Act C of 1997
on Electoral Procedure

(abstract issue)

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Hungary, suffrage is universal and equal, voting is direct and performed in secret. To ensure that the exercise of the right to vote, the process of elections, referendums and popular initiatives are democratic and based on proper guarantees, the Parliament shall make the following law:

PART ONE
GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I
FUNDAMENTAL RULES
The aim of the Act

§ 1 The aim of this Act is that voters, candidates and nominating organisations as well as election bodies may exercise their election related rights on the grounds of uniform, clearly arranged and simple rules of procedure, as laid down by law.

The scope of legitimate application

§ 2 This Act shall be applied with regard to
a. the election of the Members of Parliament;
b. the election of the Members of the European Parliament;
c. the election of the representatives and mayors of local governments
d. the election of local governments for minorities;
e. national referendums;
f. local referendums;
g. national popular initiatives;
h. local popular initiatives; and
i. electoral procedures in relation to the law ordering this Act to be applied [the provisions set forth in clauses a)-e) and shall be referred to jointly as “the election”].

The basic principles of electoral procedure

§ 3 When applying the rules of electoral procedure, the participants involved in the election shall assert the following basic principles:
a. to safeguard the fairness of elections, to prevent electoral frauds;
b. voluntary participation in the nomination, election campaign, voting;
c. equality of chances among candidates and nominating organisations;
d. exercise of rights in good faith, according to rules;
e. option and impartial adjudging of legal remedy;
f. fast and authentic determination of the results of the elections.

General rules

§ 4 (1) The election shall be called at the latest 72 days before the day of voting.
(2) If the election committee or the court have the election repeated, the election

committee shall assign the seventh day from the date of the election caused, to be repeated for the repeated election.
(3) The terms determined under this Act, shall be terms of preclusion; they expire, in the absence of any statutory provision to the contrary, at 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the term.
(4) The terms defined in days shall be calculated in calendar days.
§ 5 The expenses for implementing the state's responsibilities in relation to preparing and conducting the elections shall be provided, to the extent defined by the Parliament, from the central budget. With regard to the use of these monetary assets, the State Audit Office shall inform the Parliament.

CHAPTER II
THE PUBLICITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURE

§ 6 (1) The operation and activity of election committees as well as the data available to election committees, apart for the statutory exception, shall be public. The publicity of the electoral procedure may not infringe upon the secrecy of the election, personal rights and rights related to the protection of personal data.
(2) The copies of the minutes recording the results of the elections shall be made available free of charge to the nominating organisations and independent candidates. The computerised data of the election may be required by all under the same conditions, in exchange for payment of a fee.
(3) On useful information regarding the election (such as the time and venue of voting, candidates, the posting of the register, the method of voting, the results of the election) the competent election office shall duly issue an announcement.
(4) The names of the members of the election committee and the head of the election office, the address of the office of the election bodies shall be published the way it is customary locally; the name of the members of the parliamentary single mandate constituency and the regional election committees in the official journal of the metropolitan, county general meeting, the details of the National Election Committee shall be published in the Official Hungarian Newspaper.
(5) The election offices shall arrange for the voters to receive general information about the details of the elections as well as answers to their questions.
(6) On the day of voting, prior to the termination of voting, election offices may provide information on the number and proportion of voters.
§ 7 The representatives of the media may be present while the election committees are working, but may not disturb their activity.
§ 8 (1) From the eighth day prior to voting to the termination of voting, the results of public opinion polls regarding the elections may not be published.
(2) On the day of voting, public opinion researches may be made subject to the following conditions:
a. the public opinion poll shall be anonymous, and based on voluntary participation;
b. the public opinion researchers may not enter the building where the polling-station is located, may not in any way harass voters, and may ask only those stepping out of the polling station.

CHAPTER III
CONSTITUENCIES, ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

§ 9 (1) Constituencies shall be established in such a manner as to ensure that the number of the population per constituency will approximately be the same.
(2) When setting up constituencies, attention should also be paid to nationality, religious, historic, geographic backgound as well as other characteristics.
§ 10 (1) The number, serial number and territorial division of electoral districts as well as the address of polling stations shall be determined by the head of the local election office in such fashion that approximately six hundred but maximum one thousand-two hundred voters should fall on each electoral district, and there shall be at least one electoral district in each settlement. The alterations regarding the setting up of electoral districts shall be monitored by the head of the local election office, who shall take the necessary measures.
(2) In settlements with two or more electoral districts, an electoral district shall be identified where voters whose addresses contain, pursuant to the rules of law on reporting address and in so doing only the name of the given settlement will vote. If there are two or more constituencies in the settlement, the head of the local election office shall assign the electoral district that falls under the constituency selected by him or her by a draw.
§ 11 From calling the election to the day of voting, the borders, serial number, and the name of the settlement, the name of the street, the street-number and the topographical lot number may not be changed.

CHAPTER IV
REGISTERING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The register

§ 12 After having called the election, the head of the local election office shall compile, on the grounds of the data of the persons concerned and address register and the register of major citizens disfranchised, the register of franchised citizens, and shall continuously bring forward alterations in it.
§ 13 (1) The franchised citizens whose domicile, or for lack of it, residence (hereinafter referred to as “address”) is located in the electoral district shall be entered in the register.
(2) The register shall be compiled in such a manner so as to be suitable for identifying the capital, the county, the settlement, and the constituency, the electoral district and the voter. The register shall contain the voter's:
a. first name(s) and family name (in the event of women, also the maiden name);
b. personal identification number;
c. address;
d. serial number in the register;
e. the date of birth of the voters having identical names and addresses; or, in the event that their date of birth is identical, other natural identification data.

Displaying the register publicly

§ 14 (1) The register shall be publicly displayed 60 days before the day of voting, for eight days; and the time thereof shall be announced the way it is customary locally. Voters shall be informed about their having been entered in the register at the latest before the 58th day prior to the day of voting by sending them an information notice.

(2) The information notice shall contain the voter's first name(s) and family name, address, personal identification number, serial number in the register, other technical data, the time and venue of voting, as well as other useful information regarding the voting.
(3) The register publicly displayed shall not contain the personal identification number.
(4) The head of the local election office may commission another local election office, the operator or central office of the particulars and address register regional system to produce the register, the information notices and the proposal coupons. The head of the local election office shall arrange to deliver the information notice and the proposal coupons. The head or member of the nominating organisation may not be commissioned to deliver the information notice and proposal coupons.
(5) The delivery of the information notice and the proposal coupon shall be checked by the head of the local election office.
(6) The voter who has not received the information notice and the proposal coupons, may apply for them at the local election office.

The modification of the register

§ 15 (1) The head of the local election office shall retroactively enter the voter in the register who has
a. been omitted from the register;
b. acquired right to vote after the register has been completed; and
c. regained his/her right to vote;
and shall inform the voter about this by sending an information notice.
(2) The head of the local election office shall delete those from the register who have deceased, who have lost their right to vote, or who have been entered in the register of another electoral district because their address has changed.
(3) The modified register may be inspected at the mayor's office before the second day prior to the day of voting.
§ 16 (1) If a voter has changed his or her address after the completion of the register, the head of the local election office of the new residence shall, simultaneously with notification, enter him or her in the register, and inform him or her by handing over an information notice.
(2) The head of the local election office shall immediately inform the head of the local election office of the former residence, „domicile” to ensure deletion from the register. The head of the local election office of the former residence shall ex officio inform the head of the local election office of the new residence about the fact that the voter was listed i
in the register; or
a. was listed in the register of major citizens disfranchised, and the reason thereof; or
b. has received a certificate pursuant to Articles 89 or 104; or
c. has been given a certificate pursuant to Article 89 or 104; or
d. was listed in the register at foreign representations; or
e. was not listed either in the register, or in the register of major citizens disfranchised, or in the register at foreign representations.
(3) In the event provided for under clauses a) and b) of paragraph (2), the head of

the local election office of the former residence shall delete the citizen from the register, or from the register of major citizens disfranchised.
(4) In the event provided for under clause b) of paragraph (2), the head of the local election office of the new residence shall delete the citizen from the register, enter him or her in the register of major citizens disfranchised, and inform the citizen about this.
(5) In the event provided for under clause c) of paragraph (2), the head of the local election office of the new residence shall delete the citizen, and inform the citizen about this.
(6) In the event provided for under clause d) of paragraph (2), the head of the local election office of the previous residence shall not delete the voter from the register at foreign representations. The head of the local election office of the new address shall delete the voter from the register, and shall inform the voter about this and the fact that the register at foreign representations continue to include them.
(7) In the event set forth in clause e) paragraph (2) the head of the local election office of the new address shall ascertain if the right to vote holds by confirming the data with the central office of the particulars address register.

