

THE ELECTORAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

February 11, 2000, No. 370-Z

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

(Extractions)

Article 2. Legal Basis of Electoral System, Referenda

The legal basis of the electoral system, referendum is made by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the present Code and other acts of legislation of the Republic of Belarus, Decisions of the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda (further referred to as the Central Commission).

Article 3. Main Principles of Holding Elections

Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be free and shall be held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Article 4. Universal Suffrage

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

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

Article 5. Free Elections

Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be free: a voter shall decide personally whether to take part in elections and for whom to vote.

Article 6. Equal Suffrage

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

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

Article 7. Direct Suffrage

Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, Deputies of the House of Representatives, Deputies of local Councils of Deputies shall be direct. The President of the Republic of Belarus shall be elected directly by the people of the Republic of Belarus. Deputies shall be elected by citizens directly.

Article 9. Secret Ballot

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

Article 11. Ensuring by Commissions of Holding the Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be ensured by commissions.

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

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

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

Article 13. Publicity at Preparing and Holding of Elections

The preparation and holding of elections shall be open and public.

The relevant commissions, representative, executive and regulatory bodies shall inform citizens about their work on preparation and holding of elections, about composition, location and time of work of the commissions, about lists of citizens eligible to vote, about candidates, results of voting, elections.

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

The observer is entitled to:

attend the meetings of the relevant commissions;

be present at sealing of ballot boxes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The observer is not entitled to:

be involved in propaganda in any form;

provide any informational, methodological, financial or other assistance to the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus;

put any obstacles in holding the voting;

undertake any actions violating secrecy of ballot;

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

fill in the ballot for a citizen under his request;

put any obstacle for normal work of commissions and holding of the voting;

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

interfere in the work of commissions.

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

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

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

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

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

Mass media shall cover preparation and holding of the elections according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus. Representatives of mass media are entitled to attend the meetings of commissions, to be present in voting premises.

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus are entitled to be present at election precincts by counting of the votes.

Interference of persons mentioned in part three of the present article in the work of the commissions shall be prohibited. Persons hindering the work of the commissions as well as voting shall be expelled from the sittings, from the voting premises.

Article 14. Constituency for Elections of President of the Republic of Belarus

Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be held within the united constituency comprising the whole territory of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 17. Election Precincts

For holding of voting and counting of votes at the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the territory of districts, cities, city districts shall be divided into election precincts.

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

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

Article 18. Procedure of Election Precincts Formation

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

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

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

Formation of the election precincts shall be carried out when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus as agreed with the relevant district, city, city district territorial commissions for the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have reached the age of 18 prior to or on the day of elections, referendum, voting on recall of a deputy and who

permanently or temporally reside in the territory of the election precinct and eligible to vote shall be included in the list of citizens eligible to vote.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The House of Representatives shall:

- 1) appoint elections of the President of the Republic Belarus and determine organizational events to ensure their holding;
- 2) when considering the republican budget specify funds for holding of elections of the President of the Republic Belarus.

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

District, city (in regional cities) executive committees, local administrations in cities shall form election precincts and precinct commissions for holding the elections.

City, village, rural settlement executive committees, local administrations in cities, district executive committees in cities and urban-type settlements where city and rural settlement committees have not been formed shall ensure registration of citizens and shall render to precinct commissions the lists of citizens residing in the territory of the relevant election precincts and having the right to participate in elections.

District, city, rural settlement, village executive committees, local administrations in cities shall:

- 1) organise provision to commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus premises to place commissions and to hold voting as well as the required equipment, communication means, vehicles;
- 2) create conditions for holding meetings of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus; ensure free provision of the premises to them for these purposes as well as all necessary reference and information materials;
- 3) allot places for propaganda printed materials in the territory of election precincts;
- 4) determine places for holding by candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, their authorised persons of mass events (outdoor assemblies, meetings, picketing) for the purpose of electoral campaign.

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

- 2) form regional, Minsk city territorial commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus;

Presidiums of district, city councils of deputies and district, city (in regional cities) executive committees form district, city territorial commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Presidiums of city councils of deputies and district city executive committees shall form city district commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Local executive and regulatory as well as representative bodies shall have other powers determined by the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections.

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

Preparation and holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be ensured by the Central Commission as well as by election commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 26. Central Commission

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

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

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

Article 27. Commissions on Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Preparation and holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be ensured by the following election commissions:

territorial commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus – regional, Minsk city, district, city (in regional cities, except for district cities), district city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus; precinct commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

At appointing the elections of the President of Belarus the House of Representatives can make a decision not to form regional, Minsk city, district, city (in regional cities) commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and to impose exercise of their powers on the operating regional, Minsk city, district, city (in regional cities) territorial commissions.

Article 32. Procedure of Formation of the Central Commission

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- written application for abdication;
- cease of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;
- systematic failure to discharge one's duties;
- performance of actions discrediting the Central Commission;
- coming in force of judgment of guilt.

