

**LAW OF THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF AJARA
ON ELECTIONS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF
AJARA**

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1. Scope of regulation of the Law

This Law shall regulate the relations on preparation and conduct of elections of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara (hereinafter - the “Supreme Council”), set the rights and guarantees of the election participants, define the rule and authority for the establishment of the election administration, as well as the procedures for dispute resolution in cases stipulated by the present Law.

Article 2. Definition of Terms

Terms used for the purpose of the present Law have the following meaning:

- a) **Supreme Election Commission** (hereinafter - the “SEC”) - Supreme Election Commission of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara;
- b) **Elections** - electoral process, the objective and outcome of which is to elect the SEC;
- c) **General elections** - regular or pre-term elections;
 - c.a.) **Regular elections** - elections conducted due to the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Council within the terms set forth by the Constitutional Law of Georgia on the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara and the present Law;
 - c.b) **Pre-term (extraordinary) elections** - elections conducted as a result of early expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Council;
- d) **By-elections** - elections conducted through majoritarian electoral system in the relevant election district, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by this Law, to fill a vacant seat of the Supreme Council;
- e) **Re-run elections** - elections conducted again in accordance with the rules established for regular elections:
 - e.a) if one candidate participated in the elections conducted through majoritarian electoral system and his/her candidacy has been withdrawn pursuant to the procedures envisaged by this Law;
 - e.b) if none of the contestants, participating in the elections conducted through proportional electoral system, overcame an election threshold, or the elections were announced to have failed to be conducted in more than half of the election districts;
 - e.c) if the results of the election have been annulled by a court decision;
- f) **Repeat voting** – voting conducted again in the precinct (precincts), where the polling results have been declared null, or all over the electoral district based on the party lists, where no party/election bloc has been granted a mandate;
- g) **Second round of elections (run-off)** - voting conducted in cases and within the terms specified by the present Law, in circumstances when the first round of elections failed to reveal the winner;
- h) **Election (polling) Day** - the day of holding general, by-elections or re-run elections, as well as the run-off or repeat voting day;
- i) **Elections conducted through proportional electoral System** - election of members of the Supreme Council based on party lists;
- j) **Elections conducted through majoritarian electoral system** - election of members of the Supreme Council under a single-mandate election district;
- k) **Suffrage** - active and passive suffrage;

- l) **Active electoral suffrage** - the right of a citizen of Georgia to participate in overall elections by casting a vote to elect the members of the Supreme Council;
- m) **Passive electoral suffrage** - the right of a citizen of Georgia to run for member of the Supreme Council;
- n) **Electoral registration** - registration of parties, election blocs, initiative groups of voters and candidates by the respective election commission in order to obtain the right to participate in the elections;
- o) **Candidate for becoming election subject** - a person listed for registration in the respective election commission to participate in the elections;
- p) **Election subject** - a party, election bloc or initiative group of voters, or a candidate for membership of the Supreme Council, registered by the respective election commission;
- q) **Election administration official** - members of the election commission and staff employee;
- r) **Party** - a political union of citizens, acting in accordance with the Organic Law of Georgia on Political Unions of Citizens, which is registered by the SEC to participate in elections;
- s) **Election bloc** – a union of 2 or more parties registered by the SEC;
- t) **Candidate nominated through a party list** - a citizen of Georgia enlisted in a party list, registered by the SEC to participate in the elections of the Supreme Council;
- u) **Majoritarian candidate** - a citizen of Georgia nominated in the election district by a party/election bloc/initiative group of voters, registered by the district election commission to participate in elections of the Supreme Council.
- v) **Election district** - an operation area (administrative electoral division), where elections are organized and conducted;
- w) **Majoritarian election district** – a single-mandate majoritarian electoral district established for the Supreme Council elections;
- x) **Election precinct (polling station)** - administrative electoral division, established in accordance with the procedures of the Election Code of Georgia and the present Law, for polling and vote counting during elections;
- y) **Political public official** - the President of Georgia, a member of the Parliament of Georgia, the Prime-Minister of Georgia, other Members of the Government of Georgia and their deputies, a members of the Supreme Representative Bodies of the Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Ajara, Heads of governments of the Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Ajara, Members of the Government and their deputies, State authorized Attorney - the Governor, as well as Members of the Representative Body of Local Self-government and Mayors of self-governed cities and heads of local municipality – (Gamgebeli);
- z) **Political/pre-election advertising** - commercial broadcast by mass media (hereinafter - “media”), aimed at promoting/hindering the election of the election subject, where the election subject and/or his/her assigned number are displayed, containing signs of a pre-election campaign;
- z¹) **Pre-election campaign** - a set of measures carried out by the election subject/candidate aimed at running in and winning elections;
- z²) **Pre-election agitation** - appeal to the citizens in favor or against an election subject/candidate, as well as any public action facilitating or impeding his/her election, and/or containing pre-election campaign signs, including the participation in organization/conduct of pre-electoral events, preservation or dissemination of election materials, work on the list of supporters, presence in the representations of political parties;
- z³) **Election campaign funds** - the sum of funds of the election subject for the election campaign, as well as all goods and services obtained free of charge (reflected in market prices), except for air time cost defined in accordance with the rules established by the Election Code and this Law;

- z⁴) **Information on the election campaign funds** - information on the election campaign funds, all goods and services received free of charge, donation source, amount and date of the receipt of the donation;
- z⁵) **Electoral donations** - funds deposited by a physical persons to the account of the election subject during the election campaign, as well as all types of material value and services obtained free of charge, except for free air time as prescribed by the Election Code and this Law;
- z⁶) **Election documentation** - applications, complaints, letters, business correspondence, protocols, ballot papers, special envelopes, legislative acts of the election administration of Georgia, check-lists, registration books, lists of voters, voting invitation cards and other documentation incoming and outgoing at the election commissions.

Article 3. Basic principles for the conduct of elections

Basic principles for the conduct of the Supreme Council elections are:

- a) Universal suffrage to participate in elections:
 - a.a) any citizen of Georgia, registered on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, having attained the age of 18 prior to or on the day of elections, and who meets the requirements prescribed by the present Law, shall enjoy active suffrage, except for persons who, under the Constitution of Georgia and/or in accordance with this Law complying therewith, have a restricted active suffrage;
 - a.b) any citizen of Georgia, meeting the requirements prescribed by this Law, shall enjoy passive suffrage, except for persons who, under the Constitution of Georgia and/or in accordance with this Law complying therewith or by the Law of Georgia on Combating Drugs Crimes, have a restricted passive suffrage;
 - a.c) a citizen of Georgia, having been declared incapable by the court or is placed in prison/penitentiary institution in accordance with the court judgment, shall not be qualified to participate in the elections, except for persons committing misdemeanor;
- b) Equal suffrage:
 - b.a) voters shall participate in the elections on equal grounds;
 - b.b) every voter of the same election district shall possess an equal number of votes;
- c) Direct electoral right:
 - c.a) elections of the Supreme Council shall be direct;
 - c.b) members of the Supreme Council shall be elected directly by voters;
- d) Secrecy of ballot and free expression of the will of voters:
 - d.a) elections of the Supreme Council shall be held by secret ballot;
 - d.b) any influence restricting a free expression of the voters' will, as well as control over the expression of the voters' will, shall be prohibited.

Article 4. Publicity of elections

Under the rule prescribed by the present Law and for its purposes, the activities of the election administration, election subjects, public authority and local self-government bodies, shall be open and public.