The register of major citizens disfranchised

§ 17 (1) In order to ascertain the right to vote, the bodies defined under clauses a)-c) shall continuously make alterations in the data pursuant to paragraph (2) of major citizens disfranchised known to the central office of the particulars and address register as follows:
a. public guardianship authorities proceeding in cases of guardianship, regarding the placement in charge of a guardian limiting or excluding ability to act, and the termination of such guardianship;
b. the National Penal Authorities, through the agency registering delinquents, about persons subject to a judgment of law barring them from public affairs;
c. the National Penal Authorities regarding citizens serving a sentence of confinement, and undergoing compulsory therapy at an institution ruled with legal force in criminal procedure;
(2) The information pursuant to paragraph (1) shall contain the citizen's:
a. first name(s) and family name (in the event of women, also the maiden name);
b. personal identification number;
c. the reason for, commencement and expected termination of the exclusion from exercising suffrage.
(3) The central office of the particulars and address register shall maintain the register of major citizens disfranchised by applying data made available pursuant to paragraph (1); shall ensure such maintenance with respect to details of particulars and addresses by regularly taking over data from the particulars and addresses register.
(4) If a citizen has regained his or her suffrage, or is no longer subject to the particulars and addresses register, his or her data shall be de deleted from the register. The data of citizens deleted from the register of major citizens disfranchised shall be retained for six months.
§ 18 (1) The register of major citizens disfranchised shall be handled by the agency

maintaining it separately from its other records, except for the register, and may be used for no other purpose than ascertaining suffrage; data taken from it may not be disclosed for any other purpose.
(2) The central office of the particulars and addresses register may supply data from the register of major citizens disfranchised to election committees, election offices and the court, and, in the proceeding of electing lay assessors, to mayors to ensure the conducting of elections, and the authentication of the data of those signing the initiative of referendums and popular initiatives.
(3) The central office of the particulars and addresses register shall check the candidates' suffrage on the grounds of the data of the register of major citizens disfranchised and the particulars and addresses register, and shall immediately advise the relevant election office about lack of suffrage.
(4) The central office of the particulars and addresses register may check the suffrage of elected representatives on the grounds of the data of the register of major citizens disfranchised and the particulars and addresses register, and shall immediately advise the relevant election office about lack of suffrage.
(5) Any citizen of legal age may make a request to the central office of the particulars and addresses register so as to verify whether or not, on the grounds of the register of major citizens disfranchised nothing disqualifies them from exercising their right to vote.
§ 19 The register of major citizens disfranchised may be connected to the local, regional or central particulars and addresses register, covering the population of the constituency involved in the election, from the date of calling the election to the date of publishing the final results of the election, for the purpose of ascertaining suffrage. Such connections shall be immediately terminated after the terms of legal remedy related to the elections have expired.
§ 20 The register of major citizens disfranchised is not public, it may be inspected by no other than the relevant person, the court, the election committee and the members of the election office.

CHAPTER V
ELECTION BODIES
Election committees

§ 21 (1) Election committees shall be citizens' independent bodies subject to nothing but the law, whose prime responsibility is to determine the results of the elections, to ensure the fairness of the elections, to enforce impartiality and, when necessary, to restore the legal order of the elections.
(2) Election committees:
a. ballot counting committees;
b. local election committees;
c. parliamentary single mandate constituency election committees;
d. regional election committees;
e. the National Election Committee.
(3) During the term of its operation, an election committee is deemed to be an authority and its members public officials.
(4) The members of the election committee shall be exempted from performing work

stipulated by law on the day following the voting, and are entitled to receive average wages for this period, to be paid by the employer. The employer may apply for reimbursement of the wages the member of the committee is entitled to within five days after the election, from the election office operated beside the election committee, in the event of ballot counting committees, from the local election office.

Members of the election committee

§ 22 (1) With the exception of Articles 24 and 25 as well as paragraphs (3)-(4) of Article 27, only voters who have an address in the constituency may be members of the election committee, and only voters who have an address in the settlement may be members of local election committees.
(2) The President of the Republic, state leaders, heads of administrative offices, representatives, chairmen of county general meetings, mayors, county/capital-clerks, members of election offices, civil servants of administrative bodies operated on the area of competence of the election committee, or candidates running in the constituency shall not be members of an election committee.
(3) In addition to those stipulated under paragraph (2), members of organisations nominating candidates in the constituency, and relatives of candidates running in the constituency may not be elected members of an election committee.
(4) Those election committees who establish a decision-making, decision reviewing relation with each other in remedial procedure shall not consist of members who are kin.
§ 23 (1) The three members of the ballot counting committee and the necessary alternate members shall be elected by the body of representatives of the local government of the settlement subsequent to calling the general elections of members of parliament, the latest on the 20th day prior to the day of voting; and the head of the local election office shall submit a motion on their person. In settlements which have one constituency, no separate ballot counting committee shall be elected [clause l) paragraph (2) Article 31].
(2) The three members, or, in settlements which have one constituency, the five members of the local election committee and the necessary number of alternate members shall be elected by the body of representatives of the local government of the settlement subsequent to calling the general elections of the members and mayors of local governments, at the latest on the 51st day prior to the day of voting; furthermore the head of the local election office shall submit a motion on their person.
(3) The three members and the necessary number of alternate members of the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committees, and the regional election committees shall be elected by the metropolitan, county general meeting; and the head of the local election office shall submit a motion on their person.
(4) The five members and the necessary alternate members of the National Election Committee shall be elected by the Parliament; and the Minister of the Interior shall, taking the parties' recommendations into consideration, submit a motion on their person.
(5) The elected members of the election committees pursuant to paragraphs (3)-(4) shall be elected subsequent to calling the general elections of the members of

parliament, at the latest on the 51st day prior to the day of voting.
§ 24 If the election of the members of the ballot counting committee or the local election committee, due to the low number of the population or rules of incompatibility, or because the body of representatives is hindered from acting, or does not take place before the end of the term stipulated by law, the members shall immediately be delegated by the regional election committee at the motion of the head of the local election office.
§ 25 (1) One further member, in addition to those referred to in Article 23, of each election committee shall be delegated either by the nominating organisation putting forward candidates or setting up a list in the constituency, or by the independent candidate.
(2) The delegated members of the election committees shall be notified to the chairman of the election committee before the 16th day prior to the day of voting.
§ 26 (1) The commission of the delegated members of the election committee shall last until the statutory meeting of the election committee set up for the next general elections determined under Article 23.
(2) The commission of the delegated member of the election committee shall cease, with the exception of the provisions set forth under paragraph (3), at the same time as the results of the election are published.
(3) The commission of the members delegated into National Election Committee by the parties setting up a representative group at the constituent assembly of the Parliament, pursuant to Article 25, shall last until the date defined in paragraph (1), or the winding up of the faction. The parties who have not delegated any member into the National Election Committee pursuant to Article 25, but have set up a representative group in the Parliament, may delegate one member each, whose commission shall last until the date defined in paragraph (1), or the winding up of the faction.
(4) The commission of the member of the election committee shall cease, in addition to the provisions set forth under paragraphs (1)-(3):
a. if the statutory conditions of the commission shall cease;
b. if the election committee has ascertained the incompatibility of its member;
c. through resignation;
d. by withdrawing the commission.
§ 27 (1) An elected member of the election committee who has died, or whose commission has, for reasons defined under paragraph (4) Article 26, terminated, shall be replaced by an alternate member. For lack of an alternate member, the body of representatives of the local government of the settlement, and the metropolitan, county general meeting or the committees designated by them, and, in the event of the National Election Committee, the Parliament shall elect a new member.
(2) A delegated member of the election committee who has died, or whose commission has, for reasons defined under paragraph (4) Article 26, terminated, may be replaced by the nominating organisation, the independent candidate, or the representative group by delegating a new member.
(3) The procedure set forth under Article 24 shall be applied when, due to reasons defined therein, the new member of the ballot counting committee or the local election committee has not been elected.

(4) If, on the day of voting, the number of the members of the ballot counting committee is less than five, the head of the local election office may supplement the committee by adding alternate members or members from other ballot counting committees. If it is not possible to supplement the ballot counting committee in such a way, then the head of the regional election office shall arrange for the same by delegating members or alternate members of ballot counting committees of other settlements having already taken an oath.
§ 28 (1) The members of the election committee shall take an oath in the presence of the competent mayor, the Mayor of the capital, the chairman of the county general meeting, or the Speaker of Parliament. The text of the oath shall be set forth in Annex 1.
(2) The election committee, once it has elected its members and they have taken an oath, shall hold a statutory meeting. At the statutory meeting, it shall elect its chairman and its deputy from the elected members.
(3) The election committee shall be represented by its chairman. If the election committee has no chairman or the chairman is hindered from acting, the chairman's responsibilities shall be met by its deputy.
(4) The rights and obligations of the elected and commissioned members are identical, with the exception that delegated members are not entitled to receive any fee.

The decision of the election committee

§ 29 (1) The election committee shall act as a body; for making decisions the presence of the majority of the members and the identical voting of the members present are required. Voting may be completed by yes or no.
(2) The decision of the election committee shall be enshrined in a resolution supported with reasons. Minority opinions, together with their supporting reasons, shall also be recorded in the minutes.