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

Article 32¹. Organization of Work of the Central Commission and Ensuring Its Activity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under the decision of the Central Commission the deputy Chairperson and members of the Commission within a period of preparation and holding of elections and republican referenda as well as in other cases determined by the present Code can be dispensed from their working (official) duties with payment of salaries as account allocated for preparation and holding of elections and republican referenda.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 33. Powers of the Central Commission

The Central Commission within its competence shall:

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

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

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

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

5) carry out management of the work of election commissions, commissions on referendum, commissions on holding of voting for recall of deputies, shall consider their information, render methodical and organizational-technical assistance to these commissions;

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

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

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

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

10) register:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14) control target use of financial means allocated from the republican budget, non-budgetary fund, electoral funds of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, for a deputy of the House of Representatives; inform the House of Representatives about expenditure of financial means allocated from the budget for holding of elections, a republican referendum, a recall of a deputy of the House of Representatives; publish its report on expenditure of the financial means of the non-budgetary fund;

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

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

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

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

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

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

21) tally the results of elections;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 33¹. Members of the Central Commission with the Consultative Capacity

Candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus is entitled from the day of his registration to send to the Central Commission a member of the Commission with the consultative capacity.

Term of powers of members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity sent by candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall begin from the day of receiving by the Central Commission of written notifications from the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus on sending members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity.

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

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, their authorized persons cannot be members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity.

Members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity are obliged to observe the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, to fulfill the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections, not to commit any actions discrediting the Central Commission or preventing it to work.

Members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity are entitled:

- to introduce to the agenda of sittings of the Central Commission the proposals on issues within its competence and to require voting on them;
- to speak at sittings of the Central Commission;
- to ask the participants of the sitting of the Central Commission questions according to the agenda and to get answers to them;
- to familiarize themselves with the documents and materials considered at the sitting of the Central Commission.

Members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity are not entitled: to participate in checks carried out by the Central Commission, in voting when decision is taken by the Commission;

to clarify and instruct, to make statements on behalf of the Central Commission.

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

- at his written application;

at application from the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus;

under decision of the Central Commission when the powers of the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus are terminated;

in case of cease of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

of actions discrediting the Central Commission are committed.

In case of early termination of the powers of members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity, the Central Commission shall annul the certificates issued to them.

The powers of members of the Central Commission with consultative capacity shall be terminated after the Central Commission establishes the results of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 34. Formation of Commissions on Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

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

regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus – by presidiums of regional, Minsk city councils of deputies and regional, Minsk city executive committees composed of 9-13 members of the commission; the mentioned commissions shall be formed no later than 80 days prior to the elections;

district, city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus – by presidiums of district, city councils of deputies and district, city executive committees, and district city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus – by presidiums of city council of deputies and city executive committees composed of 9-13 members of the commission; the mentioned commissions shall be formed no later than 80 days prior to the elections;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decision on formation of commissions within seven days after it has been made shall be published in press. Decision on formation of rural settlement, village territorial commissions within the same period can be called to citizens' notice in another way. Last name, first name, middle name of each member of the commission, the way of his nomination to the composition of the commission, his location and telephone numbers of the commission shall be indicated in the decision.

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

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

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

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

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

governing bodies of city (in district cities) of organizational structures of political parties, other public associations, assemblies of their primary organizations –

into the relevant city (district cities), rural settlement, village territorial and precinct commissions. The primary organization of a political party, other public association is entitled to nominate its representative into the precinct commission of that election precinct where the primary organization is located;

assemblies of labour collectives or collectives of their structural divisions comprising no less than 10 workers in the territory of a district, city, rural settlement, village – into the relevant territorial and precinct commissions. When nominating their representatives into composition of commissions from collectives of structural divisions of an organization, nomination into composition of the commissions from the whole labour collective of the organization shall not be carried out. The assembly shall be legitimate if in its work more than a half of the whole collective participates. The decision of the labour collective assembly of an organization shall be taken by a majority vote of its participants. Representatives into the composition of territorial and precinct commissions can be nominated from collectives of several structural divisions or several labour collectives of organizations and collectives of structural divisions with the total number of employees of no less than 10 persons at their common assembly. The assembly shall be legitimate if more than a half of its composition is present from each collective.

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

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

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

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

Article 37. Organization of Work of Territorial and Precinct Commissions

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

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

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

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

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

A member of the commission is entitled:

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

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

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

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

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

A member of the commission is obliged:

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

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

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

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

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

Under the decision taken by the commission its individual members can be relieved within the period of preparation and holding of elections from their working

(official) duties with paying their average salary at account of financial means allocated for holding of elections.

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

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

Article 38. Assistance to Commissions in Exercising Their Powers

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

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

Article 39. Powers of Regional, Minsk City Commissions on Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

1) organize holding of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and carry out control over observance of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections in the territory of a region, the city of Minsk;

2) administer the activities of district, city, district city and precinct commissions;

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

4) control composing of lists of citizens having the right to participate in elections, and presenting them for familiarization;

5) manage financial means allocated for preparation and holding of elections; distribute part of them among lower commissions on holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and carry out control over the target use of the allocated finances; control provision of the commissions with premises, vehicles, communication means, consider other issues of material and technical and organizational provision of the elections;

6) consider applications and appeals against decisions and actions of lower commissions and take decision thereabout.

Regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, except for powers provided by part one of the present article, when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

1) carry out control over observance by initiative group of citizens for nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus of the requirements of the present Code when collecting signatures and ensure reliability of the data about the number of such signatures;

2) compose on the basis of protocols of district, city, district city commissions on the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus the protocols on establishing the number of citizens that have put their signatures to support proposals on nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus in the region, the city of Minsk and sent them to the Central Commission.

Regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the president of the Republic of Belarus, except for the powers provided by part one of the present article, when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

2) establish the results of the voting of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus in a region, in the city of Minsk and inform the Central Commission about them.

Regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, except for the powers provided in part one of the present article, when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall carry out control over observance of equal legal conditions of electoral activities of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The mentioned in the article commissions shall enjoy other powers according to the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus.

The powers of regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall terminate after official publication of the results of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 40. Powers of District, City Commissions on Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

District, city (in regional cities) commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

1) organize holding of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and carry out control over observance of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections in the territory of a district, city;

2) administer the activities of precinct commissions;

3) establish the common numeration of election precincts in a district, city;

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

5) control composing of lists of citizens having the right to participate in elections, and presenting them for familiarization;

6) manage financial means allocated for preparation and holding of elections; distribute part of them among lower commissions on holding of elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and carry out control over the target use of the

allocated finances; control provision of the commissions with premises, vehicles, communication means, consider other issues of material and technical and organizational provision of the elections;

7) consider applications and appeals against decisions and actions of lower commissions and take decision thereabout.

District, city (in regional cities) commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, except for the powers provided in part one of the present article, when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

1) carry out control over observance by initiative group of citizens for nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus of the requirements of the present Code when collecting signatures and ensure reliability of the data about the number of such signatures;

2) tally the results in a district, city about the number of citizens who have put their signatures to support a proposal on nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, compose protocols thereabout and immediately send them to the regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

District, city (in regional cities) commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, except for the powers provided in part one of the present article, when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

1) provide precinct commissions with ballots for the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus;

2) establish the results of the voting of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus in a district, city and inform the regional, Minsk city commissions thereabout.

District, city (in regional cities) commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, except for the powers provided in part one of the present article, when holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall carry out control over observance of equal legal conditions of electoral activities of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The mentioned in the article commissions shall enjoy other powers according to the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus.

The powers of district, city, district city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall terminate after official publication of the results of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 44. Powers of Precinct Commission on Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Precinct commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9) organize voting on the elections day;

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

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

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

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

The powers of precinct commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall terminate after completing the elections in the territory of the election precinct.

Article 45. Electoral Propaganda

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, political parties, other public associations, labour collectives, authorized persons of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, initiative groups conducting propaganda for election of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, shall be provided with the right to free and comprehensive discussion of electoral programmes of the

candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, their political, business and personal qualities and traits, to holding propaganda for or against the candidate at assemblies, meetings, in mass media as well as during meetings with voters.

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

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

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

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

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, their authorized persons within the procedure determined by article 45¹ of the present Code can hold mass events (outdoor assemblies, meetings, picketing) as to carry out electoral propaganda.

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

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall have the right to manufacture election posters, slogans, statements, inscriptions, leaflets, photo materials (hereinafter referred to as posters). To pay for manufacturing of posters of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus the financial means in the amount of 2 300 basic values shall be provided. Propaganda printed materials shall contain the following data: name and address of the organization (the individual entrepreneur) who produced these printed materials, license number for printing activity and date of its issue, number of copies and number of its order. Distribution of anonymous propaganda printed materials is prohibited.

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 45¹. Holding of Mass Events Organized by Candidates
for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus,
Their Authorized Persons**

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

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

Ensuring public order and safety of citizens when holding a mass event shall be imposed on the local executive and regulatory body and internal affairs bodies.

Candidates, their authorized persons are obliged to contribute to ensuring public order.

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

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

development of danger for life and health of citizens.

Article 46. Use of Mass Media in Electoral Campaign

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall use on the basis of equal rights the state mass media from the time of registration of the candidates.

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

The candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall have the right to publish free of charge in mass media mentioned in part two of the present article his electoral programme in volume of up to five printed pages, having presented the text of the indicated programme no later than 20 days prior to the elections.

The list of mass media where electoral programmes of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be published free of charge shall be determined by the Central Commission.

When publishing the electoral programmes of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus the order of their submission shall be observed.

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

The order and number of statements by the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus on television as well as on the radio shall be determined by the Central Commission. The statements of candidates shall be ensured on equal conditions .