Article 5. Timeline of terms stipulated by this Law

1. All terms during the elections defined by this Law, including the terms of judicial recourse and the delivery of the court judgment, are counted in calendar days (including holidays as set forth by the Labor Code of Georgia).
2. Expressions - "in N days from the given day", "within N days period from the given day", "no earlier/no later than N days from the given day", "no earlier/no later than N day from the given day" imply that the timeline shall start from the following day of the indicated day.

3. Expressions - “N days prior to the given day”, “no earlier/no later than N day prior to the given day”, “no earlier/no later than on the N day prior to the given day” imply that the timeline shall start from the day preceding the indicated day.

Article 6. Announcing the Election Day as a holiday

Regular elections of the Supreme Council may be held on any day of the week. The Election Day shall be announced as a holiday.

Article 7. Calling of the Supreme Council elections

1. Regular elections of the Supreme Council shall be held in October of the calendar year during which the term of authority of the Supreme Council expires.
2. The date of the Supreme Council elections shall be announced by the President of Georgia, no later than 60 days before the elections.
3. If the timeframe for elections coincides with the state of emergency, elections shall be held no later than 60 days after such a state is lifted.

Article 8. The composition of the Supreme Council, its term of authority and passive electoral suffrage

1. The Supreme Council shall be elected for a term of 4 years.
2. The Supreme Council shall be composed of 15 members elected through a proportional election system, and 6 members elected based on a majoritarian election system.
3. Any citizen of Georgia with the right to suffrage, having attained the age of 25 prior to or on the Election Day may be elected as member of the Supreme Council.

Article 9. Incompatibility of the status of the candidate for membership of the Supreme Council with his/her official capacity

1. Persons holding the following offices must resign and be dismissed no later than on the 2nd day after submitting an application to the appropriate election commission for the registration as a candidate for the membership of the Supreme Council:
 - a) the President of Georgia;
 - b) members of the Parliament of Georgia (except for the cases when 3 months are left before the expiration of the terms of authority of the Parliament);
 - c) ministers of Georgia and an Autonomous Republic, heads and deputy heads of government and state subordinate agencies;
 - d) members of the Security Council of Georgia;
 - e) General Audit and deputy Generally Audit;
 - f) members of the Board of the National Bank of Georgia;
 - g) public Defender and Deputy Public Defender;
 - h) members of the High Council of Justice of Georgia;
 - i) judges;
 - j) prosecutors, their deputies, assistants, and investigators;
 - k) officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and Ministry of Defense of Georgia, Georgian Intelligence Service and Special Service of State Protection;
 - l) head and deputy heads of the public service bureau;
 - m) State Authorized Attorneys - Governors and their deputies;
 - n) members of the representative body of local self-government, Mayor of the self-governed city and head of the district municipality (Gamgebeli);
 - o) advisors to the President of Georgia;
 - p) members of the Georgian National Communications Commission, and Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission.

2. The relevant legal act on the resignation and dismissal of officials from the positions specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be immediately submitted to the appropriate election commission. Otherwise, these officials shall be denied registration as a candidate for membership of the Supreme Council and, if the registration has already taken place, it shall be annulled.

CHAPTER II ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Article 10. Composition of the election administration of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara

1. The election administration of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara is an independent administrative body which, within its authority, shall be independent from other government agencies and shall be established in accordance with this Law. The rule of formation of the election administration of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara shall be governed by this law, while its powers shall be governed by the organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, and this Law.
2. The election administration of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara is composed of:
 - a) the SEC and its Secretariat;
 - b) the District Election Commissions (DECs);
 - c) the Precinct Election Commissions (PECs);
3. The SEC constitutes the supreme body of the election administration of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, which, within its competence, shall conduct and control election commissions at all levels, and ensure the uniform application of the election legislation throughout the whole territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara.
4. The following shall not be elected/appointed as members of the SEC:
 - a) a person who does not hold a certificate of election administration official;
 - b) a person who has been dismissed from a position at the election administration by the election commission or the court, due to a breach of the election legislation of Georgia;
 - c) a person whose violation of the election legislation of Georgia was confirmed by the court;
 - d) a person who has been convicted of a crime and whose previous convictions have not been expunged;
 - e) election subject/candidate and his/her representative;
 - f) observer.
5. DECs established on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara for holding elections defined by the present Law, in accordance with the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, are subordinated to the SEC.
6. In the case that general elections and the elections of the Supreme Council of Ajara defined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, are conducted simultaneously, district and precinct election commissions established in accordance with the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, and formed for general elections, shall carry out functions of district and precinct election commissions.
7. Members of the SEC, their Secretariat employees, except for assisting staff or part-time employees shall represent public servants and the Law of Georgia on Public Service shall apply to them, unless otherwise determined the election legislation.

Article 11. Election commission work regulations

1. Work regulations of the election commission shall be determined by this Law and by the relevant commission regulation, which shall be approved by SEC decree.
2. A session of the election commission shall be called upon request of the chairperson of the commission or deputy chairperson.

3. A session is authorized, if attended by a majority of the total number of the election commission members.
4. The decision of the commission shall be considered adopted, if supported by a majority of the members present at the session (unless this Law provides for a higher quorum), but not less than one-third of the total number of the election commission members. Decisions of the election commission regarding decisions made by lower election commissions, including nullification of election district/precinct results, opening of packages received from the election commission and counting of election ballot papers, shall be adopted by not less than two-third of those present at the session.
5. In case of an equal number of votes, a chairperson shall have the casting vote.
6. Issues of human resources shall be resolved at the session by a majority vote of the total number of the election commission members.
7. Protocols of sessions shall be drawn up and signed by the chairperson of the session and the secretary of the election commission.
8. The session protocols shall be elaborated within 1 day after the session.
9. A member of the election commission, objecting the decision of the commission, shall be entitled to express his/her dissenting opinion in writing, which shall be attached to the protocol of the session. At the same time, a member having a dissenting opinion, shall respect and obey the decision delivered by the commission. He/she shall have no right to impede, by his/her action/omission, the execution of the decision.
10. The election commission shall accept, issue and register election documentation until 18:00 of the working day, except for cases envisaged by this Law.
11. Upon receipt of an application/complaint, the date and time of its receipt shall be noted in the registration book of the election commission, as well as on the confirmation of receipt issued to the applicant/complainant. The commission shall consider the application/complaint and deliver appropriate decision.
12. Receipt of any document from the election commission shall be confirmed by the signature of the applicant in the registration book.
13. The election commission shall be entitled not to consider the application/complaint if the deadline and procedure for its submission is breached.
14. Election documentation shall be available to the public. The election commission is obligated to make election documentation and election information available to interested persons within 2 days after receiving a request. In case the copies are requested, the amount of costs and the procedures for its payment shall be regulated in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.
15. The session of the election commission shall be open. Members of higher election commission and commission representatives, secretariat staff of the respective and upper election commissions, representatives of media accredited in the relevant commission, one representative of each contestant in the relevant commission, as well as one observer from domestic observer organization registered with the relevant commission, one observer from international organization registered with the SEC with an interpreter, shall be authorized to attend the session of the election commission. In the case of breach of order and obstruction of the work of the election commission, the commission shall be authorized to make the decision to remove the person violating the order, which shall be recorded in the minutes of the session.
16. The following individuals are authorized to remain at the polling place:
 - a) Members of the Central Election Commission (CEC), SEC, district and precinct election commissions;
 - b) Representatives of the CEC, SEC and district election commissions;
 - c) Representative of the election subject;
 - d) Representatives of the press and media, registered with the respective commissions;
 - e) Observers.

