



**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF MEMBER NATIONS OF
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**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
for Monitoring Democracy Development,
Parliamentarianism and
Suffrage Protection of Citizens
of IPA CIS Member Nations**

FINAL REPORT

**of the
monitoring expert group**

**on preparation and conduct of elections of the seventh
convocation of the House of Representatives of the National
Assembly of**

**Republic of Belarus
November 17, 2019**



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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 84.2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and the Order of the President dated August 5, 2019, No. 294 elections to the seventh convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus were scheduled for November 17, 2019,.

On August 8, 2019, at the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus V. P. Andreychenko, a group of international observers from the IPA CIS was formed, which included deputies and representatives of the highest legislative bodies from nine IPA CIS Member Nations, the IPA CIS Council Secretariat staff members and experts from the International Institute for Monitoring Democracy Development, Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations (IPA CIS IIMDD).

By order of the Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council V. I. Matvienko No. 4-rp dated September 13, 2019, the First Deputy Speaker of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan A. A. Azizi is appointed the coordinator of the observers team.

In order to ensure the successful work of international observers from the IPA CIS, the Secretariat of the IPA CIS Council formed an expert group from IPA CIS IIMDD with the aim of preparing relevant reference and analytical materials.

At the stage of long-term monitoring of preparations for the elections, experts focused on studying the following issues:

- the legislation of the Republic of Belarus governing the preparation and conduct of elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, and its compliance with international standards for democratic elections;
- general characteristics and specific features of the electoral system of the Republic of Belarus;
- the history of parliamentary elections in the Republic of Belarus;

- the activities of the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda, territorial, district, precinct election commissions and other authorized bodies of state power on the preparation and conduct of elections to the 7th convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus;
- coverage in the mass media of the Republic of Belarus of the election campaign, activities of the electoral bodies, analysis of the conditions for the access of the candidates to the media for the campaign;
- disputes in the electoral process during the election campaign and their resolution in an administrative or judicial manner;
- the activities of national, foreign (international) observers in the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the seventh convocation in the pre-election period and on the election day.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The legal basis of the electoral system of the Republic of Belarus is formed by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus and the decisions of the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda (CEC), as well as the Laws “On Mass Media” of 2008 and “On Mass Events in the Republic of Belarus” of 1997.

Elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (House of Representatives) are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot in single-member constituencies. Citizens of the Republic of Belarus have an active suffrage since they are 18 years old. Citizens who are recognized by the court as legally incapable, who are in places of deprivation of liberty, and who remanded in custody shall not take part in the vote. At the elections each voter has one vote.

Elections to the House of Representatives are called by the President no later than four months prior to the end of the powers of the House of Representatives of the current convocation and are held no later than 30 days before it. In case of early termination of the powers of the House of Representatives, the President calls for new elections at the same time with the dissolution of the House of Representatives. Early elections are held within three months from the date of early termination of powers of the House of Representatives.

For the election to the House of Representatives, 110 electoral districts are formed by the CEC on the proposal of the regional and Minsk city executive committees. The number of voters in the constituencies should be approximately equal; a deviation of no more than 10% of the average number of voters in the constituency is allowed. The constituency shall constitute a single territory.

Voter lists are compiled by local executive bodies: city, township and village executive committees, local administrations in cities with districts, district executive committees in cities and towns where city and village executive committees are not formed. For polling stations formed in military units, medical institutions and diplomatic (consular) missions, voting lists are prepared by the heads of the

respective institutions. In order to be included in the list of voters in a polling station formed outside the territory of the Republic of Belarus, the voter is not required to be registered with the consulate.

The preparation and conduct of elections to the House of Representatives is organized by the CEC, as well as regional and Minsk city territorial, district and precinct election commissions headed by the CEC.

The CEC is a permanent state body that organizes, within its powers, the preparation and conduct of elections to the House of Representatives. It leads the system of election commissions operating during the preparation and conduct of elections.

The CEC consists of 12 members and is formed for a period of five years. At the same time, six members of the CEC are appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus on the recommendation of the executive committee of the regional and Minsk city Council of Deputies, another six members of the CEC are elected by the Council of the Republic on the recommendation of the regional and Minsk city executive committees.

The Chairperson of the CEC is appointed by the President with the consent of the Council of the Republic.

Two members of the CEC - the Chairman and the Secretary, work on an ongoing basis, the remaining members of the commission carry out their functions, while maintaining their main place of work. The activities of the CEC are provided by the central bodies, which consist of seven people.

The meeting of the commission is considered eligible if at least 2/3 of the commission members take part in it. The chair of the meeting has a casting vote in the event of an equal number of votes in favour and against.

A political party that has nominated a candidate to the House of Representatives may send a member of the commission with an advisory vote to the CEC from the day the documents on the registration of the candidate from this party were submitted to the relevant district commission.

According to Article 28 of the Electoral Code, the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies to the House of Representatives are ensured by the following election commissions:

- regional, Minsk city territorial election commissions (TEC);
- district election commissions (DEC);
- precinct election commissions (PEC).

TECs are composed of representatives of political parties, other republican public associations, labour collectives, as well as 9-13 representatives of citizens nominated to the commission by submitting an application. The commissions for elections to the House of Representatives shall be formed no later than 75 days prior to election day.

DECs are created on the basis of the same standards and at the same time as the TECs.

DECs establish a unified numbering of polling stations on the territory of the respective constituency.

PECs are formed by district and city executive committees, and in cities with districts PECs are formed by local administrations no later than 45 days before the election and shall consist of 5–19 members.

The power and authority of the TECs and DEC on the election to the House of Representatives expire one month after the election. PEC power and authority terminate upon completion of elections at the polling station.

Candidates may be nominated by: political parties registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus no later than six months before the date of the election; labour collectives; citizens by collecting signatures.

Nomination of candidates begins 70 and ends 40 days prior to the election.

Nomination of candidates to the House of Representatives from political parties is carried out by the highest bodies of political parties. A party may nominate only one candidate from among its members in each constituency for the election of deputies to the House of Representatives.

Nomination of candidates to the House of Representatives from labour collectives is carried out at meetings or conferences of voters in labour collectives. The organization must have at least 300 members and the status of a legal entity. A meeting or conference is convened by the administration of the organization on its own initiative or at the initiative of a group of at least 150 voters from among staff members. A meeting is considered legitimate if more than half of the workforce is present. If due to external factors a meeting of the labour collective is difficult to organize, a conference can be held, the delegates of which are elected in the manner established by the labour collective. A conference is considered legitimate if at least 2/3 of the delegates participate in its work. Decisions of a meeting or conference of the labour collective shall be adopted by a majority of votes. A candidate may be nominated from several smaller groups if the total number of their participants is more than 300 people and from each group at least half of members is present at the meeting. The labour collective may nominate only one candidate for election to the House of Representatives.

Nomination of a candidate to the House of Representatives by collecting signatures is carried out by an initiative group of 10 voters at least. The list of the initiative group and the application for registration of the group shall be submitted to the relevant DEC no later than 65 days prior to the election by a person who intends to be nominated a candidate. DEC considers the application within five days and registers the initiative group. In case of refusal to register, the decision of the DEC may be appealed to a higher commission, and the decision of a higher commission to a court. The nomination of a parliamentary candidate shall be supported by at least 1000 voters residing in the territory of this constituency.

All documents for registration of a parliamentary candidate shall be submitted to the relevant DEC no later than 40 days before the election.

If a candidate is nominated by collecting voters' signatures, the signature lists are checked by the DEC for inaccurate and invalid signatures. During the verification, at least 20% of the signatures required for the registration of the candidate must be verified. If more than 15% of the verified signatures turn out to be

unreliable, then an additional 15% of the signatures necessary for registration of the candidate shall be verified. If the total number of unreliable signatures is more than 15% of the total number of verified signatures, then further verification is not carried out. If more than 15% of verified signatures is invalid, it is the basis to refuse to register a candidate.

Registration of candidates to the House of Representatives begins 40 days before the election day and ends 30 days before the election day.

A candidate may run for only one constituency. If a candidate is nominated in several constituencies, he/she must inform the relevant DEC of the consent to run for this constituency and the refusal to run in other constituencies no later than three days after the deadline for the nomination of candidates. Otherwise, registration may be denied to a candidate in all constituencies.

The decision of DEC to refuse registration can be appealed to the CEC within three days, and the decision of the CEC in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus at the same time.

A candidate to the House of Representatives may have up to 15 proxies. A candidate (except for the President of the House of Representatives) is relieved of his/her duties without pay from the day of registration until election day.

A candidate may withdraw his/her candidacy at any time prior to the election by submitting a corresponding application to the DEC. In the event that the withdrawal of the candidacy did not have a good reason, it shall be indicated in the decision of the election commission, the candidate must reimburse the DEC for the expenses, including expenses for informational materials about the candidate.

The political party or labour collective that has nominated a candidate for the House of Representatives may cancel their decision about nomination no later than three days prior to the election. The decision is made in the same manner as the decision to nominate a candidate, and is immediately submitted to the DEC. If the decision to cancel the nomination of a did not have a good reason, the political party or labour collective will reimburse DEC the expenses, including expenses for informational materials about the candidate.

In the event all candidates in the district withdrew less than 20 days before the election, repeat election shall be called in the constituency. During the repeat election candidates whose registration was cancelled due to violations of the electoral law (Article 47, Article 49 parts 4,6, Article 68 part 7, Article 75 EC) , as well as candidates who withdrew in the first round of elections without a good reason cannot be nominated.

During the preparation and conduct of elections observers are entitled to attend meetings of election commissions at all levels in the manner established by the CEC: deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic, deputies of local Councils of Deputies, proxies of candidates, representatives of political parties, other public associations, labour collectives, citizens, foreign (international) observers, as well as representatives of the media. A candidate may also be present, along with observers, during the counting of votes.

Foreign (international) observers are accredited by the CEC for the period of the election (until the day the results are published).

On election day, voting at polling stations is conducted from 8-00 to 20-00 local time. In order to ensure the secrecy of voting, voters fill out ballots in special booths or voting rooms.