The ballot counting committee

§ 30 (1) The ballot counting committee shall consist of a minimum of five members.
(2) The ballot counting committee shall
a. check the polling station, conduct voting, arrange for the lawful completion of voting;
b. make decisions on disputed issues arising in the course of voting;
c. count ballots, and determine the results of the election at the polling station;
d. propose the annulment of the results of voting at the polling station to the election committee when it has recognised any violation of law that has materially affected such results.
e. issue minutes on the results of voting.

The local election committee

§ 31 (1) The local election committee shall consist of a minimum of three, or, in settlements having one constituency, five members.
(2) The local election committee shall
a. make decision on registering or rejecting candidates, lists, nominating

organisations;
b. select the serial number of lists by a draw;
c. approve the data content of the ballot-papers of the settlement;
d. make decisions on reserves submitted;
e. annul the results of voting, if it has ascertained any violation of law that has materially affected such results;
f. in the event of equal number of votes, select by a draw which candidate shall be given a seat;
g. determine and publish the results of the election;
h. issue the letter of appointment to the representatives and mayors who are subject to its area of competence;
i. call by-elections, and determine the deadlines calculated according to calendar days for them;
j. in the event any violation of law has been made known to it, initiate the decision of the body holding power;
k. call the election of the local government for minorities;
l. in settlements which have one constituency, meet the responsibilities of the ballot counting committee.

Parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee

§ 32 (1) The parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee shall consist of a minimum of three members.
(2) The parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee shall
a. make decisions on registering or rejecting candidates, nominating organisations;
b. approve the data content of the ballot-papers of the constituency;
c. make decisions on reserves submitted;
d. annul the results of voting, if it has ascertained any violation of law that has materially affected such results;
e. determine and publish the results of the election;
f. issue the letter of appointment to the representative of the single mandate constituency;
g. initiate the call for by-elections with the National Election Committee;
h. in the event any violation of law has been made known to it, initiate the decision of the body holding power;

Regional election committee

§ 33 (1) The regional election committee shall consist of a minimum of three members.
(2) The regional election committee shall
a. make decisions on registering or rejecting lists and candidates indicated on them, on registering or rejecting nominating organisations;
b. select the serial number of lists by a draw;
c. approve the data content of the ballot papers of the constituency;
d. make decisions on reserves submitted;
e. annul the results of the election, if it has ascertained any violation of law that has materially affected such results;

f. determine and publish the results of the elections;
g. issue the letter of appointment to the representatives who are subject to its area of competence;
h. in the event any violation of law has been made known to it, initiate the decision of the body having power;

National Election Committee

§ 34 (1) The National Election Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members.
(2) The National Election Committee shall
a. issue a standpoint to ensure uniform interpretation of the rules of law and uniform legal practice with respect to the elections; no legal remedy shall lie against such standpoint; the standpoint shall be published in the Official Journal of Hungary;
b. make decisions on registering or rejecting lists and candidates indicated on them, on registering or rejecting moninating organisations;
c. select the serial number of lists by a draw;
d. approve the data content of the ballot-papers of the election of the Members of the European Parliament and national referendums;
e. make decisions on reserves submitted;
f. annul the results of the election, if it has ascertained any violation of law that has materially affected such results;
g. determine which nominating organisations have attained the % voting threshold the extent of which is stipulated by law;
h. determine who have obtained a seat in parliamentary elections from the candidates on national lists, and in the election of the Members of the European Parliament from the candidates on the lists;
i. issue the letter of appointment to representatives who have obtained a seat;
j. determine and publish the results of the elections aggregated nationally;
k. call parliamentary by-elections, and determine the deadlines thereof calculated according to calendar days;
l. in the event any violation of law has been made known to it, initiate the decision of the body holding power;
m. report on the general elections of members of parliament and representatives of local governments, and on national referendums to the Parliament;
n. proceed in any and all matters referring to its sphere of authority by law.

Election offices

§ 35 (1) Election offices are bodies fulfilling the state's responsibilities in connection with preparing, organising, conducting the elections, providing voters, candidates and nominating organisations with information free form any party bias, handling electoral data, creating technical conditions, checking compliance with statutory conditions and professional rules.
(2) Except for ballot counting committees, an election office shall operate beside each election committee, and at foreign representations. Apart from the ballot counting committee one member of the local election office shall act as the keeper of the minutes.

(3) The head of the local and the parliamentary single mandate constituency election office shall be the competent clerk; the head of the regional election office shall be the county/capital-clerk. The head of the election office at foreign representations shall be delegated by the head of the National Election Office for the period of the election of the Members of the European Parliament.
§ 36 (1) The members of the election office shall be delegated by the head of the election office, the head and members of the National Election Office by the Minister of the Interior for an indefinite term. The members of election offices at foreign representations shall be delegated by the head of the National Election Office for the period of the election of the Members of the European Parliament.
(2) The head of the election office shall take an oath in the presence of the head of the superior election office. The members of the election office and the head of the National Election Office shall take an oath when delegated in the presence of the official delegating them. The text of the oath shall be set forth under Annex 1.
§ 37 (1) Only public officials and civil servants may be delegated to the election office as members. Members of the staff of diplomatic missions who are Hungarian citizens may also be delegated to election offices at foreign representations as members or heads.
(2) Representatives, chairmen of county general meetings, mayors, members of election committees, persons running as candidates in the constituency and their kin, or members of nominating organisations putting forward candidates in the constituency shall not be members of the election office.
(3) If any reason for exclusion arises against the head of the election office, such a head shall immediately make this reason known to the head of the superior election office, the head of the National Election Office to the Minister of the Interior, who shall appoint a new head of the office. The members of the election office shall immediately inform the head of the election office about any reason for exclusion arising against them, who shall recall them.
§ 38 (1) The responsibilities of the election office shall be to:
a. publish an announcement regarding the date of the election, useful information related to the election, nomination, voting, and the number of proposals necessary for valid nomination;
b. publish the names of the candidates, nominating organisations of the constituency, and the fact of nominating independent candidates;
c. publish the names of the members of the election committees and the head of the election office, the address of the office of the election bodies;
d. organise training for the members of election bodies, provide voters with information free from any party bias;
e. operate the information systems of the election;
f. fulfil technical tasks related to checking the proposal of candidates;
g. operate the computer program detecting election frauds;
h. meet other responsibilities defined under the Decree of the Minister of the Interior.
(2) The election office may within its scope of duty publish public service publications, announcements.
§ 39 (1) The professional activity of election offices shall be controlled by the Minister of the Interior through the head of the National Election Office.

(2) The head of the National Election Office to the heads of other election offices, the head of the regional election office to the head of the parliamentary single mandate constituency and the local election office subject to his or her scope of competence, the head of the parliamentary single mandate constituency election office to the head of the local election office subject to his or her area of competence may give direct instructions with regard to fulfilling the tasks determined under this Act.
(3) The mayor, the body of representatives, and the general meeting and its official may not give instructions to the head of the election office with regard to fulfilling tasks related to preparing and conducting the elections.

CHAPTER VI
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Campaign period

§ 40 (1) The election campaign shall last from the call for the election to 0:00 hours of the day prior to voting.
(2) It is prohibited to run any election campaign (campaign silence period) from 0:00 hours on the day prior to voting to the termination of voting.

Infringement of the campaign silence period

§ 41 Any influencing of the will of the voters; so, especially services provided free of charge for voters by the candidate or the nominating organisation (organised transportation to the polling station; supplying food and drinks), distributing party badges, flags, party symbols, tokens containing the candidate's photograph or name, placement of election posters (hereinafter referred to as “posters”), providing information in electronic or other forms suitable for influencing the voters' will, and shall be deemed as an infringement of the campaign silence period.

Posters

§ 42 (1) Until the end of the election campaign nominating organisations and candidates may produce posters without asking for due permission. Posters shall be considered as media products, which may be produced without asking for due permission or notification. In other respects, the rules of law on the media shall apply.
(2) Posters, except for the cases defined under paragraphs (3)-(6), may be placed without any limitation.
(3) Posters may not be placed on the wall of buildings, fences unless with the consent of the owner, the tenants, or, in the event of real estates owned by the state or the local government, of the party that exercises the trustee's right.
(4) On certain public buildings or on specific parts of public domain, the placement of posters may be prohibited by the local government, in the capital by the municipality of the capital for reasons of protection of monuments and the environment. It is prohibited to place posters on or inside buildings that serve as premises for public or local government authorities.
(5) With regard to the placement of self-standing advertising equipment serving the election campaign, the rules on using public domain shall apply.
(6) Posters shall be placed in such a manner so as to ensure that they do not cover

the posters of other candidates or nominating organisations, and that they may be removed without causing any damage. Posters shall be removed in 30 days from the day of voting by those who have placed them or on behalf of whom they have been placed.