17. Everyone authorized to stay at the polling place shall carry a badge (certificate) indicating his/her identity and title.
18. In case of breach of order and obstruction of the work of the election commission, the election commission shall make a decision on the removal of the person violating the order from the administrative building, as well as from the session. This decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the session.
19. A member of the election commission shall participate in the activities of the commission from the very day of his/her appointment (election) in the relevant commission.
20. A member of the district or precinct election commission shall sign the summary protocol of polling or election results and, in case he/she objects to the information reflected in the protocol, the member is authorized to indicate such in the relevant section of the summary protocol of polling and election results and attach a written dissenting opinion to the protocol.
21. A member of the election commission is not the representative of his appointer/voter. He/she shall be independent in his/her activities and shall act only in accordance with the Constitution of Georgia, law and relevant legal acts. Any pressure upon the member of the election commission, or interference in his/her activities, with the aim of influencing his/her decision shall be prohibited and is punishable by law.
22. If the commission chairperson and a deputy chairperson, or a commission secretary, are temporarily unable to carry out the duties determined by the present Law, and pursuant to the same Law, an action falling within the exclusive competence of the chairperson or the secretary is to be carried out, the commission, in accordance with the procedures established by the present Law, shall elect without delay an acting chairperson or a secretary among his staff for electing relevant officials. The power of the acting chairperson of the commission shall be ceased once the commission chairperson or deputy chairperson are able to carry out their functions, and the authority of the commission acting secretary shall be ceased, once the commission secretary is able to carry out his/her duties.
23. If the election commission does not have neither a chairperson or a deputy chairperson, the secretary of the commission shall call the session for electing the commission chairperson and shall chair the commission until the election of the chairperson, and if the commission does not have a secretary, the commission session shall be called and chaired by the senior member of the commission until the election of the chairperson.
24. In case of the absence of the commission chairperson or on his/her instruction, a deputy chairperson of the commission shall carry out his/her duties.
25. Persons authorized to be present at the polling place shall be entitled to conduct photo and video shooting of the polling place, except for the polling booths, as long as that person does not obstruct the work of the commission.

Article 12. Remuneration

1. During the electoral period SEC members and heads, SEC staff workers shall receive a salary worth of double amount.
2. Member of the DEC elected by the SEC according to Article 19 of this Law and members appointed by political parties shall receive salaries from the funds allocated for the conduct of the elections throughout the period of time they are authorized to fulfill their duties.
3. Overtime hours and work performed during overtime shall be remunerated with the amount of remuneration determined by the SEC, from funds allocated for the conduct of elections.
4. In cases prescribed by paragraph 6, Article 10 of this Law, the SEC is entitled to issue only bonuses for members of the DEC and senior officials from the funds allocated for the conduct of the elections, in accordance with the procedures and amount defined by the SEC.
5. Except for cases prescribed by paragraph 6, Article 10 of this Law, members and senior officials of the PEC (based on the ordinance of the upper DEC) shall receive salaries from the funds

allocated for the conduct of elections from the 30th day prior to the Election Day, until the upper DEC draws up the summary protocol of polling results.

6. The remuneration amount paid to the senior officials and members of the SEC, district and precinct election commissions, as well as the SEC Secretariat staff shall be determined by the SEC.

Law of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara of August 2, 2012 №175. – website, 02.08.2012y.

Article 13. Election of the SEC Chairperson/members

1. The SEC shall be composed of its chairperson and 5 members. During election period it shall be composed of its chairperson and 12 members. 7 members of the SEC shall be appointed by the parties prescribed by Article 13 of the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia. Decision regarding the appointment of the SEC member shall be submitted to the SEC not later than within 3 calendar days.
2. The term of office for the SEC chairperson/member shall be 5 years, except for members appointed by political unions in a manner prescribed by this Law. Their term of office shall be defined by the timeframe between the day of calling of the elections and the recognition of the newly elected Supreme Council authority, while in case of by-elections/re-run elections – before officially publishing of the election results.
3. The term of office of the chairperson/member of the SEC prescribed by this Law (except for members appointed by political parties) shall be terminated on the day, when the decree issued by the Supreme Council on the election of the newly elected chairperson/member enters into force.
4. The SEC chairperson simultaneously acts as a member of the SEC. Termination of the authority of the SEC chairperson concurrently results in the termination of his/her membership. Chairperson and 5 members of the SEC shall be elected by the Supreme Council, upon nomination by the Chairperson of Autonomous Republic of Ajara Government.
5. Candidate for SEC chairmanship/membership shall be selected through an open competition.
6. No later than 60 days prior to the expiration of the term of office of the SEC chairperson/member, chairperson of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Ajara shall issue an order on the conduct of a competition and formation of a competition commission.
7. The SEC chairperson/member may be a non-partisan individual, with higher education, fluent in the official language of Georgia, with working experience of not less than 3 years and holds a certificate of the election administration official.
8. A capable citizen of Georgia having attained the age of 25, who meets the requirements prescribed in paragraph 4 of Article 10, paragraph 7 of this Article of this Law and Article 17 of the Law of Georgia on Public Service, shall be eligible to participate in the competition. The deadline for submission of the documents shall be set for no later than 14 days after announcing the competition.
9. Application submitted for a competition shall include: first name, last name of a candidate; education (higher), specialization, scientific degree (if applicable); address (in accordance with the personal identification card/ registration certificate); work place and position; contact address and a phone number (if applicable); the application shall be signed by the candidate and shall enclose the following:
 - a) 2 photos of a candidate;
 - b) photocopy of personal identification (registration) card;
 - c) photocopy of a document certifying candidate's higher education (scientific degree – if applicable);
 - d) Professional bio of a candidate and description of an experience with regards to participating in elections (if applicable).

10. If, within the terms defined by the present Law, a minimum of 2 persons are not nominated for a vacant position, the competition shall continue until minimum 2 persons are nominated for the vacant position.
11. The list of candidates shall be published within 2 days after the deadline to nominate candidates.
12. The competition commission shall submit to the chairperson of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara no less than 2 and no more than 3 candidates for the SEC membership for each vacancy no later than 5 days after the deadline expiration for the nomination of candidates. No later than 7 days after the selection/nomination of candidates, chairperson of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara shall make a decision on the selection of candidates and submit to the Supreme Council 2 candidates for one vacant SEC member position.
13. The Supreme Council shall elect the chairperson/members of the SEC by a roll-call vote no later than 14 days following the submission by the chairperson of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara of candidates for SEC chairmanship/membership. Each candidate shall be put to vote separately. The SEC chairperson/member shall be deemed elected if supported by a majority of members of the full composition of the Supreme Council. If the number of individuals is more than the number of positions to be elected, the candidate(s) with the best results shall be considered elected. If a winner cannot be revealed, due to an equal number of votes, the candidates are immediately voted upon until a winner is revealed among them.
14. If, as a result of voting, all vacancies are not filled, the rest of the candidates shall be put to vote again. If the vacancy is not yet filled, candidates shall be put to another vote. If the vacancy is still not filled, chairperson of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, within 3 days, shall submit to the Supreme Council 2 candidates for each unfilled vacancy from other candidates participating in the competition. If the vacancy is still not filled, no later than within 3 days, a competition is announced for the rest of the vacancies and the nomination procedure starts over.
15. The same candidate can be nominated only twice.
16. Following an early termination of the term of office of the SEC member, with the purpose of filling the commission composition up to 6 members, during the nearest session week of the Supreme Council, Chairperson of the Government shall once again submit to the Supreme Council those candidates receiving not less than a majority of votes, or announce the competition within 3 days. The same rule shall apply in case of absence of such candidate.
17. The decree of the Supreme Council on the election of the SEC Chairperson/member shall be submitted to the SEC within 7 days of its adoption.
18. The decree indicated in paragraph 17 of this Article shall include first and last name of the person elected as chairman/member of the SEC. The decree shall be enclosed the documents submitted for the competition defined by paragraph 9 of this Article and the application signed by the above person, endorsing that he/she meets the requirements prescribed by paragraph 4, Article 10 of this Law.