Citizens who are unable to arrive at polling stations on election day may vote ahead of schedule, but not earlier than five days before the election, at the premises of the PEC. On election day, citizens who for whatever reasons are not able to come to the polling station, can contact the appropriate PEC to organize voting at the place of residence.

For citizens who are at the time of elections outside the Republic of Belarus, polling stations are opened in diplomatic and consular institutions. In order to take part in the elections at a foreign polling station, a citizen of the Republic of Belarus does not have to register at consulate.

The counting of votes at a polling station begins immediately after the end of voting. After counting of votes, a protocol is drawn up at the polling station of the PEC, which is transmitted to the DEC. Based on the protocols of precinct

commissions, the district commission determines the election results for the constituency. Elections are considered valid if at least 50% of the voters included in the list participate in them.

The candidate who received the largest number of votes is considered an elected MP. If only one candidate ran in the constituency, then he/she is considered elected if at least 50% of voters who participated in the election voted for him/her.

Based on election returns in the DEC, a protocol is drawn up and then transmitted to the corresponding TEC no later than on the fourth day after the election. Based on the protocols of the DEC, the TEC decides on the results of the election of deputies to the House of Representatives in the territory of the corresponding region, the city of Minsk. Not later than on the sixth day after the election, TECs transmit protocols of election results in the relevant area, the city of Minsk to the CEC.

The CEC sets the results of the election to the House of Representatives based on data from territorial commissions. Not later than in three days after the determination of the election results, the CEC publishes a report on the election results.

The first session of the House of Representatives of the new convocation begins no later than 30 days after the election.

ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

An important part of the long-term monitoring carried out by the IPA CIS IIMDD expert group is the administration of elections and, first of all, its aspects such as the formation of constituencies, election commissions and polling stations, and the organization of training for members of the election commissions. Such work was carried out for election to the House of Representatives in October 2019.

On August 6, 2019, Decree No. 19 of the CEC adopted the “Schedule of Activities for the Preparation and Holding of Elections to the Seventh Convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus”, which specified issues related to the elections, set the stages and dates for the of the relevant events, and determined administrative bodies responsible for their implementation.

As part of the exercise of its powers, with the aim of regulating the process of election preparation and conducting of the election to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, the CEC developed and adopted Decisions “On the Formation of Constituencies for the Election to the House of Representatives”, “On the Establishment of Forms of Documents for the Election to the House of Representatives”, “On Establishing the Average Number of Voters per Constituency during Elections to the House of Representatives”, “On the Procedure for Participation of Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, Located Outside the Republic of Belarus, in the Elections to the House of Representatives”, “On the Creation of Additional Conditions for the Participation of Citizens with Disabilities in the Elections to the House of Representatives”, “On the Registration of Polling Stations Formed by the Constituency Outside the Republic of Belarus, During the Election to the House of Representatives”, “On the Clarification of the Election Commissions Formation During the Election to the House of Representatives”, “On the Clarification of the Application of the Provisions of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, Stipulating the Procedure for Nominating Candidates Collecting Signatures During the Election to the House of Representatives”, “On the Off-Budget Fund for Additional Financing of Expenses for the Preparation and Conduct of

Elections to the House of Representatives”, “On Approval of the Regulation on the Procedure for the Direction and Activities of Observers in the Preparation and Conduct of the Election to the House of Representatives”, “On approval of the Regulation on the Election Fund of a Candidate for MPs of the House of Representatives ”, “On Clarification of the Procedure for Declaring Income and Property by Persons Nominated as Candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives”, “On Approval of the Schedule of Organizational Measures for the Preparation and Conduct of Elections to the House of Representatives” , “On Approval of the Regulation on the Procedure for the Activity of Foreign (International) Observers in the Preparation and Conduct of Elections to the House of Representatives”, “On Informing Citizens on the Work of Preparing and Conducting Elections to the House of Representatives”, “On Approving the Regulation on the Procedure for Using Mass Media as Candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives”, “On the Supervisory Board for Monitoring Compliance with the Procedure and Rules for Campaigning in the Media”.

On the proposal of the regional executive committees and Minsk city executive committee, the CEC Decree of August 6, 2019 formed 110 single-member constituencies for the election to the House of Representatives. The average number of voters in the district was 62,900.

The nomination of candidates for TEC and DEC members took place until August 30, 2019. In accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code and the Schedule, by September 2, 2019, that is, no later than 75 days before the elections, seven territorial and 110 district election commissions were formed, their work schedule was determined.¹ The first meetings of the TECs and DECs took place within three days from the date they were formed.

Until October 2, 2019 district, city executive committees (for cities of regional subordination), local administrations upon agreement with the relevant territorial commissions, the heads of diplomatic and consular institutions of the Republic of Belarus abroad formed 5,831 polling stations, including:

¹The general characteristics of election commissions are presented in Appendix V.

- Brest region – 911 polling stations
- Vitebsk region – 768 polling stations
- Gomel region – 1,009 polling stations
- Grodno region – 669 polling stations
- Minsk region – 982 polling stations;
- Mogilev region – 739 polling stations
- Minsk – 707 polling stations
- outside the Republic of Belarus - 46 station.

Foreign polling stations were established in the diplomatic and consular offices of the Republic of Belarus in the following foreign states: one polling station in Austria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Hungary, Venezuela, Vietnam, Israel, India, Spain, Italy, Kazakhstan, Canada, China, Cuba, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, Serbia, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden, Estonia, Japan; two polling stations in Germany, Latvia, the USA and Turkey. The largest number of foreign polling stations (three in each country) were organized in the diplomatic and consular institutions of the Republic of Belarus in Russia and Poland.

All foreign polling stations are assigned to Kupalovo constituency No. 95 in Minsk.

The total number of polling stations formed on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, compared to the 2016 elections, decreased by 186, from 5,971 to 5,784, due to a decrease in the population.

Decisions on the creation of voting precincts indicating the location of PECs and voting premises, according to the Schedule, were published within ten days after the formation of the polling stations on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and abroad.

Until September 29, 2019, representatives of political parties, public associations, labour collectives and citizens were being nominated to precinct election commissions and approved by the district city executive committees, local

administrations, heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Belarus.

67,660 people were nominated to PEC. Of these, 23,188 citizens ran for commissions by submitting applications, 7,453 were nominated by labour collectives, 4,379 candidates for PEC were representatives of political parties and 32,640 candidates were from other public associations. A total of 63,646 people were included in the 5,785 PECs, of which 46,064 were women (72.4%), which roughly corresponds to the data on the composition of the PECs in the elections of deputies to the Sixth Convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in September 2016.

Local authorities timely organized the transfer of lists of citizens residing at the territory of their polling stations and eligible to vote to PECs.

In accordance with the Schedule, up to November 1, 2019, the lists of citizens of the Republic of Belarus eligible to vote in elections to the House of Representatives were provided to PECs for review.

In total, 6,880,605 voters were included in the voting lists. In the Brest region, the number of voters amounted to 975 358 people, in the Vitebsk region - 856 350 people, in the Gomel region - 1 081 718 people, in the Grodno region - 755 461 people, in the Minsk region - 1 123 425 people, in the Mogilev region - 805 898 people, in Minsk - 1 278 713 people. Outside the Republic of Belarus, 3,682 people were included in the voting lists.

In accordance with the Schedule, on November 11, 2019, representatives of higher election commissions checked the readiness of election commissions of all levels to work on early voting days from November 12 to November 16, 2019 and on election day.

Immediately after the establishment of the TECs, the CEC organized and conducted a series of training seminars with the chairpersons and secretaries of the TECs and DECAs, heads of local executive and administrative bodies, agencies and departments responsible for organization and personnel.

A similar work was carried out after the formation of PECs: trainings and seminars were organized for PEC chairs, their deputies and secretaries. The training events aimed to improve the qualification of PEC employees were based on business games and simulation of the situations so that they could solve problems that may arise at the polling station, develop practical skills of implementation of the electoral law and ensure openness and transparency of the vote counting process and determination of voting results.

The seminars and trainings, including situation simulation for heads and employees of election commissions were conducted throughout the whole election campaign.

Observers from the IPA CIS attended the seminar for the chairmen and secretaries of the DEC in the Vitebsk district of the Vitebsk region on October 16, 2019. During the seminar, the organization of the commission's activities during the preparation of the election, early voting and election day were discussed and thoroughly trained.

The CEC prepared, published and quickly distributed methodological materials for election commissions: "A Practical Guide for Territorial and District Election Commissions on the Preparation and Conduct of Elections to 7th Convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus", and "A Collection of Methodological Materials for Precinct Election Commissions on Elections to 7th Convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus". These materials are also available on the CEC website.

In addition to teaching materials, an interactive test for PECs is published on the CEC website. The test offers questions that simulate the situations PECs can have. When answering, both right and wrong, a detailed comment is presented on the question and the chosen answer option. The test consists of 33 questions related to the organization of work of the precinct commission, clarification on the voter lists, early voting, election itself, accreditation and observer rights, vote counting and protocols.

In order to inform the voters about the upcoming elections, election administration bodies use various visual aids — posters, billboards, banners. In public places (large shopping centers, markets, public transport, etc.) relevant announcements are broadcast. In order to inform voters about the voting procedure, the CEC prepared a video explaining the rules for filling out the ballot.

According to the requirements of the Electoral Code, 10 days before the vote, PECs began distributing information materials to the voters — invitations to vote on the election day, which indicated the location of the polling station and information about the candidates of the constituency.

In order to encourage voters who first participate in the elections after reaching the age of 18, the CEC prepared special cards that were to be presented at polling stations.

A call center at CEC operates in order to promptly inform citizens about the organization and conduct of elections and give advice on issues related to the elections.

In addition, information on the preparation and conduct of elections is quickly published on the CEC website (<http://rec.gov.by>). Regulatory documents, informational and statistical materials on the election campaign, contact details of lower commissions, and templates for election campaign participants are placed in the relevant sections. A specialized information resource has been created specifically for the current elections (<http://vybary2019.by>), which provides detailed information about the constituencies, candidates, and news on the election campaign.

CEC Chairperson L. M. Yermoshina regularly writes and publishes video messages on the CEC website where she thoroughly discusses the preparation for the elections and the most important aspects of the election campaign.