The Central Commission shall reserve a part of the limit time as to hold debates of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus. The debates shall be held upon agreement of the candidates. The candidate is entitled to authorize an authorized person to participate in the debates. Failure to participate

in the debates shall not result in increase of broadcasting time provided to the candidate for free.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 48. Expenditures for Preparation and Holding of Elections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 48¹. Electoral Funds of Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

The candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus are entitled to establish their own electoral funds to finance additional electoral campaign expenditures.

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

- 1) candidates' own cash resources which shall not exceed 50 base values during the holding of the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus;
- 2) voluntary donations of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus. The limit of the citizen's donation shall not exceed 10 base values during the holding of the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus;
- 3) voluntary donations of legal entities. The limit of the donation from a legal entity shall not exceed 30 base values during the holding of the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The maximum sum of all the expenditures from the electoral fund of any candidate shall not exceed 3,000 base values during the holding of the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

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

- 1) foreign states and organizations;
- 2) foreign nationals and stateless persons;
- 3) international agencies;
- 4) organizations with foreign investments;
- 4¹) organizations if, during a year preceding the day of the donation they received the foreign gratuitous assistance from foreign states, foreign organizations, international organizations, foreign nationals and stateless persons as well as anonymous donators if the foreign gratuitous assistance received by these organizations was not returned by them to the foreign states, foreign organizations, international organizations, foreign nationals and stateless persons which gave them this foreign gratuitous assistance or if this foreign gratuitous assistance was not transferred to the budget of the state before the day of the donation to the electoral funds because it was impossible to return it;
- 5) citizens of the Republic of Belarus under the age of 18;
- 6) bodies of state administration and bodies of local self-government;
- 7) organizations which are fully or partially financed from the budget;
- 7¹) organizations registered under the established procedure registered less than a year before the day of the donation;

- 8) charity and religious organizations;
- 9) anonymous donators.

To establish his own electoral fund the candidate for President of the Republic of Belarus shall open a special electoral account in a branch of the open joint stock company “Belarusbank Savings Bank.” An application of the candidate and a copy of the decision of the Central Commission on the registration of the candidate shall be the grounds for opening the account.

The candidate is entitled to appointing his representative on financial matters. The registration of the candidate’s representative on financial matters shall be made by the Central Commission following an application from the candidate. The candidate’s representative on financial matters is entitled to open a special electoral account, to command the funds available on this account, and to submit reports on the receipt to the account and expenditures. The candidate is entitled to recall his representative on financial matters at any time after having accordingly informed the Central Commission and the branch of the bank where the candidate has opened a special electoral account.

The candidate is entitled to open only one special electoral account. The procedure for opening the account, performing transactions through the account, and closing the account shall be determined by the Central Commission with the concurrence of the open joint stock society “Belarusbank Savings Bank.” No payment shall be exacted for the services of the bank in opening the account and performing transactions through the account. The bank shall pay no interests for using the cash resources deposited into the special electoral account. The Central Commission shall report in the mass media on the opening of special electoral accounts of the candidates for President of the Republic of Belarus.

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

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

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

- 1) on-air broadcasting time and printing space in the mass media;
- 2) leasing of buildings and premises, equipment, transport expenditures, communication service;
- 3) propagandistic printing materials;
- 4) consultation and propagandistic work (services);
- 5) stationary items and other expenditures directly related to the pre-election campaign.

The candidate is entitled to return to the donator any donation into the electoral fund with the exception of the donations made by anonymous donators. In case the voluntary donation into the electoral fund has been made by a donator who is not

entitled to such a donation or in case the size of the donation exceeds the value stipulated by part two of this Article, the candidate must, within seven days from the receipt of the donation to the special electoral account, return this donation to the donator either fully or the part of it which exceeds the maximum size of the donation explaining herewith the reason for this return.

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

The branch of the bank in which the special electoral account has been opened shall, on weekly basis, report to the commission that registered the candidate the data on the receipt and spending of the funds put down to the account of the respective candidate for President of the Republic of Belarus. The respective commission, within two days after receiving the data, shall forward to the mass media the information to be published on the total sum of the money receipts to the electoral fund and on the total sum of expenditures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Persons hindering by means of violence, threats, cheating, bribery or in any other way the citizen of the Republic of Belarus from his right to participate or not to participate in elections, to elect and to be elected the President of the Republic of Belarus, to hold electoral propaganda, involved in propaganda on the elections day as well as members of commissions, officials of state bodies and public associations and other persons who have committed forgery of documents on elections, knowingly wrong vote counting or other distortion of the results of voting, who have violated secrecy of ballot, who have failed to submit the necessary documents to the commissions, or have failed to fulfill their decisions, or who have used financial means and material resources for preparation and holding of elections illegally, or who have made other violations of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus on elections shall be liable therefore in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Persons who have published or in other way disseminated knowingly false data discrediting a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall also be brought to responsibility.

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

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

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

office of the President of the Republic of Belarus or without prior notice shall revoke its decision on his registration.

If the limit of spending the amount of the electoral fund has been exceeded by a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus by more than 50 base values or if a candidate has used the same amount of financial means beside the finances of the electoral fund, the Central Commission can without prior notice revoke its decision on registration of the candidate.