Article 14. Election of the deputy chairperson and the secretary of the SEC

1. If relevant vacancy becomes available, the SEC shall elect the SEC deputy chairperson and secretary at the first session from commission members, with the membership authority term, by a majority vote of the total number of members, by a roll-call.
2. Not less than 2 members of the commission are authorized to nominate the deputy chairperson and the secretary of the SEC.
3. The same candidate can be nominated only twice.
4. If, within the set term, the commission fails to elect the deputy chairperson and the secretary, the duties of the said official shall be fulfilled by the member of the commission receiving the highest votes during the elections, and in case of an equal number of votes - the person defined by casting lots.

Article 15. Powers of the SEC

1. The SEC shall:
 - a) ensure the conduct of the Supreme Council elections throughout the whole territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, oversee the process of implementation of the election legislation and secure its uniform application;
 - b) by a decree, adopt the SEC, district and precinct election commission regulations;
 - c) in exceptional cases, if it is unfeasible to meet certain requirements/terms established by this Law, be authorized to define the electoral events and terms of upcoming elections/polling. In addition, where necessary, in accordance with this Law, submit to the President of Georgia a proposal on setting a new election date;
 - d) by an ordinance, set up election districts and specify their boundaries;
 - e) if necessary for resolution of issues provided by this Law, be authorized, by an ordinance adopted by at least two-third of an absolute majority, to set up a special group, define boundaries of its authority and term of its activity;
 - f) if the lower election commission does not or cannot perform the duties assigned by the legislation, be authorized, by an ordinance adopted by at least two-thirds of an absolute majority, to terminate the authority of that commission and form an interim group, responsible for carrying out that commission's duties until the resumption of a new commission;
 - g) by an ordinance and in accordance with the terms prescribed by this Law, determine a schedule for electoral events;
 - h) by an ordinance, call extraordinary, re-run and by-elections, repeat voting and second round of the elections;
 - i) by its own initiative or on the basis of an application/complaint, in accordance with the procedures for examining election disputes defined by the present Law, check the legitimacy of the decisions and acts of the election commissions, their officials and, in the event of violation, invalidate or revise them by an ordinance; by an ordinance, make a decision on opening the parcels received from the respective PEC and on recounting of ballot papers/ lists of voters. In case of recounting ballot papers, the SEC shall notify all contestants and observer organizations, whose representatives attend the counting process at the election precinct, and based on their will, ensure the presence of their representatives during the recounting process;
 - j) based on the summary protocols of polling results of district and precinct election commissions, summarize the results of the Supreme Council elections (by party list), based on which the SEC summary protocol of the election results shall be drawn up;
 - k) by an ordinance, grant election observer status to a non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities determined in this Law, as well as to international organizations, organizations registered in another country, and group of representatives of government agencies of other states;
 - l) by an ordinance, determine the rules for distribution and utilization of funds allocated for conducting elections;
 - m) establish, by an ordinance, the form of election ballot papers; text of the ballot papers; form of election boxes, election envelopes and election commission stamps, forms of election documentation not determined by this Law, but important for organizing the elections;
 - n) be accountable before the Supreme Council and submit to it a report within 60 days after the sum up of the results of each election;
 - o) ensure electronic processing of polling/election results received from DEC's and immediate publishing of the results on the SEC web page; and, in case of adoption of the decision referred to in subparagraph "j" of this paragraph, the publication of that decision on the SEC web page;
 - p) manage the activities of DEC's, hear their reports on a regular basis;
 - q) ensure publication and distribution of information materials;
 - r) by an ordinance, adopt an instruction for certification of election administration official and competition regulation for selection of the SEC Secretariat Staff and the DEC members;

- s) consider election-related applications and complaints in accordance with the procedures determined by this Law, and make appropriate decisions within the scope of its competence;
 - t) be responsible for placing on the SEC web page of the part of the general list of voters designated as public information (last name, first name, date of birth, address according to personal identification card of the citizen of Georgia, as for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the occupied territories of Georgia - an actual address is also required, as well as the date of registration of the voter in the general list of voters).
 - u) by an ordinance, determine additional rules for drawing up a general list of voters and polling procedures;
 - v) by an ordinance, approve a staff timetable and estimated costs based on nomination by the SEC chairperson;
 - w) by an ordinance, define the form of the report on costs related to the DEC elections;
 - x) by an ordinance, approve the next year budget request of the SEC;
 - y) by an ordinance, determine a minimum number of signatures of supporters for candidates nominated by the voters' initiative group;
 - z) exercise other authorities granted under this Law.
2. All SEC ordinances shall be published in the "Legislative Herald of Georgia (Saqartvelos Sakanonmdeblo Matsne)" and may also be made publicly available through media. The SEC ordinance relating to issues provided by subparagraphs "f-l" of paragraph 1 of this Article, also the SEC ordinance regarding issues stipulated in subparagraph "d", paragraph 2, Article 16 of this Law, shall be published within 3 days of their adoption.
 3. The SEC is authorized to adopt an ordinance on issues within the SEC competence, related to the election and other procedures, which have not been envisaged by the present Law and other legislative acts.

Article 16. Authority of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of the SEC

1. The SEC chairperson is the highest official in the election administration of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara.
2. The SEC chairperson shall:
 - a) fulfill the administrative functions in the SEC;
 - b) chair the SEC sessions;
 - c) administer the SEC funds;
 - d) register the parties and election blocs participating in the elections and their representatives in the SEC and issue relevant certificates to them;
 - e) issue relevant certificates to the elected member(s) of the Supreme Council; in case of early termination of office of a member(s) of the Supreme Council - to their successor(s);
 - f) submit to the interim mandate commission of the newly elected Supreme Council, and following the establishment of the relevant standing committee – issue to such committee necessary documentation for verifying the authority of persons elected as members of the Supreme Council;
 - g) *(removed- 02.08.2012, №175.)*
 - h) exercise other powers conferred thereto under the election legislation of Georgia;
 - i) except for issues prescribed by the SEC law, based on the order of the SEC chairperson, entrust the head of the SEC structural unit with administrative and financial duties for a particular period;
 - j) task the deputy chairperson, commission secretary, other members of the commission and employees of the secretariat in accordance with the regulations of the election administration;
 - k) performs other duties granted under the election legislation of Georgia;
3. The SEC deputy chairperson shall:
 - a) perform duties assigned to the SEC chairperson, if the SEC does not have a chairperson or the latter is unable to perform his/her duties;

- b) by an ordinance and consent of the SEC chairperson, exercise certain powers of the SEC chairperson (the ordinance shall precisely set the scopes and term of authority so assigned).
 - 4. The SEC secretary shall:
 - a) distribute the election documentation and all correspondence submitted and addressed to the SEC;
 - b) register the representatives of the party/election bloc independently participating in the elections for the Supreme Council in the DEC's and issue relevant certificates thereto;
 - c) register observers, appointed by the SEC, of a non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity/international organization, carrying a status of the election observer, observers sent by state bodies of another state and issue observer's certificates to them;
 - d) by an ordinance, accredit the representatives of media and issue accreditation cards to them;
 - e) draw up summary protocols of polling results;
 - f) exercise other powers and authorities granted under the election legislation of Georgia.
- Law of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara of August 2, 2012 №175. – website, 02.08.2012y.*

Article 17. The SEC Secretariat

- 1. The SEC Secretariat shall ensure organizational, legal and technical support of the elections.
- 2. The Secretariat structure, rules of its activities and authority shall be determined by the SEC regulation.
- 3. The election administration official (except for the commission members appointed by the party in accordance with the procedures established by this Law) shall have limited involvement in party activities.
- 4. The Secretariat shall not employ a person who does not hold a certificate of election administration official issued by the SEC, except for assisting and technical staff, as well as the employees, whose activities are not directly linked with the election procedures. The list of such offices and the list of officials provided by a staff timetable shall be determined by the SEC ordinance.
- 5. SEC is entitled to hire additional Supernumerary and assisting staff within the frames of SEC ordinance for electoral period (3 months).