In addition to the CEC website, information on preparation for the election is posted by government agencies.

For better distributions of information the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, developed and launched a mobile app. The application allows you to specify the

address of your polling station, finds the route to the polling station. In addition, using the application you can familiarize yourself with candidates in the constituency.

According to CEC, the costs of organization and holding of the election to the House of Representatives will amount to approx. 23 million Belarusian roubles (about \$ 7 million). Funds for the organization and holding of the elections are in full allocated from the republican budget. In addition, CEC created an off-budget fund to finance the costs of organization and holding of the elections. It was formed by voluntary transfer of funds from organizations, public associations and citizens of the Republic of Belarus.

Off-budget fund is used to pay additional costs associated with the election campaign: the production of information materials, posters, election documents, additional logistical support for election commissions, as well as other expenses directly related to the election campaign.

NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE SEVENTH CONVOCATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The nomination and registration of candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives takes place in several stages and is regulated by Articles 57 and 60 of the Electoral Code.

The requirements for persons to be nominated as candidates: citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, age of 21 years, permanent residence in the Republic of Belarus, no criminal record.

The subjects entitled to nominate candidates are political parties (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus) and other public organizations, labour collectives and citizens by collecting signatures. A citizen may be nominated as a candidate for deputy by one or more subjects.

In the period from September 8 to October 7, 2019, candidates were nominated for the election to the House of Representatives.

In accordance with the Schedule, persons who had the intention to be nominated as candidates or their proxies were to submit documents on the registration of the initiative group for nominating candidates to the relevant district election commissions until September 12, 2019. Within five days from the date of submission of these applications, registration of initiative groups by the district election commissions and the issue of relevant certificates and signature sheets took place.

In total, 703 candidates for registration as a candidate for election were nominated. At the same time, 824 sets of documents were received for registration, as some applicants used the right to be nominated from several entities. Out of 703 potential campaign participants, 583 were nominated by one entity, including: 152 - by citizens through signature collection, 42 - by labour collectives, 389 - by political parties. 119 candidates were nominated by two entities, including: 85 citizens and labour collectives, 34 candidates and citizens and political parties. One applicant was nominated simultaneously by three subjects of nomination.

Thus, the distribution of the submitted sets of documents for the nomination of candidates by the nomination methods was as follows: citizens by collecting signatures - 272 (33%), labour groups - 128 (15.5%) and political parties - 424 (51.5%).

Out of 703 applicants in the whole Republic of Belarus, 34 are deputies of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the sixth convocation, 69 are current deputies of local councils. 62 - citizens under 30 years old, 181 - women.

Upon completion of submitting documents on nomination, from October 8 to October 17, 2019, the DEC's checked the compliance of the procedure for nominating candidates with the requirements of the Electoral Code and their registration. Within two days after registration, candidates were issued with the appropriate certificates.

According to the registration results for October 18, 2019, 560 people became candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives in the whole Republic of Belarus. During the registration, 12 applicants withdrew their applications, 131 applicants were refused registration. According to the CEC, the main reasons for the refusal of registration were the false signatures of voters on signature sheets, errors in income declarations of candidates, the absence of official texts of the statutes of political parties among the documents of candidates nominated by parties. When checking information in declarations of income and property of applicants, data were allowed to diverge by no more than 20% of those indicated by the applicant. Exceeding 20% of the discrepancy was a ground for refusal of registration.

Compared to the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the sixth convocation in 2016, the number of citizens nominated by candidates increased from 630 to 703, and the number of registered candidates from 525 to 560. In all constituencies, elections will be held on an alternative basis.

During the campaign, the total number of candidates decreased from 560 to 531. With regard to nine candidates a decision was made to cancel the registration, 20 candidates withdrew their candidacies. The reasons for the cancelling of registration

were violations of the campaigning procedure. Among the violations, non-compliance with the requirements of Article 47 of the Electoral Code, which prohibits campaigning or propaganda of racial, national, religious hatred, calls for the overthrow of the constitutional system, or insults to senior officials and other candidates, was noted; production and distribution of printed materials without output data, violations during pickets, including pickets on the territory of other constituencies

According to Article 48-1 of the Electoral Code, candidates are entitled to create their own election funds to finance campaign expenses. According to the indicated article of the Electoral Code and the Regulation on the election fund of a candidate for MP of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the seventh convocation, approved by the CEC on August 28, 2019, the sources for forming the election fund of a candidate for MP are:

- own funds of the candidate for deputy, the amount of which may not exceed 1000 basic units;²
- voluntary donations of citizens of the Republic of Belarus. The size of the donation from a citizen may not exceed 5 basic units;
- voluntary donations from legal entities. The amount of the donation of a legal entity may not exceed 10 basic amounts.
- At the same time, donations to the election fund of a candidate are prohibited for:
 - foreign states and organizations;
 - foreign citizens and stateless persons;
 - international organizations;
 - organizations, founders (participants, property owners) of which are foreign states, foreign organizations, international organizations, foreign citizens and stateless persons;

²In accordance with Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 956 dated December 27, 2018, the base amount is 25.5 Belarusian roubles.

- organizations that received foreign gratuitous assistance during the year preceding the day of donation, as well as from anonymous donors.
- citizens of the Republic of Belarus under the age of 18;
- state bodies and local governments;
- organizations fully or partially financed from the budget;
- organizations registered in the established manner less than one year before the date of donation;
- charitable and religious organizations;
- anonymous donations.

In order to form an election fund, a candidate for deputy shall open a special election account in a branch of the Belarusbank. The basis for opening an account is the application of a candidate and a copy of the DEC decision on registration of a candidate.

Each candidate is entitled to open only one special election account. The DEC sends information on the opening of special election accounts of candidates to the press.

Candidates for deputy may use the funds of election funds to pay for expenses directly related to the conduct of election campaigns in the manner established by the CEC. Control over the receipt and use of the election funds is carried out by registered candidates by election commissions and financial bodies. To do this, they study the information submitted weekly by the relevant departments of the bank, and the financial statements of the candidates.

All banking operations on a special election account, with the exception of returning unspent funds to the election fund and crediting funds transferred to the indicated account before the election day, are terminated on election day.

Unspent money shall be transferred by a candidate no later than within three days from the day of the election to the citizens and legal entities who made donations to his/her election fund in proportion to the funds invested in the special election account. At the end of the specified period, the bank's subdivision in which

the special election account was opened is obliged to transfer the funds remaining in this account to the republican budget.

By November 6, 2019, in accordance with the Schedule, candidates for MPs or their representatives on financial matters submitted the first financial reports to the district election commissions.

As of November 7, 2019, 373 candidates (66.6% of the registered number) opened special election accounts at Belarusbank. 99 candidates opened accounts in Minsk, 60 in the Minsk region, 46 in the Brest region, 44 in the Gomel region, 43 in the Grodno region, 37 in the Mogilev region, and 44 in the Vitebsk region.

CAMPAIGNING AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

According to the provisions of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, campaigning during the election campaign for MPs of the House of Representatives is carried out in the following main forms:

- use of the mass media (speaking on television and radio, conducting TV debates, publishing election programs);
- production and distribution of propaganda printed materials;
- holding mass events, meetings with voters, outdoor advertising and campaigning.

During the collection of signatures in support of persons nominated for MPs of the House of Representatives, their initiative groups used all means available and permitted by the election legislation to attract the attention of voters: campaign tents, door-to-door canvassing, distribution of printed campaign materials.

Campaigning “for”, “against” candidates, “against all candidates” is allowed. Campaigning for a boycott of the election is banned.

The campaign began after the official registration of candidates from October 8 to 17, 2019. By October 4, 2019, in accordance with Article 45 (1) of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, local executive and administrative bodies, in agreement with the relevant election commissions, determined the places where candidates, their proxies can conduct campaigning events, outdoor meetings, rallies, pickets, etc. In the same period, the distribution of airtime between the DEC's, as well as the drawing of lots between candidates to determine the date and time of their speeches at state television and radio.

In order to conduct election campaigning, in accordance with the current legislation, registered candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives are provided with free airtime on television and radio channels and printed space in newspapers for publication of the election program. The district election commissions produce and distribute printed materials containing information about the candidates registered in the district.

A candidate has the right to publish his/her election program for free in one of the republican newspapers (Zvyazda, Respublika), or in the corresponding regional, Minsk city newspaper (Zarya, Vitebskie Vesti, Gomelskaya Pravda, Grodzenskaya Pravda , Minsk Pravda, Magilevskiye Vedamaststi, Vecherniy Minsk), or in the regional (district), city newspapers published in the constituency, which are state or partially financed from the republican or local budget.

Until October 27, 2019, registered candidates were to submit to the media certain election programs. In total, by October 27, 2019, 330 out of 560 or 58.9% of registered candidates for elections had submitted election programs for publication. 20 programs were published in republican newspapers, 66 in regional and Minsk city newspapers, and 442 publications were published in regional and city (cities of regional subordination) newspapers. The excess of the number of publications over the number of programs presented is due to the fact that a number of constituencies include territories with more than one district and / or city.

The CEC ensures the transparency of information on the submission for publication of the election programs of candidates in print media by posting information about their receipt on its website. The editorial staff of the media, thereby, gets the opportunity to actually check the receipt of candidate programs in order to avoid double publication.

Speeches and debates of candidates on television and radio are an important element of the campaign. On the websites of the regional and Minsk city executive committees, there are schedules for broadcasting speeches and debates of candidates. As of November 11, airtime was provided by the “Belarus 3” and “STV” television channels of Stolichnoe Television CJSC (Minsk Region), as well as regional radio stations (Radio Minsk, Minskaya Volna, Radio Mogilev, Gomel FM, Radio “Grodno”, Radio Brest, Radio).

A widely used method of agitation is the holding of public events - pickets and rallies, by candidates and their proxies. According to the data, 1,141 notifications were submitted to hold 25,373 public events as of November 11, 2019. Most actively

events are held in Minsk, which account for 16,026 applications or 63% of the total number of announced events.