Article 49¹. Procedure and Terms of Consideration of Appeals against Violations of the Legislation of the Republic of Belarus on Elections

Appeals against violations of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on elections that have been submitted to commissions, state bodies and other organizations shall be considered within three days from the day of their submission, and as for the appeals on the elections day – immediately. Appeals that contain the data requiring check shall be considered no later than within ten days from the day of their submission.

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

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

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

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

dismiss a complaint;

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

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

Article 50. Time and Location of Voting

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

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

Article 51. Organization of Voting at Election Precinct

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

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

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

Article 52. Holding of Voting at Election Precinct

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

be cancelled and the act thereabout shall be composed and signed by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson or a secretary or two members of the precinct commission.

Article 53. Early Voting at Elections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 54. Voting At Voter's Location During Elections

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

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

verbal and written requests from voters about organization of voting at their location on the elections day shall be put in a specially composed list signed by the chairperson or the secretary of the precinct commission where the data about these persons provided in the list of citizens having the right to participate in the elections shall be indicated. The official approval of reasons of the voter's lack of opportunity to come to the premises of voting shall not be required. Voters can address a request about organization of voting at their location on the election day at any time after formation of the precinct commission and on the elections day no later than two hours prior to termination of voting;

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

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

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

Article 55. Vote Counting at Election Precinct when Holding the Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

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

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

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

When electing the President of the Republic of Belarus the counting of votes at the election precinct shall be carried out separately for each candidate for the President's office.

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

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

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

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

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

In case of occurrence of doubts in reliability of the ballot the issue shall be resolved by the precinct commission by raising hands. By that on the reverse side of every ballot like that there shall be a note on recognition of this ballot either valid or rejected. This note shall be countersigned by no less than two persons composing the precinct commission. The rejected ballots shall be packed separately.

After completing the counting of votes the sitting of the precinct commission shall be held where the results of the counting of votes shall be established and put in the protocol. In the protocol beside the data determined in parts five and six of the present article the number of ballots received by the precinct commission, the number of spoilt ballots, the number of ballots not used shall be mentioned. Filling in the protocol with a pencil and introducing of any corrections shall not be admitted. The

protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, the deputy chairperson, the secretary and the members of the commission. At the sitting of the precinct commission special opinions if any as well as complaints and applications about violations by voting or by counting the votes shall be considered.

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

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

If the body that has formed the commission detects violations of the requirements of the present Code and other legislation acts of the Republic of Belarus committed during voting or counting of votes, it shall immediately inform the relevant higher election commission, commission on referendum or the Central Commission.

Статья 56. Calling of Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Presidential elections shall be called by the House of Representatives no later than five months and shall be held no later than two months prior to the expiration of the term of office of the previous President.

If the office of the President falls vacant, elections shall be held no sooner than 30 days and no later than 70 days from the day on which the office fell vacant. In this case the short-cut terms of holding the electoral events shall be determined by the Central Commission.

Announcement about the elections day shall be made public in mass media on the following day after calling the elections.

Article 57. Requirements to Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Any citizen of the Republic of Belarus by birth of at least 35 years of age who is eligible to vote and has been residing in the Republic of Belarus for at least ten years prior to the elections may be elected President.

Article 60. Right and Terms of Nominating Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be nominated by citizens of the Republic of Belarus provided the signatures of no less than 100 thousand voters have been collected.

Nomination of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall start 80 days prior to and shall end 50 days prior to the elections.

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

Article 61. Procedure of Nominating Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus by citizens shall be carried out by an initiative group of voters (hereinafter referred to as the initiative group) in the number of no less than 100 persons.

The list of members of the initiative group with indication of its head with the application on registration of the group shall be submitted to the Central Commission no later than 85 days prior to the elections by the person having an intention to be nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus. The list shall indicate the family name, first name and middle name, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership of the person proposed for nomination as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus as well as the family name, first name and middle name, date of birth, residence of each member of the group and its head. When submitting the documents to the Central Commission the person having intention to be nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, shows the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus. Copies of pages from the passport, confirming the data required for registration as a candidate for the office of the Presidents of the Republic of Belarus, shall be made in the Central Commission and certified by the signature of the person who has accepted the documents. The person having an intention to be nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, or a head of the initiative group is entitled to introduce changes in the documents submitted for registration of the initiative group before the Central Commission considers the issue on registration of the initiative group as well as to familiarize himself with the materials of verification of these documents.

The Central Commission shall consider within five days the application, register the initiative group and issue the members of the initiative group the relevant certificates and signature lists for collection of signatures of voters in support of the person proposed for nomination as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as a signature list). Registration of the initiative group may be rejected in case of violation of the requirements of the present Code. Rejection to register the initiative group may be appealed against within three days from the day of taking the decision on rejection to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus by the person having intention to be nominated as a candidate for

the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus shall consider the complaint within three days.

The signature list shall indicate the family name, first name and middle name, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership of the person proposed for nomination as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus as well as the family name, first name and middle name of the member of the initiative group who shall collect signatures, and the registration number of the initiative group.