Meeting

§ 43 (1) Election meetings are public. The organiser of the meeting shall arrange for the maintenance of order.
(2) For the purposes of the election campaign, state and local government budgetary agencies may make premises and other necessary equipment available to the nominating organisations under equal conditions. It is prohibited to run any election campaign in buildings serving as premises for state or local government authorities, in addition to holding meetings, except in settlements with less than five hundred inhabitants, provided that no other community building is available for this purpose.

Radio and television transmission

§ 44 (1) During the campaign period program providers may publish political advertisements under equal conditions for nominating organisations and candidates. No opinion, assessing explanation shall be attached to such political advertisements.
(2) In other respects, regarding broadcasters' participation in the election campaign, the provisions of the law on radio and television shall apply.

Supply of data

§ 45 (1) The central office of the particulars and addresses register shall deliver the first name(s) and family name and addresses of voters indicated in the register to the candidates, nominating organisations at their request, for payment of a fee, under equal conditions, after the 20th day prior to the day of voting. This service may also be applied for in a gender, age group or address breakdown.
(2) A copy of the register publicly displayed shall be delivered by the head of the local election office to the candidate, the nominating organisation on the grounds of a claim reported in writing by the candidate, the nominating organisation, against payment of a fee, under equal conditions, after the 20th day prior to the day of voting, maximum in electoral district breakdown.
(3) The details of the supply of data provided pursuant to paragraph (1)-(2) may be used solely for the purposes of the election campaign. It is prohibited to exploit them for any other purpose, or disclose them to unauthorised persons, organisations, other candidates or nominating organisations. The data supplied shall be annihilated on the day of voting, and the minutes made out thereof shall be submitted to the provider of the data.
(4) For the purposes of the election campaign, apart from the head of the local election office, and the central office of the particulars and addresses register, other state or local government bodies shall not disclose personal data from their own registration to candidates, nominating organisations.

CHAPTER VII
PROPOSAL

§ 46 (1) Candidates may be proposed on proposal coupons. Proposal coupons shall be forwarded to voters together with the information notices.
(2) Candidates may be proposed by voters whose residence is located in the constituency.
(3) Candidates may be proposed before the 23rd day prior to voting.
(4) Proposals may not be withdrawn.
§ 47 (1) Candidates may be proposed on the proposal coupon by delivering the coupons filled in to the representative of the candidates, or the nominating organisations.
(2) The proposal coupons forwarded to voters shall contain the name of the election. The proposing voter shall indicate his or her first name(s) and family name, address, personal identification number; the first name(s) and family name of the person proposed, the name of the nominating organisation, or the fact of nominating an independent candidate. The proposal coupon shall be signed by the voter with his or her own handwriting.
§ 48 (1) Proposal coupons may be collected, except for the provisions set forth under paragraph (2), anywhere without harassing citizens.
(2) Proposal coupons may not be collected:
a. at places of work during working hours, or while one is fulfilling his or her obligations to perform work arising from employment or other legal relations concerning performance of work;
b. from persons in service relations with the armed forces and police authorities, at the place of service, or while they fulfil tasks of service;
c. on means of public transport;
d. in the official rooms of state organisations and municipal bodies.
(3) It is prohibited to give advantage or to promise to give advantage to the proposer or with respect to the proposer to another person, for the proposal; or to ask for advantage, or to accept advantage or a promise to give advantage for the proposal.

Joint candidate

§ 49 (1) Joint candidates may be nominated only on the grounds of proposal coupons on which all the nominating organisations putting forward the given joint candidate are indicated.
(2) If several nominating organisations run a candidate jointly, they shall be considered hereinafter, for the purposes of the elections, one nominating organisation.

Invalid proposals

§ 50 (1) Proposals which have been
a. submitted not on official proposal coupons;
b. submitted not on proposal coupons filled in pursuant to paragraph (2) Article 47;
c. collected by infringing the rules of proposing
shall be invalid.
(2) Any and all of the proposals of those who have proposed one and the same candidate more than once shall be invalid.

(3) Any and all of the proposals of those who have proposed more than one candidate shall be invalid.

Notification of the nominating organisation

§ 51 (1) Nominating organisations that intend to put forward candidates or set up lists shall be notified with an authentic copy of their court registration:
a. to the National Election Committee if the nominating organisation intends to put forward a candidate or set up a list in several counties, or both in the area of the capital and in the territory of some county;
b. to the regional election committee if the nominating organisation intends to put forward a candidate only in one county, or within the area of the capital but in several parliamentary single mandate constituencies, or in several settlements;
c. to the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee, or to the local election committee if the nominating organisation intends to run a candidate only in one parliamentary single mandate constituency, or only in one settlement.
(2) The National Election Office shall maintain records of the nominating organisations notified or registered.
(3) Candidates or lists may be presented only by nominating organisations notified pursuant to paragraph (1) and registered in compliance with Article 55.

Notification of the candidate

§ 52 (1) Candidates shall be notified at the latest on the 23rd day prior to voting by delivering the proposal coupons at the competent election committee.
(2) The notification shall contain the candidate's first name(s) and family name, personal identification number, address, and a declaration that he or she
a. has the right to vote;
b. has accepted the nomination;
c. has no such function that is incompatible with the representative's or mayor's mandate, or that, in the event he or she is elected, will resign it.
(3) If in the constituency two or more voters with identical first name(s) and family name intend to stand as candidates, the person notified later is obliged to arrange that he or she could be differentiated, by indicating a letter mark or second first name, from the candidate notified earlier.

Notification of the list

§ 53 (1) Lists shall be notified by delivering the certificate made out pursuant to paragraph (1) Article 55 which certifies the notification or registration of the necessary number of candidates required for setting up a list, or of the list.
(2) The provisions set forth under paragraph (2) Article 52 shall be applied also with respect to the candidates indicated on the list.
(3) Maximum three times as many candidates may be indicated on the list as many seats can be obtained on the list. The order of the candidates indicated on the list shall be determined by the nominating organisation, which may not be altered after the list has been notified. If any of the candidates have been eliminated from the list, he or she shall be replaced with the candidate next on the list.

Checking proposals

§ 54 (1) The proposals shall be checked by the competent election office.
(2) The checking of the proposals shall be performed numerically and in view of the provisions stipulated under paragraphs (2) Article 46, and clauses a)-b) paragraph (1) as well as paragraphs (2)-(3) Article 50, furthermore through the establishment of the identity of the voters delivering the proposal coupons.

Registering the nominating organisation, the candidate and the list

§ 55 (1) The election office shall issue a certificate on the notification of the nominating organisation, the candidate and the list, the election committee shall issue a certificate on their registration.
(2) The competent election committee shall register each nominating organisation, candidate and list that have been complied with statutory conditions in three days from notification.
§ 56 (1) The election committee shall refuse to register the nominating organisation that has not complied with the statutory conditions.
(2) The election committee shall refuse to register the candidate if the nomination has not complied with the statutory conditions, or the candidate has not made the statement prescribed by law.
(3) The election committee shall refuse to register the list, if the nomination has not complied with statutory conditions.

Provisions regarding the candidate

§ 57 If a voter has been proposed for candidate on several places within a single type of nomination, then he or she shall state at the latest before the 19th day prior to the election which nomination he or she accepts.
§ 58 The candidate shall be eliminated if he or she has either renounced nomination in writing before the commencement of voting, or lost his or her suffrage, or died. The name of the eliminated candidate shall be deleted from the register of candidates and the ballot-papers.
Protection of data related to proposals
§ 59 (1) It is prohibited to make copies of the proposal coupons. The technical records maintained in order to ascertain the validity of the nomination shall not be considered such a copy.
(2) The data of the proposal regarding the proposing person shall not be for public display. In the event of any reserve, the data of the proposal coupon and the technical records may be checked by the competent election committee, the election office and the court.
(3) The proposal coupons and the technical records shall be annihilated by the competent election office on the day of the election.
(4) The nominating organisation's entitlement to nominate may be checked by the election committee in the records of social organisations registered by the court.
§ 60 The candidate shall annihilate the proposal coupons not submitted, in three days from the expiry of the term available for their submission, and shall draft minutes about such actions. The minutes shall be delivered to the election committee in three days.

CHAPTER VIII
VOTING

Time, date and venue of voting

§ 61 (1) Votes can be cast from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the day of voting. If the local circumstances justify it, the local election committee, or the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee may order that the voting shall terminate at 5 o'clock.
(2) Votes may be cast only personally and, with the exceptions referred to in law, only at the polling station designated in accordance with the voter's residence.
(3) In order to make it possible for them to vote, voters hindered from movement, shall be, at their request, visited by two members of the ballot counting committee with a mobile ballot-box.
(4) The polling station shall not be closed during the term of voting, and the voting shall not be extended, or, except for extraordinary events, interrupted. If on the day of voting the number of the members of the ballot counting committee amounts to less than three, or voting has become impossible due to external reasons beyond control, those present are obliged to immediately suspend voting, sequester the ballot-box and the documents, and immediately advise the head of the local election office about the fact of such suspension to ensure the lawful continuation of voting.
§ 62 (1) The polling station may not be located in a building used by the candidate or the nominating organisation.
(2) The necessary number of polling booths required for the smooth running of voting with a minimum of two to be set up in each polling station. For voting, a pen shall be placed in the polling booth.
(3) For the purposes of voting, two or more ballot-boxes shall be erected in each polling station.