Law of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara of August 2, 2012 №175. – website, 02.08.2012y.

Article 18. Election districts

- 1. Election districts, their boundaries, titles and numbers shall be determined by the SEC in accordance with the procedure established by this Law.
- 2. If general and Supreme Council elections, defined by the Election Code of Georgia, are held simultaneously, election districts, their boundaries, titles and numbers shall correspond to the districts established by the CEC for holding elections defined by the Election Code of Georgia.

Article 19. Establishment of the DEC

- 1. The DEC is composed of 5 members of the DEC established in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara in accordance with the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia. 1 member shall be elected by a majority vote of total number of SEC members, while 7 members shall be appointed by political parties provided by Article 13 of the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.
- 2. Decision of a party on the appointment of a DEC member shall be submitted to the SEC no later than on the 57th day prior to the Election Day. If the authorized parties fail to appoint DEC members within the deadline established by this paragraph, the SEC is authorized to fill the number of DEC members up to 13 on the following day after expiration of the deadline, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by this Law.
- 3. Terms, conditions and procedure for participation in competition shall be defined by the SEC ordinance.

4. The competition application shall indicate: the first and the last name of a candidate, education (higher education), occupation, scientific degree (if any), address (according to personal identification card (registration certificate) of a citizen of Georgia), place of work and occupied position, contact address and telephone number (if any), number and name of the election district, in which he/she is willing to become a DEC member; the application shall be enclosed with:
 - a) two photos of the candidate;
 - b) a copy of a personal identification card (registration certificate) of a citizen of Georgia;
 - c) a copy of a document certifying candidate's higher education (scientific degree – if any);
 - d) a copy of a certificate of the election administration official;
 - e) employment record/bio and a description of an election related experience of a candidate (if any).
5. If the submitted documentation is inconsistent with the requirements defined by this Article, the SEC chairperson shall notify about it the official who appointed the commission member (with an indication of the discrepancy) no later than the following day. Corrected documents should be returned back to the SEC not later than the following day.
6. A nominated individual may not be deemed as a commission member, if the deadline for the submission of the documents specified by this Article have not been met or/and submitted documents are incomplete or inaccurate, and if the discrepancy in the documents has not been removed within the terms defined by this Article.
7. The DEC shall not be placed in the same building which headquarters offices of local self-government bodies - Sakrebulo and municipality (Gangeoba), office of political party (parties), or the court and police service.
8. The DEC shall be authorized to hire assisting and technical personnel (except for an accountant) within the quantity set by the SEC ordinance, during the timeframe of calling of the elections until its completion.
9. The DEC shall be authorized to hire an accountant within the quantity defined by paragraph 8 of this Article, until the completion of procedures provided by paragraph 5 of Article 58 of the present Law.
10. First DEC session shall be convened by the SEC chairperson no later than on the 57th day prior to the polling day.

Article 20. Rule of appointment/election of the DEC members

1. Candidates for DEC membership shall be selected based on an open competition rule.
2. Candidates for DEC membership shall be a non-partisan, with higher education, being fluent in official Georgian language and holding a certificate of an election administration official.
3. A capable Georgian citizen having attained 21 years, who meets the requirements of this Law, may participate in the competition. Deadlines for submission of competition documentation shall be defined by the SEC ordinance.
4. The competition application shall indicate: the first and the last name of a candidate, education (higher education), occupation, scientific degree (if any), address (according to personal identification card (registration certificate) of a citizen of Georgia), place of work and occupied position, contact address and telephone number (if any), number and name of the election district, in which he/she desires to become a DEC member; the application shall be signed by the candidate and shall be enclosed with:
 - a) two photos of the candidate;
 - b) a copy of a personal identification card (registration certificate) of a citizen of Georgia;
 - c) a copy of a document certifying candidate's higher education (scientific degree – if any);
 - d) a copy of a certificate of the election administration official;
 - e) employment record (professional bio) and a description of an election related experience of a candidate (if any).

5. If the submitted documentation is inconsistent with the requirements defined by this Article, the SEC chairperson shall notify the candidate thereof (with an indication of the discrepancy). Corrected documents should be returned back to the SEC within 1 day, but no later than the registration deadline.
6. The SEC elects DEC members by a roll-call vote. Each candidate is voted upon separately. A person supported by a majority vote of the total number of SEC members shall be considered elected. If the number of such persons is more than the number of those to be elected, then the candidates with the best results among them will be deemed elected; if the winner cannot be determined due to the equal number of votes received by some candidates, these candidates shall be put on vote immediately in order to reveal the winner. If the winner is still not revealed, he/she shall be determined by casting lots.
7. In case of early termination of office of a DEC member elected by the SEC/party, block, his/her successor shall be elected by the SEC/appointed by a party, block within 3 days.
8. The following may not be elected/appointed as a member of the DEC:
 - a) an individual, who has not been granted the certificate of election administration official;
 - b) an individual dismissed from the position at the election administration by the election commission or a court for violation of the election legislation of Georgia;
 - c) an individual, whose violation of the election legislation has been approved by the court;
 - d) a person, who has been convicted of a crime (except for the case, when a fine was imposed as a sanction), and his/her previous convictions have not been expunged;
 - e) election subject/candidate and his/her proxy;
 - f) observer.
9. In case an individual is elected/appointed as a DEC member, he/she shall within 7 days meet the requirements prescribed by this Law regarding the restriction of activities and work discrepancy.
10. The term of office of a DEC member elected/appointed based on Article 19 of this Law shall be terminated starting on the day of publishing of final results of general elections by the SEC, while, in case of by-elections/re-run elections – on the day of official publication of final results of these elections.

Article 21. Authority of the DEC

The DEC shall:

- a) ensure, within its authority, the conduct of elections, oversee the process of implementation of the election legislation and secure its uniform application;
- b) by an ordinance, establish and specify the boundaries of polling stations;
- c) if the lower PEC is unable or fails to perform the duties assigned to it under the legislation, be authorized to request the respective commission to suspend the authority of this commission by a majority decision of the total number of DEC members;
- d) on the basis of an application/complaint (if such application/complaint is filed in consistent with the procedure and within the timeframe prescribed by the present Law) or at its own initiative, examine the lawfulness of the actions and decisions made by PECs and their officials on the Election Day (including the accuracy of the registration of election participants, counting of ballot papers, etc.), and if violations are detected, make appropriate decision (including changing of data of the PEC summary protocol of polling results in accordance with the examination outcome or annul the polling results in the polling station). If the violation results into the replacement of an elected individual in a district or of any candidate participating in the run-off, or change of a decision whether to deem the elections valid or not (by majoritarian election districts), and if such an examination is not sufficient for the DEC to establish the lawfulness of the results, the DEC shall make a decision to render the polling results in the relevant election precinct null and request the SEC to set the date for the repeat voting. In case of a DEC decision on recounting of votes, it shall notify thereof all election subjects and observer organizations, representatives of

which attended the ballot paper counting at a particular precinct and, if requested, ensure their attendance during the recounting process;

- e) based on the summary protocol of polling results of PECs, and in consideration of the outcomes of discussing violations of the election legislation, sum up election district voting results during elections, based on which a summary protocol of polling results of the DEC shall be drawn up;
- f) based on the summary protocol of polling results of PECs, and considering the district/city court decision on violations of the election legislation, establish the results of the majoritarian system elections at the majoritarian election district on which a summary protocol of polling results of the DEC shall be drawn up;
- g) by an ordinance, grant the status of a domestic observer of elections to the local non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity envisaged by this Law;
- h) ensure the conduct of extraordinary elections, re-run elections, repeat voting, run-off elections;
- i) ensure the release and publication of information materials related to the elections;
- j) examine election-related applications and complaints and make relevant decisions within its authority;
- k) facilitate the publicity and accessibility of the list of voters;
- l) exercise other powers provided by this Law.