Signatures of the voters residing in the territory of only one regional city, district or district cities – one district shall be on the list.

The voter shall have the right to sign in support of a person proposed for nomination as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus only once.

On the signature list as for the voter supporting a person proposed for nomination as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus the family name, first name, middle name, date of birth, residence, series and number of the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Belarus or requisites of other document determined by the Central Commission shall be indicated. The data about the voter shall be handwritten on the signature list. The voter shall genuinely put the date of signing and his signature on the signature list. The signatures shall be numerated.

Participation of administration of the organization in collection of signatures as well as enforcement during collection of signatures and rewarding of voters for putting their signatures shall not be allowed. Violation of these requirements may serve as the basis for rejection to register or revocation of the decision about registration of the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Collection of signatures may be carried out in the form of picketing. Acquisition of permission for holding the picketing for the mentioned purposes shall not be required if it is held in locations not prohibited by local executive and regulatory bodies.

The signature list shall be certified by the member of the initiative group who has been collecting signatures. When certifying the signature list the member of the initiative group shall put his signature and the date of its putting as well as indicate his family name and initials.

The voters who have nominated a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall have the right prior to depositing signature lists to district, city, district city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus to remove their signatures on the signature lists having submitted an application thereon to the indicated commissions.

The signature lists shall be deposited no later than 50 days prior the elections to the district, city, district city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus which shall within ten days verify reliability of signatures of voters on the signature lists given to the members of the initiative groups and shall ensure reliability of the data about the number of such signatures. No less than 20 percent of

voters' signatures on the signature lists submitted to the relevant commission shall be subject to verification.

According to the results of verification of reliability of the data on the signature lists a voter's signature can be recognized as reliable or not reliable.

The signatures of voters and the corresponding data thereabout which have been put on the signature lists but excluded (crossed off) by the member of the initiative group having collected the signatures shall not be subject to verification and registration prior to submission of the signature lists to the relevant commission if this exclusion has been specially mentioned in written form. The signatures of voters and the corresponding data thereabout shall neither be the subject to verification and registration if there are no data on the signature list about a person nominated as candidate.

If on the signature list having been submitted to district, city, city district commission there are signatures of the voters residing in the territory of different districts, regional cities, city districts, only signatures which have been collected in the territory of that district, city, city district where the commission that have been submitted the signature list to, was formed, shall be subject to verification and registration. Other signatures shall not be verified and registered.

The following signatures shall be considered unreliable:

fictitious signatures (executed on behalf of non-existing persons and presented as reliable);

signatures of voters executed on behalf of different people by one person or on behalf of one person by another person;

signatures of persons having no suffrage right;

signatures of persons who have indicated on the list the data that are contrary to fact;

signatures of voters collected prior to the terms of nomination of candidates;

signatures of persons if the information thereabout lacks one or several data required by the present Code;

signatures of persons if the data have been put on the signature list not in a handwritten way or with a pencil as well as the signatures where the dates of putting the signatures were put not directly by the voters;

all signatures of the voters on the signature list if they are collected by a person who is not a member of the initiative group or if the signature list is not certified by the member of the initiative group or is certified by another member of the initiative group who has not collected these signatures;

signatures of the voters which have been collected with violation of the requirements of part eight of the present article.

In case several signatures of the same voter in support of nomination of the same candidate are detected, only one signature shall be considered as reliable and all other signatures shall be considered unreliable.

If the number of unreliable signatures of voters detected during verification is more than 15 percent of the number of verified signatures, the additional verification of 15 more percent of signatures of voters from the number of signatures on signature

lists submitted to the relevant commission by a member (members) of the initiative group shall be carried out.

In case the total number of unreliable signatures of voters detected during verification exceeds 15 percent of the total number of verified signatures on the signature lists, further verification of signatures on the signature lists by the district, city, district city commission shall be stopped, and all the signatures of voters on the submitted lists shall not be taken into account when determining the results of collection of voters' signatures of voters in the district, city, city district.

Regional and Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus can also verify reliability of voters' signatures on the signature lists if required within five days.

On the basis of the protocols of district, city, district city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus on establishment of the number of voters who have put on the signature lists their signatures for nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, and the results of the verification of reliability of signatures carried out by a regional, Minsk city commission, the regional, Minsk city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall summarise the results over the region, the city of Minsk, shall draw up the protocol and immediately send it to the Central Commission.

Article 68. Registration of Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

Registration of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be carried out by the Central Commission.

Registration of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall start 35 days and terminate 25 days prior to the elections.

In individual cases the term of registration of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus can be prolonged under a reasoned decision of the Central Commission, but for no longer than five days.

A person nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus is entitled to familiarise himself with the materials of documents verification submitted for the registration.