Commencement of voting

§ 63 Once the election documents, forms have been placed, apart from the members of the ballot counting committee and the election office, no persons are to stay in the polling station until the commencement of voting.
§ 64 (1) Prior to the commencement of voting, the ballot counting committee shall examine the state of the ballot-box in the presence of the voter who is the first to cast his or her ballot, and who shall not be a member of the ballot counting committee. The result of such an examination shall be recorded in the polling minutes.
(2) The ballot-boxes shall be sealed, in the presence of the voter who is the first to cast his or her ballot, in such a way as to ensure that no ballot could be removed from them without taking them apart. After which, the ballot counting committee shall place a review sheet, which contains the time and date of placing such review sheets and the signatures of the members of the ballot counting committee present and the citizen who is the first to cast his or her vote, into the ballot-box.

The process of voting

§ 65 (1) The chairman of the ballot counting committee shall be responsible for the maintenance of order in the polling station and its vicinity on the day of voting; the measures taken by the chairman to maintain order shall be binding on everybody.

(2) During the term of voting voters may stay in the polling station no longer than required for exercising suffrage.
§ 66 (1) In the polling station only those voters may vote who are included in the register, or who are entered in the register by the ballot counting committee.
(2) The ballot counting committee shall on the grounds of a certificate suitable for establishing identity and address establish the identity of the person who intends to vote and whether such a person is included in the register. The ballot counting committee shall enter the voter in the register who
a. has a certificate;
b. certifies that his or her address is located within the area of the constituency, provided that he or she is not listed in the register of major citizens disfranchised.
(3) The ballot counting committee shall reject voters who cannot properly prove their identity and address, or who, for lack of statutory conditions, may not be entered in the register. The ballot counting committee shall draft a list about such persons.
§ 67 (1) If there is nothing to prevent voting, the ballot counting committee shall hand over the ballot-paper to the voter and, in the presence of the voter, affix an official seal to it.
(2) The ballot counting committee shall, when necessary, without influencing the voter, explain the process of voting.
(3) When a candidate is eliminated after the ballot-papers have been produced, the ballot counting committee is obliged to inform voters about this fact on a public notice placed in the polling station, and, where necessary, orally. The name of the candidate eliminated shall be crossed out on the ballot-paper.
(4) Receipt of the ballot-paper shall be verified by voters by signing the register with their own hand. On behalf of voters unable to write, two members of the ballot counting committee shall sign the register, indicating this fact.
§ 68 (1) There are polling booths at the voters' disposal for filling in the ballot-paper. Voters may not be obliged to use the polling booth.
(2) During the time of filling in the ballot-paper, only the voter may stay in the polling booth. Voters who cannot read, or are prevented from voting by other physical handicaps or any other cause, may use the assistance of another voter, for lack of the same, the joint assistance of two members of the ballot counting committee.
§ 69 (1) Valid votes can be cast only on candidates, lists, referendum questions (in this chapter referred to jointly as “the candidate”) indicated on the official ballot-paper. The samples of ballot-papers are defined under Annexes 2-10.
(2) Votes can be cast on a candidate with two intersecting lines written by pen in the circle under, above or beside the name of the candidate.
(3) The ballot-paper
a. to which no official seal has been affixed;
b. which contains more votes than defined by law
shall be invalid.
(4) The vote which
a. has been cast on a ballot-paper deemed invalid pursuant to paragraph (3);
b. has been cast not in compliance with paragraph (2);
c. has been cast on a candidate eliminated
shall be invalid.

(5) It shall not affect the validity of the vote, provided that it complies with other conditions, if any remarks are made on the ballot-paper, the order of the candidates has been changed, the name of the candidate has been crossed out, or, a name has been added.
§ 70 (1) Voters shall put the ballot-paper into an envelope, and, in the presence of the ballot counting committee, cast it into the ballot-box.
(2) If the voter, before placing it in the ballot-box, indicates that he or she has incorrectly filled in the ballot-paper, the ballot counting committee shall withdraw such incorrectly filled in ballot-paper and replace it by issuing a new ballot-paper and record this fact in the minutes. Only once per person may the committee issue a new ballot-paper to replace a ballot-paper incorrectly filled in.
§ 71 (1) The chairman of the ballot counting committee shall close the polling station at 7:00 p.m. The voters who are staying in the polling station or in its entrance-hall may still vote. After that the ballot counting committee shall close voting.
(2) After voting has been closed, no ballots may be accepted.

CHAPTER IX
AGGREGATING BALLOTS
Counting ballots

§ 72 (1) The members of the ballot counting committee present are obliged to count each ballot-paper jointly.
(2) The ballot counting committee shall first arrange unused and spoiled ballot-papers into separate bundles and seal the bundles in such a way so as to ensure that no ballot-paper may be either removed or inserted without damaging the seal.
(3) The ballot counting committee shall check before opening the ballot-box if the ballot-box is undamaged, open the ballot-box and make sure of the existence of the review sheet, then compare the number of the ballot papers in the ballot-box to the number of persons having cast votes in the electoral district, and ignore the empty envelopes cast into the ballot-box.
(4) After which, the ballot counting committee shall arrange into a separate group and count up the invalid ballot-papers. Shall write the reasons for invalidity on the back of the ballot-paper, which must be signed by the members of the ballot counting committee present. Shall arrange invalid ballot-papers into a separate bundle, and seal the bundle in such a way so as to ensure that no ballot paper can be either removed or inserted without damaging the seal. The serial number of the electoral district and the number of ballot-papers included in the bundle must be written on the bundles.
(5) If the ballot counting committee ascertains that the ballot-box contains a ballot-paper cast by a person not having the right to vote in the given electoral district, it shall declare one vote per candidate out of the valid votes cast on candidates invalid in accordance with the number of persons having voted unlawfully.
(6) The valid ballot-papers shall be counted separately for each candidate, and then shall be arranged into bundles in compliance with paragraph (4). The number of valid votes shall be written on the bundles separately for each candidate.
(7) If the difference between the ballots obtained by the two candidates who have won the most votes does not reach one percent of the valid ballots cast on all of the

candidates, or, the difference between their ballots is less than the number of invalid ballots, then the ballot counting committee is obliged to recount the valid and invalid ballots. Recounting shall be pursued until its result becomes identical with the result of any of the previous countings. This result and the fact of recounting shall be recorded in the minutes.

Determining the result

§ 73 (1) After having counted the ballots, the ballot counting committee shall determine the electoral district result of the election.
(2) The competent election committee shall on the grounds of the minutes made by the ballot counting committees aggregate the ballots and determine the result of the election the latest on the day following the day of voting.

Minutes

§ 74 (1) Minutes shall be made on counting up the ballots and determining the electoral district and election results. Minutes may not be drawn up by pencil.
(2) Minutes shall be made in three copies, which must be signed by the members of the ballot counting committee present.
(3) The relevant election committee shall deliver one copy of the minutes to each candidate's representative present, at their request. After multiplication, the copy shall be authenticated by the chairman of the election committee by affixing a seal to it and signing it.
§ 75 (1) The ballot counting committee shall immediately transport the minutes, the election documents, forms and ballot-papers, together with the ballot-box, to the local election office.
(2) One copy of the minutes may be inspected at the relevant election office in three days from the day of voting.
(3) The ballot-papers shall be placed at the mayor's office, in the presence of the members of the relevant election committee, and shall be retained for 90 days in such a way so as to ensure that unauthorised persons could not have access to them. In the event of any reserve regarding the results of the election, the relevant ballot-papers shall be retained until the case has been settled with legal force. After 90 days, the election documents, except for the minutes, shall be annihilated.
(4) After 90 days have passed, the first copy of the minutes shall be delivered to the relevant archives.

Data sheet

§ 76 (1) The keeper of the minutes of the ballot counting committee shall immediately make out a data sheet on the results of the counting up of the ballots, and shall forward the data content of them out of turn through the local election office, the parliamentary single mandate constituency election office and the regional election office to the National Election Office.
(2) The election offices shall publish the informative data containing the unauthenticated results of the election.