Article 22. Powers of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of DEC

- 1. The DEC Chairperson shall:
 - a) perform full administrative functions at the DEC;
 - b) chair DEC sessions;
 - c) administer DEC funds;
 - d) task the deputy chairperson, secretary, other DEC members and assisting and technical employees in accordance with the regulation of the election administration;
 - e) register initiative groups of voters, also majoritarian candidates nominated at the DEC by a party/election bloc/initiative group of voters;
 - f) issue relevant certificates to candidates nominated by party/election bloc/initiative group of voters;
 - g) exercise other powers and authorities provided by the election legislation of Georgia.
- 2. The DEC deputy chairperson shall:
 - a) perform the duties of the DEC chairperson, if the DEC does not have a chairperson or the latter is unable to perform his/her duties;
 - b) exercise certain authorities granted by an ordinance of the DEC chairperson (the ordinance shall clearly specify the scope and term of authority assigned).
- 3. The DEC secretary shall:
 - a) distribute election documentation and all correspondence submitted and addressed to the DEC;
 - b) register representatives in PECs of any party/election bloc/initiative group of voters independently participating in the elections and issue appropriate certificates to them;
 - c) register observers to the district and precinct election commissions appointed by the non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities holding an election observer status and issue observer certificates to them;
 - d) based on the ordinance, accredit media representatives and issue accreditation cards to them;
 - e) draft protocols of the election commission sessions, including the summary protocols of polling results;
 - f) exercise other authority assigned by the election legislation.

Article 23. Election precincts

- 1. For the conduct of polling and counting of votes, the election district is divided into election precincts.

2. Election precinct shall be set up for not less than 20 and no more than 1,500 voters. The relevant DEC shall define the boundaries and numbers of the election precincts no later than July 1 of the election year and within 2 days publishes the relevant information specifying the boundaries of the election precincts. If Supreme Council elections and general elections as defined by the Organic Law of Georgia “Electoral Code of Georgia” are held together, electoral precincts, their boundaries, names and numeration complies with precincts that are established by relevant DEC for common elections defined by the Organic Law of Georgia “Electoral Code of Georgia.” In case of extraordinary Supreme Council Elections, electoral precincts are established no later than 40 days prior to elections.
3. Information on the boundaries of the election precinct specifying the addresses of all residential buildings (if any) shall be posted at the PEC building.
4. In exceptional cases (a military unit with more than 50 voters, (military servicemen, officer, a person with a special rank of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia), hospital and other in-patient institution with more than 50 voters, etc.), the election precinct may be set up no later than 15 days prior to the polling. A hospital (in-patient treatment institution), or a military unit (command) with no more than 50 voters (patients, military servants), shall, under the DEC ordinance, be assigned to the nearest election precinct. At the substantiated written request of the commander of the relevant military unit and by the relevant DEC decision, a polling station may be set up in the military unit (command) in which number of voters does not exceed 50 (servicemen).
5. The relevant DEC shall specify the boundaries as well as the list of buildings and addresses located within the area of the election precinct no later than 50 days prior to the Election Day based on the data and inspection provided by the municipality, self-governing city, and local district self-governing bodies of the city. The specified boundaries of the polling station shall be published immediately.
6. Election precincts in military units shall be set up in accordance with the rules and procedures defined by this law, based on the location of the military unit.
7. No later than 5 days after setting up the election precinct and within 2 days in cases stipulated in paragraph 4 of this Article, the DEC shall publish in press and through media numbers of polling stations, addresses, telephone (fax) numbers and other information on PECs.

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Article 24. Establishment of the PEC

1. The PEC shall be composed of 13 members, appointed/elected by the subjects defined by this Law in accordance with terms and procedures define by the same Law.
2. 6 members of the PEC shall be elected by a majority of the total number of the respective DEC.
3. 7 members of the PEC are appointed under the rule defined by Article 13 of the present Law by the subjects defined by the same Law.
4. The following subjects may not be elected/appointed as members of the PEC:
 - a) Individuals defined by paragraph 5, Article 24 of the Election Code of Georgia;
 - b) Heads and deputies of government and state subordinate agencies;
 - c) Members of local self-government representative bodies;
 - d) a person dismissed from his/her position at the election administration of Georgia by the election commission or a court for the breach of the election legislation of Georgia;
 - e) an individual, whose violation of the election legislation has been confirmed by the court.
5. A public official may be appointed as a member of the PEC, except for individuals identified in paragraph 4 of this Article, and the requirements prescribed by the Law of Georgia on Public Service with regard to work inconsistency shall not apply to them. In the course of exercising authority as a PEC member, the power of a public official shall be temporarily terminated at the permanent place of work, and personal leave days shall be used for this purpose.

Article 25. Election/appointment of PEC members and its head officials

1. After relevant vacancy becomes available, during the first session of the commission, the PEC shall elect the PEC chairperson and the deputy chairperson from the commission members, with the membership authority term, by a majority vote of the total number of members, by a roll-call. Not less than 2 members of the commission shall be authorized to nominate a candidate.
2. If within the established term, the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the PEC are not elected, prior to their election, duties of the above officials shall be fulfilled by the election commission member with the highest votes; and in case of equal votes – an official identified through casting lots.
3. Same candidate may be nominated only twice.
4. The DEC shall elect 6 members of the PEC no earlier than the on the 50th day before and no later than on the 46th day of the Election Day. Members of the PEC established in exceptional circumstances shall be elected no earlier than on the 10th day and no later than on the 9th day before the Election Day.
5. Decision of the party, authorized under paragraph 3 of Article 24 of this Law, concerning the appointment of a PEC member shall be submitted to the DEC no earlier than on the 50th day and no later than on the 46th day before that Election Day. In PEC established in exceptional circumstances - no earlier than on the 14th and no later than on the 9th day before the Election Day.
6. The list of PEC members shall be published by the DEC no later than on the 29th day before the Election Day, while the list of commissions established in exceptional circumstances - no later than on the 5th day before the Election Day.
7. If by the 30th day before the Election Day, for commissions established in exceptional occasions - by 8th day, there are fewer members in the PEC than it is defined, the upper DEC shall be entitled to select commission members among the competition candidates or by announcing another competition within 3 days. Rules, conditions and terms of the competition for PEC membership candidates are defined by the SEC ordinance.
8. The decision of an authorized party on withdrawal of a PEC member or appointment of his/her legal successor shall be submitted to the PEC and upper DEC.
9. If a party, authorized to appoint legal successor of a commission member, has not exercised this right after the early termination of powers of a commission member, also, if authority of a commission member elected by the DEC is terminated earlier and due to this, there are fewer members in the commission than defined, the DEC shall be authorized to appoint a new candidate within 5 days after the expiration of the new candidate nomination deadline.
10. Members of the PEC shall be elected by the DEC by casting lots. Each candidate shall be voted upon separately. The elected candidate shall be the individual with a majority of the votes of total number of the Commission. If the number of elected candidates exceeds the number of available vacancies, candidates with best results shall be elected. If the winner is not identified due to equal votes obtained by candidates, these candidates shall be immediately voted upon again to reveal the winner. If the winner cannot yet been determined, it shall be identified by casting lots. If after voting all vacancies are not still filled, decision shall be made by the DEC.
11. The decision about election/appointment of a PEC member shall specify the name and last name of the elected/appointed member, as well as the number of the PEC, in which this candidate has been elected/appointed as a member. Party decision on the appointment of a member shall include the following information about the elected commission member: contact address, phone number and personal identification card (registration certificate) of the citizen of Georgia.
12. Candidate shall not be considered a member of the commission, if deadlines for submission of appropriate documentation defined in this Article are not met or insufficient or inaccurate application is submitted, and if application deficiency is not corrected by the deadline defined in