Another form of direct campaigning are the meetings of candidates and their proxies with voters. As of November 11, 2019, 751 applications were submitted for the provision of premises for such meetings. A total of 5,497 meetings with voters are planned. At the same time, unlike public events, the distribution of meetings with voters by region is more uniform, with the exception of the clear leader, Minsk Region, where candidates requested 2,169 meetings or 39.6% of the total number in the republic.

In a number of cases, there is a low activity of candidates concerning campaign materials and campaign advertisement. Observers attribute this, first of all, to the lack of funds from candidates who did not form election funds, not counting on serious participation in the elections.

Media coverage of the election campaign is quite active, while the specificity of the electoral system shifts the focus of interest in elections to regional and local media. Republican media primarily cover the activities of the CEC and certain episodes of the campaign, such as decisions to cancel the registration of candidates or initiatives of republican public associations to inform citizens about the upcoming elections.

The CEC provides information on its activities, promptly publishing on its website informational and statistical materials on the course of the campaign, adopted documents and decisions. Information on the activities of territorial and district election commissions is published in special sections on the websites of the authorities that formed them - Minsk City Executive Committee and Regional Executive Committees.

Assessing the course of the campaign as a whole, observers from the IPA CIS during the long-term monitoring of elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus came to the conclusion that the electoral legislation and the election administration system in the Republic of Belarus provide legitimate competition and transparency in the process of election

campaigning. Candidates are provided with equal opportunities for campaigning, including campaigning in the central and regional mass media. The campaign runs calmly, correctly, in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The procedure for considering appeals to election administration bodies related to the course of the election campaign is established by the Electoral Code.

Citizens apply to election commissions of the appropriate level by submitting written or oral appeals. Applications, including oral, received by the TECs and DEC, are subject to mandatory registration in the journal of incoming documents. Appeals that do not require peer review are considered by members of the commission on behalf of the chairman of the commission. Responses to appeals are signed by the chairman or deputy chairman of the commission.

The TEC or DEC takes one of the following decisions after considered the complaint:

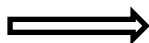
- to cancel the decision of the lower commission in whole or in part and make a decision on the merits;
- refuse to satisfy the complaint;
- to leave the complaint without consideration if the applicant has not followed the procedure or deadlines for its submission established by the Electoral Code.

If necessary TEC has the right to consider the appeal on the issue referred to the competence of a lower commission.

Complaints can be submitted to:

regional, Minsk city commission	⇒	In the Central Commission
district	⇒	to regional, Minsk city commission
precinct	⇒	to district commission
The decision of the precinct commission on the citizen's	⇒	to the district commission

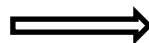
statement about incorrect information in the voters list



to the district, city court no later than five days before the election

Terms of consideration of complaints and appeals

appeals received on election day



immediately

complaints about violation of election law



3 days

complaints about violation of election law, if verification is needed



10 days

Complaints about violation of the legislation on elections are submitted to the commissions, state bodies and organizations no later than ten days from the date of the election. Applications submitted after this period are left without consideration.

As of November 11, 2019, 482 appeals from citizens were received by local representative, executive and administrative bodies, election commissions of various levels.

Concerning the formation of election commissions, the courts of the Republic of Belarus examined 50 complaints regarding decisions on the formation of 486 election commissions, including: TEC — 15, DEC— 156, PEC — 315. As of November 11, 2019 71 complaints were submitted to the TECs regarding the procedure for nominating, registering and cancelling the registration of candidates, as well as warnings about violation of the electoral law. Of these, two on the issue of refusal to register an initiative group, 62 on refusal to register as a candidate, three on cancellation of a decision on registration of a candidate, four on warnings about violation of electoral law. Based on the results of the review, one complaint about the refusal of registration of the candidate was satisfied, the rest were rejected, 10 were left without consideration.

As of November 11, 2019, 31 complaints were sent to the regional and Minsk city courts. Of these, 27 dealt with the issue of refusal to register a candidate, two dealt with the cancellation of a decision on registration as a candidate, and two dealt with warnings for violation of electoral law. One complaint about the refusal to register as a candidate for deputy was satisfied, 27 complaints were denied, one complaint was dismissed and two complaints were left without consideration.

In the course of the election campaign the Public Movement Za svabodu (For Freedom) addressed CEC via Internet in order to clarify the interpretation of certain provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus regarding the list of subjects for the nomination of candidates, namely, the right to nominate candidates for MPs by public organizations (Article 69 of the Constitution). CEC Chairperson L. M. Yermoshina made extensive comments on the merits of the issue, pointing out the supremacy of the Constitution over other laws and the priority of its provisions in identifying discrepancies and contradictions. As a result of the explanations of the CEC, the DEC's accepted for consideration the documents on the nomination of candidates from the Public Movement Za svabodu (For Freedom).

ELECTION OBSERVATION

According to Article 13 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, the preparation and conduct of the election of deputies of the House of Representatives are carried out openly and publicly.

To implement this principle, observers have the right to be present during the elections - proxies of candidates, representatives of political parties, other public associations, labour collectives, citizens, foreign (international) observers, as well as representatives of the media in the manner established by the CEC.

During the preparation and conduct of elections, national and foreign (international) observers have the right:

- to attend meetings of relevant election commissions;
- to be present at sealing of the ballot boxes;
- to be on the day of voting at the polling station from the moment of sealing of the ballot boxes until the end of the tabulation;
- to be present at early voting, voting at the location of citizens, at recounting of votes of citizens;
- to observe the issuance of ballots, the voting process, compliance with the voting procedure established by the Election Code;
- to give suggestions and comments on the organization of voting to the chairman of the precinct, counting commission or his/her deputy;
- to receive information on the results of the counting of votes and the compilation of protocols of the relevant commissions on the results of elections, referenda, voting on recall of a deputy;
- to get acquainted with the protocols of precinct commissions on the results of voting and the protocols of the respective commissions on the results of elections, referenda, voting on recall of a deputy, signed and sent to a higher commission.

Observers may not:

- engage in campaigning in any form;

- provide any informational, methodological, financial or other assistance to candidates for election to the House of Representatives;
- create obstacles for voting;
- take actions that violate the secrecy of the vote;
- conduct surveys of citizens who arrived to vote and voted;
- be at the tables for issuing ballots, at booths and ballot boxes.

During the election of deputies of the House of Representatives, national observers are accredited to the relevant election commissions upon presentation of a document on the assignment of the observer determined by the CEC, and a passport of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus. Prior notice of observer assignment is not required. The observer's term of office begins on the day of his/ her accreditation and ends on the day the relevant commission establishes the results of the counting of votes, results or election results.

Observers from foreign states and international organizations participate in the monitoring of elections to the House of Representatives at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the House of Representatives, the Council of the Republic, the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and the CEC.

Foreign (international) observers are not entitled to use their status to carry out activities not related to monitoring the preparation and conduct of elections. The CEC has the right to revoke the accreditation of a foreign (international) observer in case of violation of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus or universally recognized principles and norms of international law.

Based on the provisions of the Electoral Code on August 6, 2019, the CEC approved the Regulations governing the assignment and activities of national observers, as well as the accreditation procedure, rights and obligations of (foreign) international observers in the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives on November 17, 2019.

Activities of national observers

During the pre-election period, election commissions of all levels registered national observers for the elections to the House of Representatives, including observers from political parties, republican and regional public associations, as well as from labour collectives and citizens who received observer status by submitting applications.

According to the CEC as of November 11, 2019, more than 17 thousand national observers were registered in the elections to the House of Representatives.³

The most active groups of national observers began their activities immediately after the announcement of the election date. Eight national observers (four from political parties and four from public associations) were sent to attend CEC meetings to discuss issues related to the organization and conduct of elections to the House of Representatives.

Activities of international observers

The accreditation process of international observers in the elections to the House of Representatives began after the election was called.

Traditionally, significant attention is paid to the elections in the Republic of Belarus by the bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States. On September 4, 2019, the CIS Observer Mission began its work in the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on¹ November 17, 2019. The Chairman of the Executive Committee - Executive Secretary of the CIS S. N. Lebedev was appointed the Head of the Mission. About 50 members of the Mission from the CIS work on a long-term basis in cities and regions of the Republic of Belarus. The Mission Headquarters coordinates the work of CIS observers.

The CIS Mission traditionally includes a separate group of observers from the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member nations.

In addition to the CIS, other international organizations are actively participating in election observation. From August 26 to 30, 2019, the OSCE ODIHR evaluation mission worked in the Republic of Belarus. Based on the results of its work, it was announced that the OSCE ODIHR Mission for monitoring the elections

³ See Appendix VI for more details.

to the House of Representatives was formed under the leadership of Cornelia Willemin Anke Jonker (Corien Jonker) (Netherlands) and included 30 long-term and about 400 short-term observers, as well as a group of 11 experts based in Minsk .

The total number of foreign (international) observers at the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus accredited by the CEC as of November 11, 2019 was 1003 people, including:

- CIS mission – 475; (including a separate group of IPA CIS – 46);
- OSCE ODIHR – 337;
- PACE – 28;
- OSCE Parliamentary Assembly – 83;
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization – 17;
- Election bodies of foreign states – 21;
- Diplomatic corps – 42.

On September 4, 2019, a meeting was held between the head of the CIS Observer Mission S. N. Lebedev and the Chairman of the CEC, L. M. Yermoshina. The parties exchanged information on work plans during the election campaign.

On October 15, 2019, CEC Chairperson L.M. Yermoshina met with the Head of the OSCE ODIHR Observation Mission C. Jonker. She handed accreditation certificates to the representatives of the ODIHR mission, informed them about the events of the election campaign taking place during this period, about the appeals received by the CEC, as well as about upcoming events during the preparation of the elections.

October 17, 2019 Chairman of the CEC L.M. Yermoshyna held a meeting with representatives of a separate group of international observers from the IPA CIS. She handed accreditation certificates to the representatives of the IPA CIS, informed about the progress of the election campaign, the start of her campaign period and some issues related to financing the election campaign and filling out income declarations by candidates. The meeting was part of a long-term monitoring carried out by the IPA CIS IIMDD expert group.