Decision on the registration of the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be taken at submitting the following documents to the Central Commission prior to the beginning of the registration: protocols of regional, Minsk city commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus confirming the presence of at least 100 thousand signatures of citizens of the Republic of Belarus on nomination of the candidate for the President's office, an application of the candidate with his consent to be nominated as well as biographic data of the person nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, with indicated data determined by the Central Commission and declarations on income and property of a person nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, his/ her spouse and close relatives

who have come of age, residing with him/ her and sharing common household, filled in according to the form.

At submitting the data in the tax and property declaration having essential nature by a person nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, or other persons mentioned in part five of the present article, that do not correspond to reality, the Central Commission is entitled to reject its decision to register the candidate. The Central Commission shall provide comments on which data about income and property having the essential nature do not correspond to reality.

If in general in the Republic of Belarus more than 15 percent of the total number of verified signatures of voters on signature lists for nomination of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus are recognised as unreliable, the Central Commission shall reject registration of the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Any number of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus can be submitted for registration.

The Central Commission shall check up the conformity of the nomination procedure for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the requirements of the present Code and take a decision on registration of candidates for the President's office, or a motivated decision to reject registration. Decision of the commission to reject registration of the candidate shall be issued no later than on the following day after the decision taken.

The Central Commission within two days after registration shall issue to the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus the relevant certificates.

The decision of the Central Commission to reject registration as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus can be appealed against by a person nominated as a candidate for the President's office to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus within three days after the decision has been taken. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus shall consider the appeal within three days, its decision shall be final.

The powers of a person nominated as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus who is in composition of the Central Commission, territorial, precinct commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall deem to be terminated from the moment of his registration as a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The Central Commission no later than on the fourth day after registration of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall render a message to mass media for publication about the registration indicating family name, first name, middle name, date of birth, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership as well as the data about income and property to the extend determined by the Central Commission for each candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus or shall inform the voters about it in some other way. When holding the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus the

Central Commission shall also render to mass media for further publication all data about income and property of persons mentioned in part five of the present article.

Article 69. Withdrawal by Candidate for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

A candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus at any time prior to the elections day can withdraw his candidature submitting an application therefor to the Central Commission. In case of withdrawal by a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus of his candidature without a reasonable excuse, which shall be mentioned in the decision of the Commission, the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall compensate all expenses covered by the Central Commission for the candidate for the President's office including the expenses for electoral propaganda.

The decision of the Commission on recognition of withdrawal by a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus of his candidature without a reasonable excuse can be appealed against in a court.

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

In case of drop out of all candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus the repeat elections shall be held within the procedure determined by article 81 of the present Code.

Article 72. Ballot for Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

The text of the ballot for elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be approved by the Central Commission.

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

Publication of ballots for the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be ensured by the Central Commission.

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

The number of printed ballots cannot be less than the number of voters included in the lists of citizens having the right to participate in the elections of the

President of the Republic of Belarus. The number of reserve ballots shall not exceed 5 percent of the number of voters.

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

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

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

In case of drop out of a candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus on the eve of the elections and impossibility to print new ballots, the Central Commission shall assign to the precinct commissions to put a mark with ink or fountain-pen “dropped out” opposite the family name of the candidate who has dropped out. Thereabout there shall be a notice in the premises for voting and the voters shall be informed thereabout when issued the ballots.

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

Article 73. Equality of Rights and Liabilities of Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

All candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall have equal rights and bear equal liabilities.

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

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

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

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

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

holding of signatures collection, electoral propaganda during official trips.

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

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

Article 74. Right of Candidates for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus to Speak at Assemblies, Use Mass Media, Receive Information

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus from the time of their registration shall have the equal right to speak at electoral and other assemblies, sessions, sittings, in the press, on the state radio and on the state television. Violation of this right can be appealed against to the Central Commission.

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

Article 75. Electoral Programme of Candidate for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

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

If the requirements of the present article are violated, the Central Commission is entitled to cancel its decision on registration of the candidate.

Article 76. Authorized Persons of Candidate for the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus

A candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus can have up to 30 authorized persons.

The authorized persons shall help the candidate in holding his electoral campaign, hold propaganda for his being elected, represent the candidate's interests

in mutual relations with the state bodies, public associations, voters as well as in commissions.

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

A candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall have the right to recall at any time prior to the elections day his authorized persons having informed thereabout the Commission which shall cancel the certificates issued to them. The authorized person can at any time to abdicate.

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

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

Article 77. Exemption of Candidate for Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus from Working (Official) Duties for Participation in Electoral Events and Ensuring Their Activity

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

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus at their own application at the same time can be provided with a regular vacation.

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

Article 78. Establishing Results of Voting in Territorial Commissions

on Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

A district, city, district city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus on the basis of the protocols received from the precinct commissions and composed according to the requirements of article 55 of the present Code shall establish:

the total number of voters in the district, city, city district; the number of voters who have received the ballots; the number of voters who have participated in voting including the number of voters who have participated in early voting, the number of voters who have voted at their location and the number of voters who have taken part in voting on the election day in the premises of the election precinct;

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

the number of ballots recognized as rejected;

the number of ballots issued to the precinct commissions;

the number of spoilt ballots;

the number of ballots which have not been used.