this paragraph. If submitted documentation does not meet the requirement envisaged by this Article, the chairperson of DEC shall inform within 2 days thereof (specifying discrepancy) the individual who elected/appointed the member of the commission. Corrected documents shall be re-submitted to the relevant DEC within 3 days.

13. The term of authority of a member of the PEC shall start at the first session of the PEC and end by the time of drafting of the summary protocol of polling results in the relevant DEC.
14. The secretary of the PEC shall be elected from members appointed by parties (except for the party-appointed member with best results in previous Supreme Council elections).
15. Not less than 2 members of the Commission defined by paragraph 15 of this Article shall be authorized to nominate a candidate for secretary of the PEC.
16. Members of the commission defined by paragraph 14 of this Article shall elect the secretary of the PEC with a term of membership authority, by a majority vote of the attending commission members and by a roll-call. Election of the secretary of the PEC shall be documented by ordinance issued by the commission. If the commission fails to deliver a decision, the secretary of the PEC shall be elected from the commission members by a majority of the total number of the commission.
17. If decision is not made in accordance with paragraph 16 of this Article, duties and responsibilities of the PEC secretary before his/her election shall be fulfilled by a commission member having gained most votes at the PEC voting, and in case of equal votes, the winner shall be identified by casting lots.
18. If no candidate for secretary of the PEC is nominated as defined by this Article, secretary of the PEC shall be elected from the members of commission by a majority of the total number of the commission; any two members of the commission are authorized to nominate a candidate.
19. The powers of a PEC member are terminated with the election of the substitute commission member.
20. The first session of the newly established PEC shall be held no later than on the 34th day before the general Elections Day. In polling stations set up for exceptional occasions, the first session of the PEC shall be held no later than on the 3rd day after setting up of the commission. The first session of the PEC shall be called by the chairperson of the respective DEC.

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Article 26. Powers of the PEC

1. The PEC is an interim territorial body of the election administration, which is composed of subjects defined by Article 24 of this Law, and officials appointed/elected by the DEC.
2. The PEC shall:
 - a) within its authority, ensure conduct of elections on the territory of the polling station, compliance with the election legislation of Georgia, compliance with election procedures during the polling defined by the election legislation, application and protection of rights of voters, representatives and observers guaranteed by the Georgia legislation and this Law;
 - b) verify the accuracy of the list of voters, review appeals related to the lists of voters and in case of identifying errors and inaccuracies, no later than the following day, request the upper DEC to make changes to the lists;
 - c) based on the applications and complaints of voters draw up a list of mobile ballot box;
 - d) identify polling results and draft the PEC summary protocol of polling results thereon;
 - e) be authorized to apply to the DEC with a request to declare the polling results invalid by the decision of a majority of the total number of its composition;
 - f) distribute voting invitation cards among voters;
 - g) be responsible for posting the information defined by the election legislation in the polling station, for properly organizing the venue in which polling and ballot counting will be conducted; ensure keeping of order at the precinct;

- h) on the polling day, review applications and complaints related to the electoral process and polling preparation process and, within its powers, make relevant decisions;
 - i) guarantee the right to suffrage for voters on the polling day and assume full responsibility for unconditional protection of these rights;
 - j) be entitled to annul decisions made by the chairperson of the PEC regarding temporary closure of the polling place, cease of the polling process, reopening of the polling place and continuation of polling following its closure;
 - k) perform other authorities defined by election legislation of Georgia.
3. Every ordinance issued by the PEC and its chairperson shall be posted at the polling station on the following day.

Article 27. Powers and authorities of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of the PEC

1. The chairperson of a PEC shall:
 - a) exercise full administrative functions in the PEC;
 - b) chair PEC sessions;
 - c) receive and distribute election documentation and all correspondence submitted and addressed to the PEC;
 - d) assume personal responsibility for saving and purposeful distribution of ballot papers, special envelopes, commission stamps, summary protocols and other election documentation;
 - e) task deputy chairperson, secretary and other members of commission in accordance with the election administration regulation;
 - f) on the polling day, organize the distribution of functions among the commission members by casting lots.
 - g) be responsible for keeping order at the polling place and on the adjacent territories on the Election Day;
 - h) be responsible not to allow at the polling place persons authorized to be present at the polling place without wearing appropriate badges;
 - i) submit to the upper DEC all election documentation after summarizing of polling results;
 - j) perform other powers and authorities provided by the election legislation of Georgia.
2. The deputy chairperson of the PEC shall:
 - a) perform duties of the PEC chairperson if the commission does not have a chairperson or he/she is unable to fulfill his/her duties;
 - b) by the ordinance of the PEC chairperson, fulfill some of his/her responsibilities (the ordinance should specify the scope and terms of the granted powers).
3. The secretary of the PEC shall:
 - a) elaborate draft ordinances of the PEC;
 - b) be responsible for the release of public information;
 - c) draft PEC session minutes, including summary protocols of polling results;
 - d) exercise other powers and authorities provided by this Law.
4. If members of the PEC fail to fulfill the requirements prescribed by the election legislation, disciplinary liabilities shall apply to them in accordance with the Election Code of Georgia.

Article 28. Early termination of office of the election commission member/head official

1. The office of the SEC chairperson/member shall be terminated early by the decree of the Supreme Council (except for members of the SEC appointed by parties defined in paragraph 1, Article 13 of this Law and other cases provided by this Article), and for members of the DEC or PEC - by upper election commission ordinance (except for cases defined by paragraph 6 of this Article and by Article 13 of the Election Code of Georgia), if:
 - a) within 7 days after his/her election, a member of the election commission failed to cease activities and/or office, which is inconsistent with the commission member status;

