



**CEC**

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION  
OF GEORGIA

**A QUICK GUIDE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS  
OF GEORGIA,  
8 OCTOBER 2016**

## **1. What is the Electoral System for the Parliamentary Elections in Georgia?**

Election system for the 150-member parliament is mixed, where 77 members are elected proportionally through one nationwide constituency and 73 through single mandate majoritarian constituencies.

## **2. When the October 8 Parliamentary Elections were appointed?**

The President's ordinance setting October 8 as the date of the parliamentary elections, issued on June 3, serves as a basis for holding the 2016 Parliamentary Elections. On June 8, 2016 the election campaign has been formally launched and the norms regulating the rules for carrying out election campaign have been enacted.

## **3. Which is the body responsible for holding elections?**

Election Administration is authorized body to administer elections throughout Georgia.

## **4. How many election districts are set up for the Parliamentary Elections?**

73 election districts are set for the parliamentary elections. District Election Commissions (DEC) are administering elections at each district.

## **5. How many polling stations are set up for the Elections?**

2016 Parliamentary Elections will be held at 3 634 election precincts. In order to ensure universal suffrage of Georgian citizens serving in armed forces dislocated abroad and their participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections, to be conducted through proportional election system, two election precincts are established in Afghanistan, namely №1 Bagram and №2 Mazar Sharif. In addition, 57 election precincts are created abroad, which enables Georgian citizens being on consular registry to participate in the 8 October Parliamentary Elections.

## **6. What is the composition of the election commissions?**

The Election Administration consists of three-tiered election commissions: Central Election Commission of Georgia (CEC), District Election Commission (DEC), Precinct Election Commission (PEC). Each election commission is composed of 13 members.

Out of the CEC 13 member 7 are appointed by the political parties, who qualify for state funding and five members are elected by the parliament from nominees proposed by the president with additional procedures instituted to select the CEC chairperson. At DEC level the CEC elects five permanent members, while, during the election period, qualified parties appoint seven members and the CEC elects one. At PEC level the upper election commission elects six members and qualified parties appoint seven members.

## **7. What is the total number of voters?**

As of August 12, 2016 the total number of voters amounts to 3, 510, 514.

## **8. What is the average number of voters per election district?**

A number of voters in each election districts vary from 41 364 in the smallest one to 53 480 in the largest one.

## **9. Which body is responsible for the formation of voters' list?**

CEC is responsible for compiling voter lists based on data provided four times in a year by the relevant authorities, primarily the Justice Ministry's Public Service Development Agency. CEC is processing the data for the election purpose and release it broken down by districts and precincts.

## **10. Who can vote?**

Any citizen of Georgia, having attained the age of 18 prior to or on the day of the election.

## **11. Who can run for elections?**

Any citizen of Georgia with the right to suffrage, who has attained the age of 21 and speaks Georgian, may be elected as a Member of Parliament of Georgia.

## **12. How many election subjects are registered for the elections?**

For the upcoming parliamentary elections 27 election subjects are registered at the CEC, including 5 election blocs. During the registration process 64 political unions applied the CEC for registration. In total 37 political parties were registered. 15 political parties were united in 5 election blocs. 20 political parties were rejected to be registered and the registration of 7 political parties was annulled.

Along with the political parties, 57 initiative groups and 57 majoritarian candidates, nominated by the initiative groups are registered at the appropriate election districts. In total, 84 initiative groups applied to the relevant DEC for the registration. 27 initiative groups are removed from the registration. As of now, 778 majoritarian candidates nominated by political parties are registered at the relevant election districts.

## **13. When is the deadline for submission of party lists?**

Not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day before the election day – 8 September was the deadline for all election subjects to submit their list of candidates for the proportional and majoritarian contest.

## **14. Who can observe the elections?**

Parliamentary elections held in Georgia can be observed by the registered representatives of local, international, as well as election subject agents. Media organizations accredited at the election administration cover the elections.

## **15. What are the rules and terms of registration for international observers?**

To be registered, the international organization shall submit an application letter to the CEC requesting registration of the organization as an observer for the 2016 Parliamentary Elections of Georgia no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the polling day (October 1, until 18:00). After the CEC grants the organization the status of the observer it should submit the list of observers no later than 2 days before the polling day (October 6 – until 18.00). The detailed information about the registration and the rights of observers can be found on the following [LINK](#).

## **16. How the accessibility of elections is ensured for the PWD / what are the services provided for PWD?**

As of now, out of 3 634 election precincts 1 115 are accessible for the persons with disabilities. The number of adapted election precincts might be increased by October 8. The following services are available for the persons with disabilities during the E-day:

- Magnifying sheets at all election precincts for voters with vision impairments;
- Special ballot booths at the identified election precincts for the voters using wheelchairs;
- Poster about the voting procedures for the voter with hearing impairments;
- Assistance of any person to the voter who is unable to fill out a ballot paper independently in the secret ballot booth, except the persons defined by the election legislation.