A district, city, district city commission shall establish in its sitting the results of voting in the district, city, city district and shall draw up a protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and members of the commission and shall be immediately, but no later than in three days after completing the voting, transferred for information personally by the chairperson, or the deputy chairperson, or the secretary to the relevant regional, Minsk city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus and to the bodies which have formed the commission.

The regional, Minsk city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus on the basis of the protocols received from the relevant district, city, city district commissions shall establish:

the total number of voters in the region, in the city of Minsk;

the total number of voters who have received the ballots;

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

the number of votes given for each candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus and the number of votes given against all candidates (if voting was carried out for one candidate, - the number of votes given against the candidate);

the number of ballots recognized as rejected;

the number of ballots which have been issued to the relevant district, city, district city commissions;

the number of spoilt ballots;

the number of ballots which have not been used.

The regional, Minsk city commission shall establish at its sitting the results of voting in the region, the city of Minsk and shall draw up a protocol thereabout. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and members of the commission and shall immediately, but no later than in four days after completing the voting be transferred for information personally by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary of the commission to the Central Commission and to the bodies which have formed the regional, Minsk city commission on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Special opinions of the members of the commission, applications of the authorized persons of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus and other persons about violations of the requirements of the present Code and about the decisions thereon taken by the commission if there are any shall be attached to the protocols.

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

Article 79. Establishing and Publishing the Results of the Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus

The Central Commission shall establish, on the basis of the protocols of regional, Minsk City commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, no later than in 10 days after completing the voting at its sitting and introduce into the protocol the following data:

the total number of voters in the Republic of Belarus;

the number of voters who have received the ballots;

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

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

the number of ballots recognized as rejected;

the number of spoilt ballots;

the number of ballots which have not been used.

The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and members of the Central Commission.

The elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall deem to have taken place if more than a half of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus included into the list of voters have taken part in voting.

The President of the Republic of Belarus shall be deemed to be elected if more than a half of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have taken part in voting have voted for him.

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

Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus in the republic in general, or in separate election precincts, districts, cities, city districts, regions, the city of Minsk can be recognized invalid due to the violations of the requirements of the present Code committed during the elections or count of votes if they have influenced the results of the elections in general in the republic. A decision on recognizing the elections invalid shall be taken by the Central Commission. The appeal against such violation shall be submitted by the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the Central Commission no later than on the third day after the elections. The decision of the Central Commission can be appealed against to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus within 10 days. The right to appeal against the decision on recognizing the elections invalid shall belong to the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The announcement about the results of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be rendered by the Central Commission to mass media for promulgation (publication) no later than three days after the moment of signing the protocol about the results of the elections.

Article 80. Second Round of Voting

If neither of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus has gained the required number of votes, the second round of voting on the two candidates who have gained the highest numbers of voters' votes shall be held no later than two weeks under the decision of the Central Commission. The message about holding the second round of voting shall be published in press and shall be made public in other mass media on the following day after fixing the second round of voting. The second round of voting shall be held with observation of the requirements of the present Code.

Elections in the second round of voting shall be deemed to have taken place if more than a half of voters included in the list of citizens having the right to participate in elections have taken part in voting. The candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus who has gained in the second round of voting more than a half of voters' votes having taken part in voting shall be deemed to be elected.

In case one of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus included in the ballot for balloting in the second round of voting has

withdrawn his candidature, the second round of voting shall be held for one candidature. Herewith the candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be deemed to be elected if he has gained more than a half of voters' votes who have taken part in voting.

Article 81. Repeat Elections

If at the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus no more than two candidates have run for and none of them has been elected as well as in case of dropping out of all candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, or recognition of the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus as not having taken place or invalid, or the second round of voting has failed to determine the elected President of the Republic of Belarus, the Central Commission shall decide on fixing repeat elections with repeat nomination of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus. Herewith it can take a decision on holding the elections by territorial and precinct commissions in a new composition.

Repeated elections shall be held within three months after the main elections. Voting shall be held at the same election precincts according to the lists composed for holding the main elections and updated on the eve of the repeat elections.

Formation of commissions on the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, if according to part one of the present article the decision on holding the repeat elections by commissions in a new composition has been taken, nomination and registration of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, other events related to holding the repeat elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, shall be carried out within the procedure determined by the present Code.

In case of holding the repeat elections by candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the citizens of the Republic of Belarus towards whom the decisions on cancellation of their registration as candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus according to article 47, parts four and six of article 49, part seven of article 68, article 75 of the present Code have been taken as well as the citizens who have withdrawn their candidatures in the first round without reasonable excuses, cannot run again.

Announcement about holding the repeat elections shall be within three days published in press and made public in other mass media.

Article 155. Major Terms Used in the Present Code

The following major terms are used in the present Code:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

debates are statements of two or more candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, for the office of deputies of the House of Representatives about a wide range of essential social problems including the messages concerning

the electoral programmes of other candidates delivered in the course of public opinion share, share of questions;

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

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