On November 4, 2019, a meeting was held between Head of the CIS Observer Mission Headquarters at the election to the House of Representatives of the Seventh Convocation of the Republic of Belarus V. A. Guminsky and Head of the OSCE ODIHR Observer Mission C. Jonker. At the meeting, the parties discussed the organization of work of observation missions and the methodology for monitoring elections. An exchange of views on monitoring the past stages of the election campaign took place. Following the meeting, preliminary agreement was reached on a meeting between the Head of the CIS Observer Mission S. N. Lebedev and the Head of the OSCE ODIHR Observer Mission C. Jonker on the day of voting on November 17, 2019.

LONG-TERM MONITORING OF ELECTION PREPARATIONS BY OBSERVERS FROM IPA CIS

At the stage of long-term monitoring of the preparations for the election of deputies of the House of Representatives, observers from the IPA CIS conducted a monitoring trip to the Republic of Belarus on October 15-18, 2019. During the trip, observers collected information on the following aspects of election preparation:

- The activities of the state authorities of the Republic of Belarus to ensure the functioning of election commissions.
- The work of election commissions on the organization and preparation of elections in accordance with the Schedule approved by the CEC.
- The activities of political parties and public organizations of the Republic of Belarus during the election campaign.
- Familiarization with the process of informing citizens about the upcoming elections and the initial period of campaigning for candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives.

Working on a monitoring program, on October 15, 2019, observers from the IPA CIS arrived to the Vitebsk Region and visited the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee, where they met with employees led by Deputy Chairman V. Penin. During the meeting, he informed observers about the work carried out by the executive committee to ensure preparation for the upcoming elections, including the formation of the territorial (Vitebsk regional) and 14 district election commissions, measures taken to ensure their activities, allocation of places for campaigning and meetings of candidates with voters.

In addition, observers were given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the organization of the work of the TECs by visiting the Vitebsk Regional Election Commission. At a meeting with Commission Chairman D. Khoma, observers were informed about the process of forming 14 district and 768 precinct election commissions in the Vitebsk region and the training of their members. In turn, observers informed the chairman about the mechanism for the formation of the IPA

CIS monitoring group, the principles of its work and plans for conducting long-term monitoring in the Vitebsk region.

In the framework of meetings at the DEC observers from the IPA CIS got acquainted with the results of the formation of lower-level election commissions, received information about the work on compiling and updating of voter lists. When visiting the district commissions, the observers paid special attention to the issue of nominating candidates, registration of initiative groups, and the results of verification of signature sheets. In three district commissions (No. 19, No. 94, and No. 95), observers were present at meetings where candidates were registered, as well as at the drawing of lots for the time on state television and radio. During the meetings, observers evaluated the procedure by which the commissions examined the submitted documents and made decisions on registration or denial of registration to candidates and its justification.

When visiting the district election commissions No. 18 of the Vitebsk-Chkalovsk constituency and No. 19 of the Vitebsk-Zheleznodorozhny constituency, as well as No. 94 of Svislochs and No. 95 of the Kupalovsky constituencies in Minsk, members of the monitoring group directly observed the work of the commissions in preparation for voting in urban areas.

Further, the members of the monitoring group visited a number of district commissions in the districts of Vitebsk region.

At a meeting with the leadership of DEC No. 21 in the Gorodok district and No. 30 of the Senno constituency of the Vitebsk region, observers focused on discussing the peculiarities of organizing elections in rural areas, related to the remoteness of polling stations from the part of the population, ways to solve transport accessibility issues; in the Vitebsk region they took part in the training for chairmen, vice-chairmen and secretaries of PECs in 21 constituencies. The training worked out the conduct of voting at all stages, including early voting and vote counting.

Working on the long-term monitoring program in Minsk, the observers got acquainted with the system of election commissions as a whole, namely: with the activities of the Central, territorial and district election commissions.

The opportunity to obtain detailed information about the legal and organizational aspects of the current election campaign was provided to members of the monitoring group during the 2nd day of the International Conference “The Institute of Elections as a Mechanism of the Legitimation of Public Power” on October 18, 2019. At the fourth plenary meeting, the CEC Chairperson L. M. Yermoshina, Commission Secretary E. M. Dmukhaylo and Brest Regional Electoral Commission Chairman A. M. Koleda made detailed reports on the preparations for the election, highlighting the issues of appointment and administration, financing the election campaign, informing voters about the date of voting, various ways of nominating candidates and their registration, especially the campaigning as a whole in the republic, and in the Brest region. Participants of the meeting, including parliamentarians from nine CIS member states, and members of the monitoring group could ask questions during the discussion.

Also during their stay in Minsk on October 17 and 18, 2019, observers held meetings with the leaders of four of the 12 political parties that nominated candidates: S. Gaidukevich and O. Gaidukevich from the Liberal Democratic Party, N. Ulakhovich from the Belarusian Patriotic Party, G. Atamanov from the Communist Party of Belarus and V. Zadnepryan from the Republican Party of Labour and Justice and two public movements - S. Pigarev from the Republican Public Association “Belaya Rus” and A. Goncharova from the Belarusian Republican Youth Union. During the meetings, party representatives shared their views on the current election campaign, talked about the nomination of candidates (LDP nominated 107 candidates, registered 98, BPP - 16 candidates, registered 10, CPB - 54 candidates, 50 registered, RPLJ - 43 candidates, 40 registered) and preparation for campaigning. Representatives of public associations announced the nomination of representatives to the territorial, district and precinct election commissions. Belaya Rus nominated seven members to the TEC, the Belarusian Republican Youth Union – six members, both organizations nominated 110 members to the DEC, including 108 members from the Belaya Rus, 93 members from the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, and to PEC 4,611 representatives were nominated from Belaya Rus, 4,548 members

registered, from the Belarusian Republican Youth Union – 4,482 nominatd, and 3,809 members registered.

During a visit to Minsk and a number of regions of the Republic of Belarus, as part of a long-term monitoring, observers from the IPA CIS familiarized themselves with the process of informing citizens about the upcoming elections in various ways and noted that all information channels provided for by national legislation were available: distribution of printed materials, placement of posters and billboards, distribution information on the upcoming elections in the television and radio broadcasting network. After the end of the registration of candidates, which ended on October 17, 2019, observers had the opportunity to evaluate the beginning of the campaign for candidates.

SHORT-TERM MONITORING OF PREPARATION AND ELECTION BY OBSERVERS FROM IPA CIS

On November 15-17, 2019, as part of the short-term monitoring program, a group of international observers from the IPA CIS held 11 meetings with the leadership of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, election administration bodies, political parties and public associations, as well as with three missions of international observers.

During a conversation with observers, Chairman of the Council of the Republic M.V. Myasnikovich noted an increase in the activity of participants the electoral process and raise in interest to the elections in the Republic of Belarus compared to the 2016 elections. As confirmation, he cited data on a record number of registered candidates (515) and accredited foreign (international) observers (1028).

Answering a question about the prospects for the development of national electoral legislation, M.V. Myasnikovich noted that at the moment there was a wide discussion in the country about the advantages and applicability to the political realities of Belarus of proportional, majority and mixed electoral systems, emphasized that the presence of such a discussion shows the development of democratic institutions and the formation of organizationally prepared political forces in the Republic of Belarus.

Deputy Chairman of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee I.S. Markevich described the forms and methods of campaigning used by candidates at the final stage of the campaign.

Chairman of the CEC L.M. Yarmoshyna gave information about the course of administration of the election campaign, paying particular attention to explaining the procedure for the formation of election commissions at all levels, the issues of financing elections, and the particularities of organizing early voting. She also noted that this year the campaign is dynamic, there is not a single district where the elections would be held on no alternative basis, the average number of candidates for one mandate is more than five people, the election participants widely use the Internet and social networks in the campaign.

Chairman of the Minsk Regional Election Commission O.N. Taranda acquainted the observers with the activities of the commission at the territorial level, in particular, with the procedures for nominating and registering candidates (including those from the regional labour collectives) and the procedure for considering complaints of refusal of registration at various instances. O.N. Taranda indicated an increase in the load on commissions of all levels in connection with the preparation of answers to the requests of the election participants and the observance of the terms for their consideration.

At the headquarters of the Republican Party of Labour and Justice (RPLJ), its chairman V.V. Zadnepryany shared his views on the course of the campaign with members of the group. On the whole, he positively assessed the activities of state authorities and election administration, but at the same time noted some cases of the use of administrative resources at the local level.

At a meeting with the Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party, O.S. Gaidukevich addressed the issues of nominating and registering candidates from the party, the most effective forms and methods of campaigning used during the election campaign, the peculiarities of party building and the development of social and political movements in the Republic of Belarus at the present stage.

The first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus (CPB) Andrei Sokol dwelt in detail on the features of the functioning of the party system of the CPB in the pre-election period, related to the activity of party representatives, the selection of candidates nominated by the party and their support during the campaign. The meeting was attended by national observers from the CPB, who shared with members of the group their impressions of monitoring early voting in some polling stations.

During a visit to the headquarters of “Belaya Rus”, questions were raised about the participation of Belarusian public associations in the elections, in particular, the active participation of “Belaya Rus” members in all forms of political participation provided for by law: nomination as candidates, inclusion of association members in election commissions, participation in elections as national observers.

At a meeting of group members with the leadership of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRYU), First Secretary D.S. Voronyuk dwelled on the forms and methods of supporting the campaign of Belarusian Republican Youth Union members registered as candidates. He pointed to the wide possibilities and variety of technologies provided for campaigning by Internet resources, in combination with monitoring the implementation of existing legislation.

On the voting day, November 17, 2019, a meeting was held between the coordinator of the IPA CIS observer group A. A. Azizi and the Secretary General – Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat D. A. Kobitsky with the heads of international observer missions from the OSCE PA, PACE and the OSCE / ODIHR. During the communication, the parties exchanged information about the work of their observers in the monitoring process. The coordinator of the IPA CIS observer group A. A. Azizi emphasized the importance of the experience of election observation by parliamentarians from the CIS member states for improving national electoral legislation. In addition, the meetings touched upon the further contacts between the IPA CIS and other international organizations in order to improve the methodology of election observation and to harmonize observation standards.

