Election Administration of Georgia

The Central Election Commission of Georgia

Decree No 38/2020

On Establishing Certain Election Measures and Sanitary and Hygiene Requirements for the
Polling Day of the 31 October 2020 Regular Parliamentary Elections of Georgia / By-
Elections of the Municipality Representative Body Sakrebulo / Extraordinary Elections of
Mayors for the Purpose of Preventing the Spread of Infection Caused by the Novel
Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) (COVID-19)

Tbilisi 18 September 2020

On the basis of Articles 30(2)(s), 77(5) and 199(5)(b)(c) of the Organic Law of Georgia the
Election Code of Georgia, the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia establishes that:

Article 1. The following sanitary and hygiene requirements shall be observed by the PECs when
entering / exiting polling stations and staying / moving in polling stations:

a) a disinfection barrier (collective protection means) shall be placed at the entrance of a polling
station;

b) a hand treatment solution containing at least 70% alcohol required for hand disinfection shall
be placed at the entrance of a polling station;

c) information on preventive measures against the spread of the virus shall be posted in a visible
place in a PEC building;

d) a person entitled to be present in a polling station shall not be admitted to the polling station
without a face mask and treating of the hands with the disinfectant solution;

e) a person entitled to be present in a polling station shall not be admitted to the polling station
without the check of temperature, except for voters;
f) proper handling, cleaning / disinfection of frequently touched surfaces (including door handles, desks, etc.) in a polling station shall be ensured every three hours, and according to the level of contamination;

g) a sealed container for disposable wipes or other hygienic waste used by all persons entitled to be present in a polling station shall be placed in the polling station; a disposable plastic bag shall be put in the sealed container. The disposable plastic bag shall be removed and disposed of using disposable gloves, and the timely removal of such waste shall be ensured by a cleaner;

h) a container for pens used by voters shall be placed in a polling station, in which a voter shall place the pen used by him/her after voting;

i) secret ballot booths shall be arranged as follows: a ballot booth, the entrance for a voter, shall be left open on one side and the open side should be directed towards the wall of the polling station in such a way as not to violate the principle of secrecy of the ballot;

j) precinct election commission members shall be provided with face masks, protective face shields and disposable gloves;

k) voters shall be provided with a pen for individual use. When issuing the ballot paper the member of the Commission who is a registrar of voters shall indicate to a voter that the receipt of the ballot paper shall be verified by his/her signature on the unified list of voters with a pen placed on the registrar's desk and the same pen shall be used to fill in the ballot paper in the secret ballot booth. After voting, the voter shall place the pen in a special container for pens;

l) the member of the Commission regulating the flow of voters shall:

1.a) ensure the keeping of safe distance between voters (if possible);

1.b) monitor the number of voters standing at the registration desk designated for voters;

1.c) not allow more than two voters to be present at the registration table, otherwise temporarily suspend the entry of the next voter into the voting room;

1.d) instruct voters to go to the registration desks designated for the alphabetical letter corresponding to the first letters of their surnames enlisted in the list of voters.

m) after placing the special envelope in the ballot box, when a voter leaves the polling station, the exit should be provided with means for the treatment of hands with disinfectant solution;

n) the precinct election commission members transporting the mobile ballot box and the observers, during the voting through the mobile ballot box, shall be equipped with and use a face mask, face shield, disposable gloves and hand disinfectant solution.

o) the counting officers shall be placed at tables so that they do not face each other;
p) other persons entitled to be present in the polling station shall take their places two meters away from the table (counting officers) in such a way that they can observe the process of counting and sorting ballot papers;
q) periodically, several times a day, natural ventilation of polling stations shall take place;
r) on polling day, polling stations shall be provided with cleaners who must be equipped with personal protective equipment:
  r.a) disposable medical masks
  r.b) special / thick gloves (multiple use);
  r.c) face protective shields;
  r.d) prior to the opening of the polling station and the completion of summarising polling results, the polling station shall be cleaned and treated with a disinfection solution.

**Article 2 - Thermal screening**

1. Thermal screening (temperature measurement) of persons entering a polling station shall be carried out at the entrance of the polling station to check the health status of the entering persons.

2. In the case of fever - 37 °C or more than 37 °C, a person shall be subject to temperature recheck (at 5-minute intervals). In the case the person has fever after the repeated measurement, the person shall not be admitted to the polling station.

3. In the case of fever after the repeated control in the polling station on the polling day, the person entitled to be present in the polling station shall leave the polling station. If such person does not voluntarily comply with the instruction to leave the polling station, the Precinct Election Commission shall make a decision on expelling such person from the polling station in accordance with procedures established by the Organic Law of Georgia the Election Code of Georgia.