CHAPTER X
LEGAL REMEDIES

General rules of legal remedies

§ 77 (1) By referring to the infringement of electoral law, candidates, nominating organisations and voters involved, or legal persons may lodge a complaint.
(2) Reserves may be submitted against the election committee's decision adjudging the complaint and other decisions.
(3) The complaint and the reserve against the ballot counting committee's decision shall be submitted to the election committee entitled to adjudge them. Other reserves shall be submitted to the election committee having made the decision found injurious, which shall refer them together with the documents to the election committee entitled to adjudge them, or to the court, at the latest on the day after they have been received.
§ 78 (1) The complaint and the reserve (hereinafter referred to as “the reserve”) shall be submitted in such a way so as to ensure that it is received at the latest in three days from the activity or the making of the decision found injurious. The election committee, or the court, adjudging the reserve shall decide the reserve submitted in three days from receipt thereof.
(2) The reserve shall contain the indication of the evidences of the violation of the law and notify the address of the person who has submitted the reserve. Reserves submitted in a deficient form shall be dismissed without examination of the merits.
(3) The election committee may hear the person who has submitted the reserve. In this case, it shall also be made possible for the adverse party to make a statement personally.
(4) The court shall decide the reserve in non-legal proceedings in a council consisting of three professional judges. In the court proceedings it is obligatory to apply legal representation. The court may hear the representative of the election committee having adopted the resolution contested, or the person who has submitted the reserve.
§ 79 (1) If the election committee or the court sustains the reserve, it will
a. change the decision violating the law; or
b. annul the decision violating the law, and have the electoral procedure or a part thereof repeated.
(2) The resolution of the election committee and the court shall be made known to the parties involved and the relevant election committee on the day it is adopted. Against the decision of the court no further redress shall lie.
§ 80 (1) Reserves submitted against decisions subject to the competence of the ballot counting committee [clause a) and b) paragraph (2) Article 30] shall be decided by the relevant local, or regional election committee. Reserves against the election committee's decision shall be decided by the metropolitan, county court.
(2) Reserves submitted against decisions made by the local election committee not subject to the scope of paragraph (1), including the decisions made pursuant to clause l) paragraph (2) Article 31, shall be decided by the relevant regional election committee. Reserves against the regional election committee's decision shall be decided by the metropolitan, county court.
(3) Reserves submitted against decisions made by the regional election committee

not subject to the scope of paragraph (1)-(2) shall be decided by the National Election Committee.
(4) Reserves against the decisions of the National Election Committee shall be decided by the Supreme Court.
§ 81 The general rules of legal remedy shall be applied in procedures related to the compilation of the register and in remedial procedures against the election committee's decision determining the results with the deviations set forth under Articles 82-85.

Legal remedy related to the compilation of the register

§ 82 (1) Because of omission from or having been entered in the register reserves can be submitted during the period the register is publicly displayed. Voters who have been deleted from the register pursuant to paragraph (4) or (5) Article 16, may submit reserves in three days from receipt of the notice to that effect.
(2) The reserve shall be submitted to the head of the local election office, who shall decide the reserve in three days. The voter may contest the dismissal of the reserve by lodging an objection in three days from the time it is made known to him or her, with the competent local court, in Budapest, with the Pest Central District Court. The court shall act as a sole judge.
(3) If the court finds the reserve to be well-founded, it will order the modification of the register, otherwise, will dismiss the reserve.
§ 83 The decision of the head of the local election office and the resolution of the court shall be made known to the involved party and the person who has submitted the reserve; the resolution of the court shall be also made known to the head of the local election office.

Legal remedy against the election committee's decision determining the result

§ 84 Any reserve against the ballot counting committee's decision determining the electoral district result [paragraph (1) Article 73] shall lie only together with a reserve against the election committee's decision determining the result of the election.
§ 85 (1) Against the election committee's decision determining the result of the election [paragraph (2) Article 73], reserves may be submitted with reference to
a. the unlawful nature of the ballot counting committee's decision determining the electoral district result; or
b. violation of the rules of aggregating the electoral district result and determining the result of the election
in such a way so as to ensure that the reserves are received by the election committee's having made the decision found injurious on the day following the election committee's decision.
(2) The election committee entitled to adjudge the reserve shall decide the reserve at the latest on the day following the receipt thereof. Any reserve against the election committee's decisions shall be submitted in such a manner so that it may be received by the election committee having made the decision found injurious on the day following the election committee's decision. The court shall decide the reserve at the latest on the day following receipt thereof.

PART TWO
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Registration of suffrage

§ 89 (1) Voters who are away from their address on the day of voting, may by presenting a certificate obtained from the head of the local election office of their address request of the head of the local election office, or, on the day of voting, the ballot counting committee, of the settlement where they stay on the day of voting to enter them in the register. On the strength of such certificate, citizens may vote at the settlement they reside in.
(2) Simultaneously with the issuing of the certificate, the head of the local election office of the address shall delete the voter from the register. On the grounds of the voter's statement, the settlement where the voter intends to vote shall be indicated in the certificate, and shall be stated in the register. Receipt of the certificate shall be acknowledged by the voter, or the person authorised by the voter, on the strength of an authorisation made out for this purpose, by signature.
(3) On the grounds of the certificate and a card suitable for proving identity and address, the head of the local election office of the address or the ballot counting committee shall register the voter. The certificate and the special register shall be preserved as part of the election documents.
(4) The certificate may be issued at the latest on the second day before the first round. The certificate may be requested either personally or through an authorised delegate. The certificate may also be requested by registered mail, on the condition that it is received by the competent local election office at the latest before the 5th day prior to the first round. The settlement where the voter intends to vote shall be indicated in the letter. The certificate requested in the letter shall be sent with the return receipt to the voter at the address given by him or her.
(5) In order to issue the certificate, the person requesting the certificate shall disclose their name, address, the name of the settlement where they reside on the day of voting, and shall state if they request the certificate for the first or the second, or both rounds of the election.

CHAPTER XIII
GENERAL REFERENDUM

§ 116 The provisions of Chapters I-X and Article 89 shall be applied in national referendums in compliance with the deviations set forth in this Chapter.

Initiating the referendum

§ 117 (1) The National Election Committee shall attest the signature-collecting sheet, and the question complying with legislative conditions in thirty days from its submission.
(2) The resolution of the National Election Committee with regard to the attestation of the signature-collecting sheet or the particular question, shall be published in eight days in the Hungarian Gazette.
§ 118 (1) On the day when the term of legal remedy pursuant to paragraph (1) of Article 130 has passed without any result, in the event of legal remedy, on the day

the Constitutional Court's confirmatory decision on the attestation resolution is published in the Hungarian Gazette, the head of the National Election Office shall apply an attestation clause to the specimen of the signature-collecting sheet. The collection of signatures may be commenced with a copy of the signature-collecting sheet with the attestation clause applied to it.
(2) The provisions of paragraphs (2) and (4) of Article 46, Article 48, clause c) of paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) of Article 50, and Articles 54, 59 and 60 shall be applied to the collection of signatures in compliance with the deviations set forth in this Chapter.
(3) Each signature-collecting sheet shall begin with the question proposed for the referendum. The signatures and the question shall be on the same page.
(4) On the signature-collecting sheets, beside the autographical signature, the initiator's legible first name(s) and family name, address, and personal identification number shall be indicated in order to check the authenticity of the signature.
(5) The citizen collecting signatures shall sign the signature-collecting sheet.
§ 118/A (1) If the collection of signatures has not been completed before the 41st day prior to the date of the general parliamentary elections and the elections of the representatives and mayors of local governments, the signature-collecting sheets containing the signatures collected until then shall be delivered to the National Election Committee before the 40th day prior to election day at the latest. The collection of signatures shall be discontinued during the period determined in paragraph (2) of Article 3 of Act III of 1998 on National Referendum and Popular Initiative.
(2) On the 41st day after the election day, the head of the National Election Office shall apply a new attestation clause to the specimen of the signature-collecting sheet. The collection of signatures shall not be pursued unless a copy of the signature-collecting sheet is added with the new attestation clause applied to it before the end of the term determined in Article 28/E of the Constitution. The length of discontinuance shall not be included in the term.
§ 119 (1) The checking of the signatures shall be the determination of the number of signatures that can be considered valid with statistical and mathematical methods by using the data of the voters signing the initiative of the referendum, the particulars and addresses register and the register of major citizens disfranchised. If the statistical and mathematical method applied does not render the existence of the proper number of signatures probable, then the checking of signatures shall be continued by examining the signatures item by item until the validity or invalidity of the initiative can be ascertained beyond reasonable doubt.
(2) The representative of those submitting the initiative may attend the process of checking the signatures.
(3) The checking of the signatures shall be completed in 45 days from submitting the initiative.
§ 120 (1) If in the course of checking the signatures strong suspicion arises pertaining to the validity of specific signatures, and the validity or invalidity of such signatures affect the validity of the initiative, the National Election Committee may also check the identity through the central office or territorial body of the particulars and address register, or the head of the local election office.

(2) In the event of checking identity pursuant to Paragraph (1), the term of checking the signatures shall be extended for 30 days.
§ 121 The signature collecting sheets shall be annihilated after 30 days of checking the signatures, or the termination of the remedial procedure.

Ordering and calling the referendum

§ 122 (1) The referendum shall be called 35 days before the day of voting at the latest.
(2) The referendum may also be called for at a date within the period pursuant to paragraph (1), if the President of the Republic has already called a referendum regarding another matter, and there are at least 20 days left before its date, and the simultaneous conducting of the referendum regarding the new issue does not endanger the legality of voting.
(3) The resolution on ordering and calling the referendum shall be published in the Hungarian Gazette.
§ 123 During the referendum the register shall be displayed in public 18 days before voting. Voters shall be informed about their having been entered into the register by sending a notice before the 16th day prior to voting.