Early voting monitoring

Members of the monitoring group observed the progress of early voting at four polling stations in the cities of Minsk and St. Petersburg, during which they were convinced that the equipment of the voting premises and the procedures were consistent with the election legislation of the Republic of Belarus. At the polling stations covered by the monitoring, on average 34.1% of the total number of registered voters voted ahead of schedule, which corresponded to the data for the whole Republic of Belarus (35.7%).

Voting day monitoring

On the day of the main voting in the elections to the House of Representatives on November 17, 2019, international observers from the IPA CIS attended various stages of the voting – from the opening of polling stations to the counting of votes by precinct election commissions. Observers during the course of the elections and votes

counting visited four district election commissions and 147 polling stations in the city of Minsk, Minsk and Grodno regions, including the regional centers of Slutsk, Borisov, Molodechno, Korelichi, Novogrudok, as well as in foreign polling stations in Baku, Yerevan, Chisinau and St. Petersburg.

All polling stations visited in the regions where monitoring was carried out opened no later than 8:00 and completed their work at 20:00 local time. Voting procedures were carried out in strict accordance with the election legislation of the Republic of Belarus. Each voter had the right to equal and unimpeded access to the polling station in order to participate in free voting. Voting was carried out in appropriately equipped booths, which ensured that the principle of secret balloting and the requirement of inadmissibility of control over the will of voters were observed.

None of the sites visited by international observers revealed facts of interference in the work of election commissions of administrative or law enforcement bodies.

The majority of monitoring sites were attended by proxies of candidates, observers from public organizations and political parties, as well as members of international monitoring missions. At the time of visiting the polling stations, they did not make any significant comments on the organization and conduct of the voting procedure.

In the process of monitoring by observers from the IPA CIS certain technical shortcomings were recorded. They were not systematic and did not affect the outcome of the elections.

Observers from the IPA CIS were present at the counting of votes at three polling stations located in Minsk and St. Petersburg. There were no violations during the tabulation process. Election commissions strictly adhered to the requirements of national legislation and the instructions of the CEC of the Republic of Belarus.

In general, during long-term and short-term monitoring, observers met with the leadership of the legislative bodies of the Republic of Belarus, the executive

branch of the Vitebsk and Minsk regions, the CEC, three of the seven territorial election commissions, 11 district commissions (10% of their total), visited 150 polling stations on the territory of the Republic of Belarus (2.6%) and four outside the country (8.3%).

Meetings were held with four of the five political parties whose representatives became deputies of the House of Representatives of the new convocation, as well as with the two largest public organizations of the Republic of Belarus.

ELECTION SUMMARY

On November 22, 2019, at a meeting of the CEC of the Republic of Belarus, the final reports of the regional and Minsk city election commissions were heard. After their consideration, the CEC recognized the elections as held and registered the deputies of the House of Representatives of the seventh convocation.

The total voter turnout in the elections of deputies of the House of Representatives of the seventh convocation was 77.4%.

110 deputies were elected to the new parliament, 21 of which (19.1%) are members of political parties. The Communist Party of Belarus (11 deputies), the Republican Party of Labour and Justice (6 deputies), the Belarusian Patriotic Party (2 deputies), the Belarusian Agrarian Party (1 deputy), and the Liberal Democratic Party of Belarus (1 deputy) will be represented in the new parliament.

Among the elected deputies there are 44 women (40%), 2 citizens under the age of 30 (1.8%), 30 deputies of the previous convocation (27.3%).

The average age of the deputies of the newly elected parliament is 50.4 years. All deputies have higher education.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERT GROUP

According to the results of the legal analysis, the expert group of observers of the IPA CIS IIMDD notes that the election legislation of the Republic of Belarus provided the necessary conditions for holding democratic elections and respecting the rights of all participants in the election process.

Based on the results of long-term monitoring the group came to the conclusion that the preparations for the elections were carried out in accordance with the law, on the basis of the principles of publicity and openness, in the prescribed amount and within the time limits established by the Schedule.

IPA CIS IIMDD experts note the activities of the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on elections and republican referenda as well as other election administration bodies to be highly professional and well-organized. They provided a clear procedure for the functioning of all the institutes and establishments responsible for preparing for the elections and the effectiveness of the interaction of all participants in the electoral process.

The campaign of agitation of the majority of candidates took place in a calm atmosphere, expressed in a constructive discussion between the participants of the electoral process. Candidates for MPs of the House of Representatives were provided with equal access to printed and electronic mass media.

The mass media of the Republic of Belarus fully and diversely cover the election campaign, they are provided with free access to information on the campaign work of candidates and election administration.

During the organization and conduct of elections the state authorities of the Republic of Belarus ensured the observance of the status of international monitoring missions and assisted in the exercise of their powers.

**Expert Group of the International Institute for
Monitoring Democracy Development,
Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of
Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations**

APPENDIX 1.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The political system of the Republic of Belarus was formed under the influence of large-scale transformations caused by the collapse of the USSR. The political crisis of the early 1990s was replaced by the processes of institutionalization and stabilization of power, focused on effective governance, the creation of mechanisms to support and legitimize the political system.

Since the late 1980s the political system of the Republic of Belarus has undergone an active transformation. During this period of time there can be distinguished three main stages of the political system transformation:

- the first stage (the end of the 1980s - 1994) was marked by appearing of political opposition and the relative cohesion of the ruling elite. On the one hand, the Soviet legislative and executive authorities remained and at the same time, the mechanisms of political socialization that developed in the USSR began to collapse. The development of opposition political forces claiming state power took place and conflicts of interests arose between the political leaders of that time;
- the second stage (1994 - 1996) was a transition from a parliamentary to a presidential form of government. There was a struggle for the formation of a stable political system with the figure of a national political leader with a high level of personal legitimacy as the main systemically important element. At this stage there was polarization of interests within the elite and intensification of political conflicts. The resolution of these contradictions occurred through republican referenda of 1995 and 1996 which led to the transformation of existing political institutions. Thus new mechanisms of political communication of the state and civil society were formed. The main feature of this period in Belarusian politics was the phenomenon of becoming a strong leader represented by the head of state;

- the third, modern, stage in the development of the political system of the Republic of Belarus (1996 to the present). During this period the political and administrative structure of public administration took shape, the main characteristic of which is a strong centralized power with the leading role of the President.

Thus among the main results of the formation of the modern political system of the Republic of Belarus one can emphasize the following:

- at the first stage after the Republic of Belarus left the USSR, the country's political system was a rather unstable system of checks and balances between the branches of government. The main part in the system of state power was taken up by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus;
- referenda of 1995 and 1996 changed the political situation in the country: the republic from a parliamentary-presidential one turned into a presidential one with broad powers of the head of state in relation to legislative and executive initiatives.
- today, the functions of all branches of power in the Republic of Belarus are determined by the Constitution adopted in 1994 with amendments and additions made in 1996 and 2004.

The political system of the Republic of Belarus guaranteed by the Constitution is based on the concept of separation of powers: legislative, executive and judiciary. State bodies within their powers shall be proclaimed independent: they interact with each other, restrain and balance each other (article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus). The functioning of various political institutions and the coexistence of ideologies, the activities of various political parties and other civil society organizations and freedom of information are guaranteed. It is forbidden to establish ideologies of any political parties, religious or other civic associations as mandatory for citizens. This guarantees the conditions for the formation of a modern civil society.

According to Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus the President is the Head of State, the guarantor of the Constitution and human and civil

rights and freedoms. It guarantees the implementation of the main directions of the country's domestic and foreign policy, represents the Republic of Belarus in relations with other states and international organizations, takes measures to protect the sovereignty, national security and territorial integrity of the state and ensures political and economic stability, continuity and interaction of state authorities.

The Parliament, the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, is a representative and legislative body and consists of two chambers - the Council of the Republic (Upper house) and the House of Representatives (Lower house).

The Council of the Republic, consisting of 64 members, is a chamber of territorial representation. The formation of the upper house of parliament takes place by indirect vote. A total of 56 members of the Council of the Republic are elected from each region and the city of Minsk at meetings of deputies of local Councils by secret ballot. Eight members of the Council of the Republic are appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The House of Representatives consists of 110 deputies. The election of deputies to the House of Representatives is carried out according to the law on the basis of universal, free, equal, direct suffrage by secret ballot in the majority electoral system.

A citizen of the Republic of Belarus who has reached the age of 21 may become a deputy of the House of Representatives. Deputies exercise their powers in Parliament on a professional basis. A deputy of the House of Representatives may simultaneously be a member of the Government. One and the same person cannot simultaneously be a member of two chambers of Parliament. A deputy of the House of Representatives may not be a deputy of the local Council of Deputies. The term of office of the Parliament is four years.

The House of Representatives elects the Chairperson of the House of Representatives and his vice from among its members. The Chairman of the House of Representatives and his vice conduct meetings and are in charge of the internal order of the House.

The House of Representatives is clothed with the following constitutional authorities (Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus):

- to consider at the proposal of the President or at the initiative of at least 150 thousand citizens of the Republic of Belarus with voting rights draft laws on amendments and additions to the Constitution and on interpretation of the Constitution;
- to consider draft laws including those on the approval of the main directions of domestic and foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus, the military doctrine, the ratification and denunciation of international treaties, the main content and principles of the exercise of the rights, freedoms and duties of citizens, citizenship, determining the procedure for resolving issues of the administrative-territorial structure state, local government, judicial system, legal proceedings and the status of judges, etc;
- to call presidential elections;
- to give consent to the President to appoint the Prime Minister;
- to hear the Prime Minister's report on the Government's program of activity and approve or reject the program (repeated rejection of the program by the chamber means expressing a vote of no-confidence to the Government);
- to consider the issue of confidence in the Government at the initiative of the Prime Minister;
- to express a vote of no-confidence in the Government at the initiative of at least one third of the full membership of the House of Representatives;
- to accept the retirement of the President;
- to cancel the orders of the Chairman of the House of Representatives, etc.

The systemically important element of the political system in Belarus is the institution of presidency. In modern conditions it ensures the optimal functioning of the entire system of public authorities and acts as the initiator of structural changes

APPENDIX 2.