4. Cases of fever shall be recorded in the PEC registration journal.

5. Thermal screening in the polling station shall be provided by a person authorised by the chairperson of the relevant precinct election commission.

6. This article shall not apply to voters.

**Article 3 - The requirement of using face masks**

1. A person entitled to be present in the polling station shall not be admitted to the polling station without a face mask, and the presence of the person in the polling station shall be allowed only with the use of the face mask.
2. Voters are obliged to temporarily remove the face masks only:
   a) when presenting an ID card of a citizen of Georgia or Passport of citizen of Georgia to a
      member of the commission regulating the movement of voters in the polling station; and a member
      of the commission regulating the movement of voters in the polling station is obliged not to admit
      voters to the polling station without removing the face masks. If a voter does not remove the face
      mask, he / she will not be admitted to the polling station;
   b) during the verification by the member of the commission who is a registrar of voters of the
      voter registration data mentioned in the ID card of the citizen of Georgia or in Passport of citizen of
      Georgia; and a member of the Commission who is a registrar of voters is obliged not to issue a ballot
      paper to a voter if he/she does not remove the face mask. If the voter does not remove the face mask,
      he / she will not be issued a ballot paper (s).

3. The use of a face mask shall not be required for a person who has difficulty in wearing the
   face mask due to a health condition (including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchial
   asthma, cardiovascular disease with respiratory failure, autism spectrum disorder and / or
   developmental abnormality or defect), which shall be confirmed by a medical / doctor's certificate;

4. In the cases provided for by paragraph 3 of this article, it shall not be necessary to obtain a
   new doctor’s certificate for the purposes of this Decree, if there is already any document confirming
   these diseases (including an extract from a medical and social examination act, a certificate on health
   status Form No IV-100, etc).

5. A person is obliged to follow the rule of wearing a face mask determined by this Decree. Otherwise he/she shall be subject to warning. If, despite the warning, the person continues to violate
   the rules of wearing a face mask determined by this Decree, the chairperson of the precinct election
   commission is obliged to instruct him / her to leave the polling station. If such person does not
   voluntarily comply with the instruction to leave the polling station, the precinct election commission
   shall make a decision on expelling him/her from the polling station in accordance with procedures
   established by the Organic Law of Georgia the Election Code of Georgia.

6. Information on a person violating the rules of wearing a face mask shall be recorded in the
   registration journal of the precinct election commission.

**Article 4 - Replacing by another person**

1. If a member of the precinct election commission appointed by a party authorised by the
   Organic Law of Georgia Election Code of Georgia is not admitted to a polling station or leaves the
polling station due to fever, the party shall have the right to immediately appoint another member of the precinct election commission.

2. If a representative of an electoral subject is not admitted to a polling station or he/she left the polling station due to fever, the nominating electoral subject shall have the right to immediately appoint another representative.

3. In the case provided for in paragraph 1 of this article, the chairperson of the precinct election commission shall immediately inform the superior district election commission on the fact that the member of the Commission has fever, and the district election commission shall inform the Central Election Commission of Georgia and the party appointing the member of the precinct election commission.

4. On the polling day, a member of the precinct election commission and a representative of the electoral subject appointed on the basis of this article shall be admitted to the polling station after verifying the information on the ID card or Passport of citizen of Georgia and the information on the appointment in the relevant electronic programme.

5. The issue of assigning a function to a member of a precinct election commission appointed on the basis of paragraph one of this article shall be decided by the chairperson of the precinct election commission.

Article 4

In accordance with Article 32(1)(a) of the Organic Law of Georgia – Election Code of Georgia, the special list of voters shall include, on the basis of this decree, the cleaners employed in the precinct election commissions who, due to their activities in the election commissions, are unable to participate in the elections on the polling day according to their place of registration.

*CEC Decree №46/2020 of 19 October 2020 – web-page, 20.10.2020*

Article 5. The Human Resources Management Department of the Central Election Commission of Georgia and the Department for Relations with Election Commissions shall be instructed to familiarise district and precinct election commissions with this Decree.

Article 6. LEPL Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Training Centre shall be instructed to take into account procedures and sanitary and hygiene rules provided for in this Decree in the training materials of the precinct election commissions.

Article 7. The chairpersons of the district and precinct election commissions shall be instructed in the respective precinct election commissions to control the implementation of this Decree.
Article 8. The Finance Department of the CEC shall be instructed to finance the measures necessary to enforce this Decree and to purchase the relevant inventory.

Article 9. This Decree may be appealed to the Administrative Cases Panel of the Tbilisi City Court (address: No 64 David Aghmashenebeli Alley, Tbilisi), within two calendar days after its adoption.

Article 10. This Decree shall enter into force upon its promulgation.

The Chairperson

of the Commission Tamar Zhvania

The Secretary

of the Commission Giorgi Javakhishvili