Election bodies

§ 124 (1) The following election committees shall work during the referendum:
a) ballot counting committees,
b) in settlements having one electoral district the local election committee carrying out the tasks of the ballot counting committees,
c) regional election committees,
d) the National Election Committee.
(2) The following election offices shall work during the referendum:
a) local election offices,
b) parliamentary single mandate constituency election offices,
c) regional election offices,
d) the National Election Office.
§ 125 (1) To the election committees, except for the National Election Committee, those submitting the initiative may delegate one common fiduciary for each election committee, and the political parties not participating in submitting the initiative but who have a parliamentary representative group, each may delegate one fiduciary.
(2) The organisations submitting the initiative but who have no parliamentary representative group may delegate one common representative as a member of the National Election Committee.

Voting

§ 126 (1) During voting, determining the result and legal remedy, each question put to the referendum shall be taken into consideration separately.
(2) In the event of several questions, the questions shall be indicated on the ballot-paper in the order of ordering the referendum, applying unbroken numbering to them.

Aggregating the ballots

§ 127 (1) When applying Article 72, candidate shall mean answer.
(2) If there are several questions indicated on the ballot-paper, the valid ballots cast on the ballot-paper shall be calculated separately for each question. If the voter has voted for several answers concerning one question, these ballots shall be invalid, this, however, does not affect the validity of the ballot-paper. The ballot-papers containing both valid and invalid ballots shall be gathered in separate bundles. The number of valid ballots for each question and, more specifically, for each answer shall be written on the bundle.
§ 128 The result of the referendum shall be determined by the National Election Committee on the strength of the minutes of the ballot counting committees, after they have been received.
§ 129 With regard to the result of the referendum, the National Election Committee shall inform the President of the Republic and the Speaker of the Parliament in writing and publish an announcement in the Hungarian Gazette.

Legal remedy

§ 130 (1) Reserves against any decision of the National Election Committee regarding the attestation of the signature collecting sheet, or the particular question may be lodged in fifteen days from publishing the resolution, addressed to the Constitutional Court, with the National Election Committee.
(2) Reserves against the Parliament's resolution to order the referendum and to dismiss the ordering of a referendum to be obligatorily ordered may be lodged in eight days from publishing the resolution, addressed to the Constitutional Court, with the National Election Committee. The National Election Committee shall immediately inform the Speaker of the Parliament with regard to lodging the reserve, also the President of the Republic with regard to the reserve against the resolution ordering the referendum.
(3) The Constitutional Court shall adjudge the reserve out of turn. The Constitutional Court shall either confirm or annul the resolution of the National Election Committee or the Parliament, and instruct the Parliament to commence a new procedure.
(4) Reserves lodged against decisions that fall within the competence of the ballot counting committee [clause a) and b) paragraph (2) of Article 30], including the local election committee's decision made pursuant to clause l) paragraph (2) of Article 3, shall be decided by the competent regional election committee. Reserves against the regional election committee's decision shall be decided by the metropolitan, county court.

CHAPTER XVII
EXPLANATORY PROVISIONS

§ 149 When applying this Act

domicile shall mean the address of a flat, or for lack of it, except for Hungarian and non-Hungarian citizens living abroad, a room, dwelling used in need, which is used by the voter as their home on a regular basis, on condition that they have registered it as an address with the particulars and address register.

CHAPTER XIX
PROVISIONAL RULES OF VOTING ABROAD

§ 173 In national referendums and parliamentary by-elections the provisions of this Act shall be applied with the additions included in this chapter.

Calling the referendum

§ 174 (1) The referendum shall be called the latest 43 days prior to the day of voting.
(2) The referendum may be also called for at a date within the period pursuant to paragraph (1), if the President of the Republic has already called for a referendum regarding another matter earlier, and there is at least 20 days left prior to its date, and the simultaneous conducting of the referendum regarding the new issue does not endanger the legality of voting.

The observer

§ 175 (1) In parliamentary by-elections nominating organisations putting forward candidates for foreign representations, and independent candidates may delegate one person to act as an observer for each foreign representation and for each nominating organisation (independent candidate).
(2) In national referendums persons may be delegated to act as an observer at foreign representations by properly applying the rules set forth in paragraph (1) Article 125.
(3) Only Hungarian citizens having the right to vote may be observers.
(4) Observers shall be notified at the National Election Committee by providing their name and personal identification number until the 16th day before voting in Hungary. The National Election Committee will check the observer's right to vote, and will register the observer. The National Election Office will send the name and personal identification number of the delegated observer to the head of the election office at the foreign representation.
(5) The observer registered by the National Election Committee may be present while the election office at the foreign representation carries out its work. The observer
a) may follow the work of the election office at the foreign representation, the process of voting with due attention,
b) may record their comments in the minutes made out on the closing of voting,
c) may lodge a complaint,
d) is obliged to wear a pass referring to their capacity as an observer,
e) shall not influence or disturb the voting, or the work of the election office at the foreign representation either actively or through behaviour from which an inference may be drawn.
(6) The costs related to the observer's delegation and activity shall be borne by the delegator.

Registering suffrage

§ 176 In national referendums the register shall be publicly displayed 29 days prior to the day of voting, voters shall be informed that they have been entered in the register at the latest before the 29th day prior to the day of voting by sending a notice.

The register at foreign representations

§ 177 (1) Inclusion in the register at foreign representations may be requested by voters included in the register of their residence personally or through a delegate who has an authorisation enshrined in a private deed with conclusive force from the head of the local election office of their residence before the 16th day prior to the day of voting in Hungary. Requests for inclusion in the register at foreign representations may also be submitted by registered mail in such a manner so as to ensure that it will be received by the local election office the latest before the 16th day prior to voting in Hungary.
(2) In parliamentary by-elections inclusion in the register at foreign representations may be requested before the 16th day prior to the first round of the elections (the day of voting in Hungary).
(3) Applications with regard to entering the applicant in the register at foreign representations shall contain the applicant's:
a) first name and family name,
b) personal identification number,
c) place and date of birth,
d) mother's name,
e) residence in Hungary, and
f) the description of the country or settlement where the applicant intends to exercise their right to vote, and
g) the applicant is to notify an address abroad if they do not request that the decision of the head of the local election office should be sent to their address in Hungary.
(4) In parliamentary by-elections voters shall indicate in the application for inclusion in the register at foreign representations if they apply for their inclusion in the register at foreign representations for the first or the second or both rounds of the election.
§ 178 (1) On the strength of the application, the head of the local election office will immediately enter the voter in the register at the foreign representation, and at the same time, delete them from the register of their residence. The head of the local election office shall immediately inform the applicant that they have been entered in the register at the foreign representation or that their inclusion in the register at the foreign representation has been rejected.
(2) The application shall be rejected if it does not contain the data pursuant to paragraph (3) and (4) Article 177.
§ 179 (1) The register at foreign representations shall contain voters' details pursuant to clauses a)-e) paragraph (3) Article 177 and the description of the foreign representation.
(2) In parliamentary by-elections the register at foreign representations shall also contain the description of the constituency and the election round.
§ 180 (1) The head of the local election office shall send the data of the register at foreign representations to the National Election Office before the 15th day prior to the day of voting in Hungary in parliamentary by-elections, and before the 8th day

prior to the day of voting in Hungary in national referendums, and the National Election Office will prepare the register at foreign representations broken down into foreign representations.
(2) The National Election Office will forward the data of the register at foreign representations to foreign representations in such a way so as to ensure that only the election office at the foreign representation could have access to its data. The election office at the foreign representation will print and authenticate the register at foreign representations. The election office at the foreign representation may not modify the register at foreign representations.
(3) In parliamentary by-elections the National Election Office will also send the data of the register at foreign representations to the competent parliamentary single mandate constituency election office.

Election bodies

§ 181 (1) At the election an election office at foreign representation is also operated.
(2) The election office at foreign representations shall consist of the head and members delegated for the election of the Members of the European Parliament in 2004. The head of the National Election Office may delegate a new head and members, or may withdraw the delegation.