HISTORY OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

On July 27, 1990, the Declaration of the Supreme Council of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic “On State Sovereignty” was adopted. In August 1991 it was given the status of constitutional law. On September 19, 1991, the BSSR was renamed the Republic of Belarus. On December 8, 1991, the heads of state and government of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus signed the act of denunciation of the 1922 Union Treaty, with the entry into force of which the USSR ceased to exist, and the Republic of Belarus became an independent sovereign state.

During the years of independence of the Republic of Belarus civil society began to form, the construction model of which was in stark contrast to the Soviet experience. The transition from a single-party to a multi-party political system has become fundamentally new.

The first Parliamentary elections in independent Belarus were the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus of the XIII convocation. They were held on May 14 (1st round) and May 28 (2nd round) 1995. In consequence of the low voter turnout only 119 deputies were elected for two rounds of voting while at least 174 deputies (that is, at least two-thirds of the total 260 members) were required to form the competent composition of the parliament. On November 29 (1st round) and December 10 (2nd round) 1995 re-election of deputies of the Supreme Council of the XIII convocation were held. Further to the results of the election campaign 198 deputies were elected, which was enough for the functioning of the parliament. “Communist party of Belarus”, the Agrarian Party, the Party of people's amity, the United civil party and other political forces were represented there. At which time the majority of deputies was proposed by initiative groups or through self-nomination and did not belong to any political party.

After the constitutional reform of 1996 the Supreme Council was dissolved and on November 28, 1996 the President formed the bicameral Parliament consisting of

the Council of the Republic of the first convocation (56 members) and the House of Representatives of the first convocation (110 deputies).

The election of deputies of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the second convocation was held on October 15 (first round) and October 29 (second round), 2000. More than 7 million 250 thousand citizens who had the right to participate in the elections were included in the lists of voters. 61.08% of voters took part in the elections in the first round and 53.78% of voters in the second round. Elections were held in 97 constituencies. According to the results of the first round deputies were elected in 41 constituencies and according to the results of the second round - in 56 constituencies. The remaining 13 deputies were elected based on the results of the repeat elections on March 18 (1st round) and April 1 (2nd round) 2001. According to the result of the election the number of deputies from political parties in the House of Representatives slightly decreased. The largest number of seats went to the Communist party of Belarus and the Agrarian Party.

The election of deputies to the House of Representatives of the third convocation took place on October 17 (1st round) and October 27 (2nd round), 2004. 60.5% of the candidates were registered out of 692 people who proposed their candidacies. The structure of the electoral initiative in 2004 was as follows: 34% of candidates were nominated from labour collectives, 20% - from citizens by collecting signatures and 46% - from political parties. Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party and the United Civil Party (20% of the number of candidates from each party) headed the poll in the party identification of candidates, there also were represented the Belarusian National Front party, the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (“Narodnaya Gramada”), the Belarusian Communist Party, “Belarusian Social Democratic Gramada”, the Communist Party of Belarus, the Social Democratic Party of People's amity and the Republican Party.

The total number of voters was about 7 million people and 90.14% of voters participated in the elections. As a result of the elections deputies were elected in 109 constituencies.

The representatives of the Communist Party of Belarus, the Agrarian Party and the Liberal Democratic Party became the members of the House of Representatives of the third convocation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus. On the whole about 11% of the total number of deputies. The representation of political parties in parliament decreased while the number of deputies from labour collectives increased.

The elections of deputies to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the fourth convocation were held on September 28, 2008 in one round as all 110 deputies of the House of Representatives were elected in it. The largest number of candidates was nominated by citizens by collecting signatures - 197 people and 97 candidates were nominated both from labour collectives and citizens by collecting signatures. Political parties independently nominated 30 candidates and together with the nomination of citizens by collecting signatures 24 more candidates. Labour collectives nominated 13 candidates.

The total of 263 people participated in the elections. . Out of 41 current members of the chamber who nominated themselves, 33 people were registered as candidates (80.5%) Out of the total number of registered candidates there were 12.5% sitting deputies of the House of Representatives, thus their share decreased compared to the previous election.

7 016 711 voters were included in the voter lists and 5 384 647 of them participated in the elections (76.7% of the voters included in the lists).

30 (91%) out of 33 deputies of the House of Representatives who ran for a new term were re-elected. The vast majority of elected deputies (103 out of 110) are non-partisan. Compared to the previous parliament the representation of political parties decreased from 12 deputies to 7 (from 11% to 6.4%, respectively).

The election of deputies to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the fifth convocation was held on September 23, 2012. According to the results of voting 5,245,459 voters took part in the elections which was 74.61% of the number of voters included in the voter lists. In the

first round of elections 109 out of 110 deputies were elected to the House of Representatives. The deputy in Gomel-Novobelitsk constituency No. 36 was not elected as the only candidate nominated did not receive any support of the required number of voters.

The 2012 election campaign became an indicator of the renewed in 2010 electoral legislation of the Republic of Belarus. In order to encourage the participation of political parties in the elections a number of fundamental innovations were introduced into the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus which greatly simplified the process of nominating candidates by political parties. As a result the number of candidates nominated by political parties increased by a factor of four compared to the previous elections to the House of Representatives (2008). The number of registered candidates nominated by political parties exceeded the same indicator in 2008 by four times.

A total of 375 candidates were registered in the constituencies. On average 3.4 candidates applied for one deputy seat.

September 15, 2012 the day before the beginning of the early voting the United Civil Party and the Belarusian National Front party congress took place where they called off the decisions on the nomination of candidates (35 candidates from the United Civil Party and 30 from the Belarusian National Front party). The average voters' turnout on the Election Day was 74.2%.

The election of deputies to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the sixth convocation took place on September 11, 2016. The voting turnout was 74.68%. Out of 110 elected deputies 94 parliamentarians are non-partisan and 16 represent political parties. 521 candidates were registered to participate in the elections and in total of 630 people applied for registration. Most of the candidates were nominated by political parties — 354 people. Out of the 16 elected party candidates, eight represent the Communist Party of Belarus, the Republican Party of labour and Justice and the Belarusian Patriotic Party received three deputy seats and the Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition

United Civil Party received one deputy seat. Another opposition deputy represents in the Parliament the Belarusian Language Society named after Frantsishak Skaryna.

27 deputies retained their seats and thus the deputy corps was renewed by more than 75% in the new composition of the House of Representatives.

Territorial and political differentiation of electoral processes in the Republic of Belarus remains rather weak. The system of election of members of Parliament in single-seat constituencies leads to personification of voting. The weak development of the party system also does not contribute to the exercise electorate's political preferences. Territorial differences in the turnout in the Republic of Belarus are insignificant and make up about 10%. The main features of parliamentary elections on the basis of direct suffrage are the high voter turnout (70–90%) and a significant rotation of the deputy corps: from one convocation to the other the composition of the House of Representatives is renewed by about 60–70% or more.

APPENDIX 3.**POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS REGISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC BELARUS AS OF AUGUST 6, 2019**

1	Belarusian Agrarian Party
Registration date	13.07.1992
Head	Mikhail Ivanovich Rusy
Statutory goal	Full participation of members of this party in the activities of state authorities and local self-government through the delegation of their elected representatives; political education of citizens, the development of their consciousness in the spirit of patriotism and statehood; knowledge of the opinions of citizens on any issues of civil and political life and bringing them to the general public, public authorities and local authorities; participation in elections in the manner prescribed by law; participation in the adoption and implementation of rural economic and social development programs; preservation of the spiritual roots and moral principles of folk life; development of centuries-old potential of material and spiritual culture of the Belarusian village.
2	Belarusian Party "The Greens"
Registration date	03.06.1994
Head	Anastasia Valerevna Dorofeeva
Statutory goal	Creation of a healthy environment for man, the social and natural parameters of which provide maximum opportunities for his development, the development of spirituality, high moral relations to all living things, the formation and spread of the ecological style of thinking in all spheres of human life, including the political one;
3	Belarusian United Left Party "A Just World"

Registration date	26.05.1992
Head	Sergey Ivanovich Kalyakin
Statutory goal	The unification and political development of wage labourers in order to achieve complete liberation from exploitation in all its forms and the formation of a classless society of social justice.
4	Belarusian Patriotic Party
Registration date	10.11.1994
Head	Nikolay Dmitrievich Ulahovich
Statutory goal	Assistance in formation of a socially fair society; assistance in creating an updated union of fraternal nations and, first of all, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine; support the President in his efforts to implement the election program and urgent measures to bring Belarus out of the crisis; protection of national interests, honour and the Fatherland in all areas.
5	Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Assembly)
Registration date	29.01.1997
Head	Igor Petrovich Borisov
Statutory goal	Formation of a solidary society on the principles of freedom, equality, social justice, democracy and the priority of law; formation of an independent democratic legal and social Belarusian state – an equal member of the European and world community.
6	Belarusian Socialist Sporting Party
Registration	09.12.1994

date	
Head	Vladimir Alexandrovich Alexandrovich
Statutory goal	Contributing to the strengthening of an economically developed, socially oriented, stable state through the improvement of civil standards. The integration of the progressive forces of Belarus to implement social programs that contribute to the growth of the spiritual, cultural and economic potential of the Belarusian people. Attraction of public attention to patriotism and a healthy lifestyle; encouraging citizens to participate in local self-government, to solve social problems that society faces.
7	Communist Party of Belarus
Registration date	21.11.1996
Head	Aleksey Nikolaevich Sokol
Statutory goal	Orientation of society on the socialist development, which leads to the construction of a society of social justice based on the principles of collectivism, freedom and equality, advocates democracy, the strengthening of Belarusian statehood; voluntary renewal of the state union of peoples that previously were members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
8	Conservative Christian Party
Registration date	28.02.2000
Head	Zenon Stanislavovich Poznyak
Statutory goal	The establishment of a democratic society and the construction of a powerful Belarusian state.
9	Liberal Democratic Party