## **17. How the participation of ethnic minorities is ensured in the upcoming elections?**

The CEC brand new website enables Azerbaijani and Armenian voters in the regions densely populated with ethnic minorities to verify their personal data in the unified list of voters on ethnic minority languages and see in which election precinct they are registered.

During E-day, for the Azerbaijani and Armenian voters in the regions densely populated with ethnic minorities the following documents are available in Georgian-Armenian, Georgian –Azerbaijani and Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani languages:

- Ballot papers;
- Posters reflecting polling station premises and polling procedures;
- Rules for filling out the ballot papers;
- Unified voters' lists, table version and version for publishing at the polling stations.

## **18. What is the gender equality policy of the CEC for the Parliamentary Elections?**

CEC's Gender Equality Council in close cooperation with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has developed "Gender Equality Policy of Election Administration". The main goals and objectives of the document include:

- Strengthen the CEC's organizational capacity to establish gender equality and promote the empowerment of women in the electoral processes
- Establish gender equality practices and policies at the Election Administration
- Develop programming in cooperation with electoral stakeholders to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in the electoral process.

CEC intends to continue the established practice and to produce gender disaggregated statistics of the voter turnout, election candidates, elected officials and election commissioners as well for the forthcoming elections.

## **19. Who is responsible for media monitoring?**

Georgian National Communications Commission ensures monitoring of the media and observance of norms established by the Election Code and gives an appropriate response to the violations.

## **20. Who is responsible for financial monitoring?**

The State Audit Office (SAO) is in charge of monitoring of political party finances and election expenditures.

## **21. Who is responsible for depicting and preventing misuse of administrative resources?**

CEC Chairperson, as well as the persons authorized by the CEC and respective DEC's (officials) can draw up a protocol of administrative offences related to the facts of misuse of administrative resources. Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) created according to the election code also serves as a platform for discussing election related issues, such as participation in pre-election agitation and possible facts of misuse of administrative resources. IATF issues recommendations with this respect.

## **22. What is the usual voting process?**

Each voter while entering the polling place goes through the identity documents and inking verification procedure. At the registration desk voter presents the identity documents (in the case of IDPs from the occupied territories of Georgia – also an IDP certificate). A registrar checks the data. If the match is verified, the registrar inks the voter and signs in a respective box in the list of voters, after which the voter will confirm the receipt of ballot paper(s) by his/her signature. Afterwards, the voter goes to

the secret polling booth and marks the number corresponding the desired election subject. After leaving the ballot booth, the voter receives a special envelope, puts the folded ballot paper into the envelope and places the special envelope into the ballot box. The voting takes place from 8 am to 8 pm.

### **23. What is the CEC schedule on E-day?**

During the E-day, the CEC holds several news briefings to ensure that voters and all electoral stakeholders have sufficient information about the ongoing voting process.

The CEC information center (2 51 00 51) can be reached during the whole polling process and online chat and an online operator is available at the CEC web-page [www.cesko.ge](http://www.cesko.ge)

After the polling stations are closed at 20:00pm, as the vote counting process is finished, the CEC receives the summary protocols and publishes the preliminary election results on its official web-page.

### **24. How are the preliminary election results announced?**

Since the polling stations are closed, vote counting starts at PECs. All PEC summary protocols are submitted to the respective DEC. The Election Administration uses special software – “Election Process Management Systems” (EPMS) for transferring the election results to the CEC. The PEC Summary protocols are uploaded in the EPMS software at DEC level. Once the PEC summary protocols are available, they are posted on the CEC web-page [results.cec.gov.ge](http://results.cec.gov.ge) and the CEC starts announcing the preliminary election results.

### **25. How are the second rounds of elections appointed?**

If no MP of Georgia is elected in the first round of election held through a majoritarian electoral system, the CEC shall call second round of elections along with summarizing the first round results. The second round of elections shall be held no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day after the first round. The two candidates having the best results in the first round shall run in the second round of the election.

### **26. What is the procedure of Election Dispute Resolution?**

Violation of the electoral legislation of Georgia may be appealed to the respective election commission. The decision of an election commission may be appealed only to a higher election commission or to the court.

Decisions of PEC/head of PEC may be appealed to the relevant DEC. The DEC decisions regarding the complaints on PEC decisions is subject to appeal to the relevant district/city court. The decision of the district/city court in this respect can be appealed to the Court of Appeals and the ruling of the Court of Appeals is final.

Decisions of DEC/DEC head officers may be appealed to the CEC.

The decision of the CEC/CEC head officers may be appealed to the Tbilisi City Court. The final instance of the appeal for the election disputes is the Court of Appeals.

The CEC publishes detailed information on the submitted election disputes at the official web-page. Please see the detailed information at the [Appeals Registry](#).

### **27. When are the final results of the parliamentary elections published?**

The CEC, based on protocols received from DECs, PECs and on final court decisions, summarizes at its session the results of the elections for the Parliament of Georgia not later than on the 19<sup>th</sup> day after the E-day. In case the second rounds are appointed, the CEC summarizes the final results not later than on the 19<sup>th</sup> day after the second round.