial means from its settlement account to the special electoral account of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, for the office of deputies of the House of Representatives or to the non-budgetary fund established by the Central Commission.