Registration date	24.02.1994
Head	Oleg Sergeevich Gaidukevich (since September 21, 2019)
Statutory goal	The formation of a rule-of-law state with a multistructured economy by parliamentary methods through the propaganda of the ideas of liberalism and liberal democracy; recognition of multi-party system, pluralism of opinions; guarantees of civil rights and freedoms, refusal of violent acts; creation of accompanying conditions for a decent life for every citizen of the Republic of Belarus, ensuring the free development of his/her personality in the economic, political and cultural branches.
10	United Civil Party of Belarus
Registration date	28.11.1995
Head	Nikolay Georgievich Kozlov
Statutory goal	Promoting the creation of a civil community and a rule of law based on free market relations. The priority of human rights, universal values and pluralism in all areas of society; protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens of Belarus within the boundaries of current legislation. Contributing to the creation of conditions for improving the living standards of citizens by decisively reforming the economy and integrating the republic into the world economic community.
11	Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Assembly)
Registration date	27.05.1998
Head	Sergey Vladimirovich Cherechen
Statutory goal	Creation of a humane, democratic society based on a multistructured economy and a variety of party structures; legal and social protection of the person of work, the adoption of the principles of individual

	freedom, social justice and solidarity.
12	BNF Party
Registration date	19.08.1993
Head	Grigory Andreevich Kostusyov
Statutory goal	Implementation of the program of the civil association “BNF” Renaissance ”by participating in the formation of state authorities of the Republic of Belarus.
13	Republican Party
Registration date	25.05.1994
Head	Vladimir Yakovlevich Belozor
Statutory goal	Revival and creation of a powerful, sovereign, humane, democratic Belarusian state with a sufficient degree of integration with the republics of the former USSR and Western countries, ensuring a high standard of quality of human life; creation of an economy on a fundamentally new basis, based on market mechanisms and ensuring the real political sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus and welfare of its people; enforcement of human rights in the Republic of Belarus.
14	Republican Party of Labour and Justice
Registration date	18.08.1993
Head	Vasily Vasilievich Zadnepryany
Statutory goal	Creation of a society of economic well-being and social justice.

15	Social Democratic Party of Popular Accord
Registration date	21.05.1997
Head	Sergey Vladimirovich Ermak
Statutory goal	Building a civilized rule of law state, conduct of democratic reforms.

Compiled according to the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Conducting Republican Referendums, Sites of Political Parties.

APPENDIX 4.**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE 7TH CONVOCATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

Compiled according to the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda.

Nomination of Citizens to the Territorial Election Commissions

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region*	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Nominated to the commissions	19	17	20	20	21	26	20	143
Including								
Citizens by submitting applications	4	4	4	13	7	10	0	42
Labour collectives	0	1	2	1	0	3	0	7
Public associations	15	12	14	19	14	13	20	107
Including								
Political parties	4	5	6	5	5	6	8	39
Other public	11	7	8	14	9	7	12	68

associations								
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*In the Grodno region, 13 citizens were nominated to the commission by two subjects simultaneously

Composition of territorial election commissions

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region*	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
The number of commission members	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	91
Including								
Citizens under the age of 30	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Women	8	4	2	5	8	3	5	38
Civil servants	4	1	2	2	3	2	1	15
By subjects of nomination								
Citizens by submitting applications	4	4	2	11	5	3	0	29
Labour collectives	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	6
Public associations	9	8	10	13	8	7	13	68
Including								
Political parties	3	3	4	2	2	2	3	19
Other public associations	6	5	6	11	6	5	10	49

*In the Grodno region, 12 citizens were nominated to the commission by two subjects simultaneously

Nomination of Citizens to the District Electoral Commissions

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of District Electoral Commissions	16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
Nominated to the commissions*	281	228	330	219	285	242	374	1959
Including								
Citizens by submitting applications	60	55	90	175	136	80	29	625
Labour collectives	6	3	19	6	5	24	14	77
Public associations	216	170	222	206	144	138	331	1427
Including								
Political parties	44	47	68	32	31	23	130	375
Other public associations	172	123	154	174	113	115	201	1052

*170 citizens were nominated to the commission by two subjects: Brest region – 1, Gomel region – 1, Grodno region – 168.

Composition of district election commissions

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region*	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of District Electoral Commissions	16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
The number of commission members	208	182	221	169	221	169	260	1430
Including								
Citizens under the age of 30	9	6	8	4	8	5	12	52
Women	118	112	135	96	139	101	171	872
Civil servants	40	24	39	19	50	37	16	225
By subjects of nomination								
Citizens by submitting applications	42	47	55	166	113	47	24	494
Labour collectives	4	3	16	5	5	16	10	59
Public associations	162	132	150	162	103	106	226	1041
Including								
Political parties	30	27	40	13	15	4	71	200

Other public associations	132	105	110	149	88	102	155	841
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*In the Grodno region, 164 citizens were nominated by two subjects.

Nomination of Citizens to the Precinct Electoral Commissions

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of Precinct Electoral Commissions	991	768	1009	669	982	739	707	5785
Nominated to the commissions	10241	9737	10686	8537	10872	8612	8981	67660
Including								
Citizens by submitting applications	3799	3939	3014	3112	5340	3333	651	23188
Labour collectives	1161	1038	1444	572	846	1328	1064	7453
Public associations	5281	4754	6228	4853	4686	3951	7266	37019
Including								
Political parties	159	208	944	123	124	85	2736	4379
Other public associations	5122	4546	5284	4730	4562	3866	4530	32640

Composition of Precinct Election Commissions

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region*	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of Precinct Electoral Commissions	991	768	1009	669	982	739	707	5785
The number of commission members	9376	9588	10065	7713	10295	8182	8427	63646
Including								
Citizens under the age of 30	829	641	609	458	663	632	847	4679
Women	6763	6615	7543	5655	7396	6247	5845	46064
Civil servants	450	312	465	275	441	246	41	2230
By subjects of nomination								
Citizens by submitting applications	3477	3935	2785	2684	5044	3053	611	21589
Labour collectives	1047	1029	1404	493	798	1309	895	6975
Public associations	4852	4624	5876	4536	4453	3820	6921	35082
Including								
Political parties	101	104	875	55	74	20	2555	3784

Other public associations	4751	4520	5001	4481	4379	3800	4366	31298
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APPENDIX 5.**NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 7TH CONVOCATION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE****NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

The document is compiled according to the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda.

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of constituencies	16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
Number of documents sets received	105	111	100	91	109	103	205	824
Number of nominated candidates	90	97	84	77	97	82	176	703
Withdrawal of consent to run	2	0	0	5	2	0	3	12
Registration denied	9	19	9	6	22	16	50	131
Registered	79	78	75	66	73	66	123	560

Nominated by one entity	Total	76	83	68	63	85	61	147	583
	Of which are registered	66	64	59	52	61	46	96	444
	Nominated by citizens by collecting signatures	20	15	13	14	37	18	35	152
	Of which are registered	14	3	7	10	26	11	10	81
	Nominated by labour collectives	9	13	5	13	0	0	2	42
	Of which are registered	9	13	5	9	0	0	2	38
	Nominated by political parties	47	55	50	36	48	43	110	389
	Of which are registered	43	48	47	33	35	35	84	325
Nominated by two entities	Total	13	14	16	14	12	21	29	119
	Of which are registered	12	14	16	14	12	20	27	115
	Nominated by citizens by collecting signatures and labour collectives	10	14	11	12	8	17	13	85
	Of which are registered	10	14	11	12	8	16	13	84
	Nominated by citizens by collecting signatures and political parties	3	0	5	2	4	4	16	34

	Of which are registered	2	0	5	2	4	4	14	31
	Nominated by three entities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Of which are registered	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Among candidates:								
	Women	28	19	23	17	25	24	45	181
	Of which are registered	26	16	22	15	20	22	30	151
	Citizens under the age of 30	12	4	3	5	9	6	23	62
	Deputies of local Councils of Deputies of the current convocation	7	13	7	7	14	20	1	69
	Of which are registered	7	13	7	6	12	20	1	66

APPENDIX 6.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CAMPAIGN OF CANDIDATES FOR 7TH CONVOCATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The document is compiled according to the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda.

Publication of election programs of candidates for the 7th Convocation of House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus

		Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of constituencies		16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
Number of registered candidates		79	78	75	66	73	66	123	560
Candidates who published the election programs		47	56	40	42	53	39	53	330
Newspapers that published the election	Republican	0	0	0	0	1	0	19	20
	Regional, Minsk city	2	1	7	17	1	4	34	66

	District (of a city)*	68	110	53	52	87	72	0	442
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*A number of constituencies include territories of several districts and / or cities

Notifications on mass events submitted by candidates and their proxies

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of constituencies	16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
Number of registered candidates	79	78	75	66	73	66	123	560
Number of notifications	63	73	99	155	108	53	590	1141
Number of events specified in the notifications	533	930	2154	2386	2445	899	16026	25373

* One notification may contain information on several events.

Statements on the provision of premises for meetings of candidates and their proxies with voters, election meetings organized by voters

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
Number of constituencies	16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
Number of registered candidates	79	78	75	66	73	66	123	560
Number of submitted applications	70	147	61	142	195	56	80	751
Number of events indicated in applications *	577	891	365	676	2169	499	320	5497

* One application may contain an application for the provision of several premises or at different times.

APPENDIX 7.**ACCREDITATION OF NATIONAL OBSERVERS IN THE ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE SEVENTH CONVOCATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

Subjects who sent observers	Observers accredited by election commissions				
	Central	Territorial	District	Precinct	TOTAL
Citizens by applying	0	9	56	679	744
Labour collectives	0	0	3	479	482
Political parties	4	4	57	550	615
Other public associations	4	31	632	14,849	15,516
TOTAL	8	44	748	16,557	17,357

Compiled according to the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda.

APPENDIX 8

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ELECTED DEPUTIES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS OF THE SEVENTH CONVOCATION

	Brest region	Vitebsk region	Gomel region	Grodno region	Minsk Region	Mogilev region	Minsk	Republic of Belarus
The number of elected deputies	16	14	17	13	17	13	20	110
Including members of political parties	4	0	5	0	5	2	5	21
Belarusian Agrarian Party	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Belarusian patriotic party	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Communist Party of Belarus	1	0	4	0	3	2	1	11
Liberal Democratic Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Republican Party of Labour and Justice	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	6
Out of elected deputies								
Women	6	5	5	4	8	7	9	44
Citizens under the age of 30	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Deputies of the House of Representatives of the sixth convocation	5	2	4	3	6	4	6	30