Voting at foreign representations

§ 182 (1) Voting at foreign representations is possible if the host state does not object to it. Voting shall not take place at foreign representations where no voter is registered.
(2) The duties set forth in clauses a) and b) paragraph (2) Article 30 and Chapter VIII will be fulfilled by election offices at foreign representations.
(3) The image of the ballot-paper will be sent by the National Election Office to election offices at the foreign representations, which produce ballot-papers by printing this image. Election offices at foreign representations will print twice as many ballot-papers as many voters are included in the register at foreign representations. Election offices at foreign representations will maintain records of the ballot-papers printed.
(4) Voters entered in the register at foreign representations may vote at the foreign representation, or, if the building of the foreign representation is not suitable for conducting voting, in another room provided for by the foreign representation. At each polling station a minimum of one polling booth shall be set up and one ballot-box shall be erected.
(5) It is possible to vote at foreign representations, in the first round of parliamentary by-elections, on the 7th day before the day of voting in Hungary, between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. local time. At foreign representations where the time difference is -1 hour or -2 hours compared to Central Europe (Greenwich time zone), between 6 a.m. local time and 7 p.m. CET. At foreign representations established on the American continent, it is possible to vote between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. local time on the 8th day before the day of voting in Hungary.
(6) It is possible to vote at foreign representations, in the second round of parliamentary by-elections and in national referendums, on the day of voting in

Hungary, between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. local time. At foreign representations where the time difference is -1 hour or -2 hours compared to Central Europe (Greenwich time zone), between 6 a.m. local time and 7 p.m. CET. At foreign representations established on the American continent, it is possible to vote between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. local time on the day before the day of voting in Hungary.
(7) Paragraph (3) Article 61 shall not be applied.
§ 183 (1) The election office at the foreign representation shall, on the grounds of a certificate issued by a Hungarian authority suitable for establishing identity, establish the identity of the citizen who intends to vote, and whether they are included in the register at the foreign representation. Anyone who cannot prove his or her identity as set forth above, or is not included in the register at the foreign representation shall be rejected.
(2) When handing over the ballot-paper and the envelope to the voter, a member of the election office will fill in a statement on voting, which contains the voter's first name and family name, address, personal identification number. The voter will sign the statement on voting, and a member of the election office will authenticate it.
(3) After having filled it in, the voter will place the ballot-paper into the envelope serving this purpose, and will close the envelope. The voter will hand over the closed envelope and the statement on voting to the member of the election office at the foreign representation, who places them into another (outside) envelope in the presence of the voter, closes it and hands it over to the voter. The voter will sign the outside envelope on the seal, and will place it into the ballot-box.
(4) If several parliamentary by-elections are held on the same day, the election office will indicate on the outside envelope the description of the parliamentary single mandate constituency on the ballot-paper of which the voter casts his or her vote.
(5) If a parliamentary by-election and a national referendum are held on the same day, the provisions set forth in paragraph (1)-(4) shall be applied separately in relation to these two procedures.
(6) If until an hour before closing voting, no voter has voted at the foreign representation, a member of the ballot counting committee may be the first voter.
(7) Voting shall also be closed when all the voters registered at the foreign representation have cast their vote.

Forwarding ballots cast at foreign representations

§ 184 (1) After closing the voting, the election committee at the foreign representation will place the register, the register of rejected citizens, the minutes made out on extraordinary events, the records made of printed ballot-papers, and the minutes made out on closing the voting in the ballot-box without opening it, and will seal the ballot-box in such a way so as to ensure that no ballot-paper can be either placed into or taken out of it.
(2) The election office at the foreign representation will immediately transport the closed ballot-box to the National Election Office. The ballot-box shall arrive at the National Election Office until 12 p.m. on the 4th day after the day of voting in Hungary in the event of national referendums and the second round of parliamentary by-elections, and until 12 p.m. on the 3rd day after the day of voting in Hungary in the event of the first round of parliamentary by-elections.

(3) If the ballot-box does not arrive at the National Election Office until the time determined in paragraph (2), the ballots therein shall not be taken into consideration when determining the result, the ballot-box shall be stored without being opened, and both the ballot-box and its contents shall be annihilated 90 days after the election.
§ 185 (1) In national referendums the National Election Committee will open the ballot-boxes that have arrived on time.
(2) In parliamentary by-elections the National Election Office will open the ballot-boxes that have arrived on time, and will forward the voting documents containing the ballots cast at foreign representations, without opening the outside envelope, to the competent parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee. If the description of the parliamentary single mandate constituency is not indicated on the outside envelope containing the ballots cast at a foreign representation pursuant to paragraph (4) Article 183, the National Election Office will bundle the envelope, without opening it, separately and will record this fact in minutes.

Checking voting documents of foreign representations

§ 186 (1) In the event of national referendums, the National Election Committee will check the outside envelope and the statement on voting that have been received from the foreign representation, without opening the envelope that contains the ballot, on the basis of the data of the register at foreign representations, in order to ascertain whether the ballot has been cast by a person entitled to do so.
(2) In parliamentary by-elections, the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee will carry out the task set forth in paragraph (1)
a) on the day of voting in Hungary, in the first round of the election,
b) immediately after the voting documents have arrived, in the second round of the election.
(3) The voting documents shall be invalid if
a) the voter is not included in the register at the foreign representation,
b) the voter has not signed the outside envelope, and the envelope has not been sealed or is damaged,
c) the statement on voting or the inside envelope containing the ballot is missing from the envelope,
d) the inside envelope has not been sealed,
e) the statement does not contain the voter's details or signature,
f) the voter's details indicated on the statement differ from the details indicated in the register at foreign representations,
g) the statement does not contain the authentication of the election office.
(4) If the voting document is invalid pursuant to paragraph (3), the reason for this shall be indicated on the outside envelope, and the contents of the outside envelope shall be placed in the outside envelope again, without opening the inside envelope that contains the ballot. These envelopes shall be bundled separately, and shall be stored at a safe place in the election office until they are annihilated.
(5) If the voting document is not invalid pursuant to paragraph (3), the inside envelope that contains the ballot shall be stored, without opening it, by the election

committee pursuant to paragraph (1), or (2) until all outside envelopes have been opened. The statement on voting shall be bundled separately.

Counting ballots cast at foreign representations and determining the result in parliamentary by-elections

§ 187 (1) The parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee will place the inside envelopes set forth in paragraph (5) Article 186 that contain the foreign representation ballots, without opening them, into a transport envelope, on which the number of the envelopes placed into it shall be indicated. The transport envelope shall be authenticated by the members of the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee by signing it, and by the head of the committee affixing a stamp to it. The parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee shall record the number of the inside envelopes in separate minutes. The transport envelope and one copy of the minutes shall be handed over to the head of the ballot counting committee of the electoral district located at the centre of the parliamentary single mandate constituency, assigned by the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee.
(2) The ballot counting committee set forth in paragraph (1) will mix the envelopes that contain the foreign representation ballots, without opening them, with the envelopes that contain the ballots cast at the electoral district.
§ 188 (1) In the second round of the election, the ballot counting committee set forth in paragraph (1) Article 187 will after closing voting seal the ballot-box in such a manner so as to ensure that no ballot-paper can be either put into or taken out of it. The ballot counting will hand over the ballot-box to the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee, which arranges for its safe storage.
(2) The parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee will on the 6th day following the voting in Hungary hand over the ballot-box and the envelopes that contain the ballot-papers set forth in paragraph (5) Article 186 as determined in paragraph (1) Article 187 to the ballot counting committee set forth in paragraph (1) Article 187, which will immediately carry out the tasks determined in paragraph (2) Article 187 and in Chapter IX, except for Article 76.
§ 189 (1) The electoral district minutes shall be forwarded to the parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee.
(2) The parliamentary single mandate constituency election committee will immediately aggregate the ballots on the basis of the minutes of the ballot counting committees, and will determine the electoral district result of the election, as well as recording it in minutes. One copy of the minutes shall be forwarded to the National Election Committee.

Counting ballots cast at foreign representations and determining the result in national referendums

§ 190 (1) The ballots cast at foreign representations will be counted by the National Election Committee. The result of voting at foreign representations will be determined by the National Election Committee in aggregate minutes.
(2) The National Election Committee will determine the result of the referendum on the basis of the minutes made out by ballot counting committees and the minutes

made out on the result of voting at the foreign representation, but at the latest on the 6th day following the voting.

Legal remedy

§ 191 (1) Anyone who has been entered in the register at foreign representations or whose inclusion in the register at foreign representations has been rejected, may lodge a reserve with the head of the local election office in three days from receipt of the notice thereon.
(2) Reserves lodged because of omission from the register or inclusion in the register or the rejection thereof will be decided by the head of the local election office the latest on the day following the date the reserve is received. If he sustains the reserve, he will modify the register or the register at foreign representations. If the head of the local election office does not sustain the reserve, he will send the reserve to the local court, in Budapest to the Pest Central District Court, at the latest on the day following the date it is received.
(3) If the court finds the reserve to be well-founded, it will order the modification of the register or the register at foreign representations.
§ 192 Reserves against the decision of the election committee related to the approval of the data content of ballot papers shall be lodged in such a manner so as to ensure that it can be received by the election committee having made the decision found injurious at the latest on the day following the election committee's decision. The election committee entitled to adjudge the reserve or the court will decide the reserve at the latest on the day it is received.
§ 193 (1) Complaints against the activity of the election committee at a foreign representation shall be submitted to the National Election Committee. The complaint may be submitted also to the election office at the foreign representation; in this case the election office at the foreign representation will immediately forward the complaint to the National Election Committee.
(2) Reserves against the activity of the election offices at foreign representations will be decided by the National Election Committee.