- b) a PEC member took over a position inconsistent with the commission member status defined by this Law;
 - c) the fact of an activity and/or work inconsistent with the status of the election commission member has been revealed;
 - d) inaccuracy of the information indicated in the submitted application for membership competition was revealed - from the day of the disclosure of this fact;
 - e) if a member failed to fulfill duties and powers of the chairperson/member of the SEC or DEC for successive two months and has not attended 3 consecutive sessions of the SEC or DEC with no proper excuse;
 - f) if the member of the commission is proven guilty by the court ruling or, if the breach of the election legislation by the election commission member has been approved by the court - in case of enforcement of the court ruling;
 - g) if the election member is withdrawn by the party that appointed him/her in accordance with procedures provided in this Law - in case of submission of the application on withdrawal of a candidate;
 - h) if the status of a member of the election commission as of a voter has been invalidated;
 - i) there has been a systematic or serious breach of the election legislation of Georgia, election administration regulation, or in related cases defined by the Law of Georgia on Public Service.
2. In case of resignation of the election commission chairperson, deputy chairperson, commission secretary:
 - a) an application on the resignation of the SEC chairperson shall be submitted to the Supreme Council;
 - b) an application on resignation of the deputy chairperson and secretary of the commission shall be submitted to the SEC;
 - c) an application on resignation of chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary of the district or precinct election commission shall be submitted to the relevant election commission.
 3. Term of office of the SEC chairperson shall be terminated earlier based on the Decree issued by the Supreme Council; the SEC deputy chairperson, secretary, as well as a chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of the district or precinct election commission - by the ordinance of the respective election commission.
 4. In case of decease of the elected SEC member, the Supreme Council shall take this fact as a note, which is documented in the plenary session protocol of the Supreme Council; In case of decease of the elected DEC member, the SEC shall take this information as a note and include it in the SEC session protocol.
 5. Dismissal of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of the election commission under the same grounds, as well as the request of early termination of office of an election commission member consecutively twice in 6 months shall be prohibited.
 6. Early termination of office of members of the election commission appointed by parties in cases defined by paragraph 1 of this Article (except for cases defined by paragraph 1 (“g”) of this Article and Article 13 of the Election Code of Georgia) shall be undertaken by a court decision.
 7. In case of existence of one of the reasons defined in the paragraph 1 of this Article, decisions on the resignation, early termination of term of office of a chairperson, deputy chairperson or secretary of the election commission shall be made and reviewed by the Supreme Council within 15 days or within 5 days when decision is made by an authorized election commission. Decision shall be rendered by the same procedure as applied during the election process.
 8. If the application on resignation and early termination of office is not approved within the term defined by this Article, chairperson, deputy chairperson or secretary shall be considered resigned, and the term of office of a member of the election commission shall be considered to be automatically terminated from the following day after the expiration of the above deadline.
 9. Member of election commission shall not be withdrawn 15 days before the polling day.

Article 29. Legal acts of the election administration of Autonomous Republic of Ajara

1. Legal acts of the election administration of Autonomous Republic of Ajara shall be the following:
 - a) a SEC decree and ordinance, order and ordinance of the SEC chairperson, ordinance of the secretary of the SEC, SEC summary protocol of polling results;
 - b) an ordinance of the DEC, ordinance of the chairperson of the commission, ordinance of the commission secretary, DEC summary protocols of polling and election results;
 - c) an ordinance of the PEC, ordinance of the chairperson of the commission, PEC summary protocols of polling results.
2. A decree of the SEC is a sub-legislative normative act, which shall be adopted only in cases directly stipulated by law. Decree may also be adopted in exceptional cases, from the beginning until the end of elections, if necessity emerges to resolve issues not defined by law and required for conducting elections. Separate instructions describing electoral procedures may be adopted by a decree, which shall not contain different or new norm other than prescribed by the present Law, and also norms that may incorporate detailed description of procedures only stipulated by this Law.
3. A SEC decree shall be considered to be adopted, if supported by at least two-thirds of the overall SEC members. The decree shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the respective SEC session. The decree of the SEC enters into force immediately after the publication in the “Legislative Herald of Georgia (Saqartvelos Sakanonmdeblo Matsne)”, unless later date is defined by this decree. The SEC decree shall not be issued later than 4 days before the polling day. Decree may be appealed from the moment of its adoption. The SEC decree shall be posted on the SEC website within 24 hours following its adoption.
4. Ordinances of the election commission, chairperson and secretary of the commission, summary protocols of polling/election results are individual administrative-legal acts adopted/issued in cases and within the framework defined by this Law and SEC decree. The Commission decree shall be signed by the chairperson of a respective session of the commission and the secretary of the commission; other decrees are signed by the issuing official. The summary protocols shall be signed by authorized officials defined by this Law. The commission decree shall be considered to be adopted if there is no other quorum identified by this Law and if voted in favor by a majority of the attendees of the session, but not less than one-third of all members of the Commission.
5. Order of the SEC chairperson is an individual legal act issued with regard to internal, including human resources issues.
6. Implementation of decisions of the SEC, DEC and PEC and their member officials within their powers shall be mandatory respectively within the whole territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, election district and election precinct.

**CHAPTER III
LIST OF VOTERS**

Article 30. General list of voters and its composition procedure

1. General list of voters participating in the Supreme Council elections is a list of individuals with the right of active electoral suffrage and registered in accordance with the procedures defined by the legislation of Georgia; the list is divided by election precincts.
2. General list of voters shall include the following data on a voter:
 - a) first name, last name;
 - b) date of birth (day, month, year);
 - c) address (as shown in the identification card of citizen of Georgia);
 - d) personal number of citizen of Georgia;

- e) actual place of residence (temporary place of residence shall be indicated with respect to IDPs from the occupied territories of Georgia; in reference to voters leaving abroad, a note “on a consular registry” shall apply, but in case such a person is not a voter on a consular registry - a note “abroad” shall be indicated);
 - f) date of voter registration in the general list of voters.
3. Voters’ data shall be incorporated in the general list of voters according to the place of their registration. IDPs from the occupied territories of Georgia shall be incorporated in the general list of voters in accordance with their actual place of residence.
 4. General list of voters is composed during the date of elections are called, based on the information available at the CEC.
 5. General list of voters is composed according to the Election Code of Georgia. Amendments to the general list of voters shall be made in the course of elections pursuant to the procedures established by the Election Code.
 6. Within 5 days after the elections are called and thereafter, no later than on the 5th day before polling, the CEC shall forward to the SEC a general list of voters in the Autonomous Republic of Ajara. The SEC shall publish on its web-site the information on the total number of voters in the Autonomous Republic of Ajara and in each of its election precinct.
 7. In case general and Supreme Council elections, as defined by the Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently, a general list of voters in the Autonomous Republic of Ajara composed for general elections provided by the Election Code of Georgia shall constitute a general list of voters participating in the Supreme Council elections.

Article 31. Special list of voters

1. Special list of voters shall include:
 - a) election administration officials unable to participate in the elections on the polling day by their place of registration, due to their assignment to election commissions. These officials shall be added by the relevant DEC to the list of pre-defined election precinct no later than on the 5th day before polling;
 - b) voters undergoing treatment in a hospital or any other in-patient medical establishment and due to their health conditions not being discharged from hospital by the polling day. The list of these individuals shall be drawn up by the head of respective medical institution and submitted to the relevant DEC no later than on the 6th day before polling;
 - c) voters serving sentence in prisons on the polling day. The list of these individuals shall be drawn up by the head of the relevant penitentiary institution and submitted to the relevant DEC no later than on the 6th day before polling;
 - d) conscript and contract militarized forces and units of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. The list of these individuals shall be drawn up by the commander of the relevant military unit and submitted to the respective DEC:
 - d.a.) within 5 days from calling of general elections;
 - d.b.) no later than on the 6th day before polling, in consideration of results of drafting to the mandatory military service;
 - e) individuals envisaged in paragraph 7 of this Article.
2. The head of the relevant institution shall be responsible for the accuracy of data included in the special list of voters, which shall be endorsed by his/her signature.
3. The DEC, by its ordinance, shall compose and approve special lists of individuals envisaged in paragraph 1 of this Article, as well as based on its own data, no later than on the 3rd day before the polling day, and shall immediately submit them to the relevant PEC.
4. In case of adding a voter to a special list, relevant note shall be made in the general list of voters of an election precinct and endorsed by the signatures of the chairperson and secretary of the PEC.

5. Voters in the special list shall participate:
 - a) in both majoritarian and proportional elections if a voter changes location within the territory of the same electoral district (except for voters referred to in paragraph 1 (“d”) of this Article);
 - b) in the elections of the Supreme Council held under proportional electoral system, if a voter votes in the territory of another election district.
6. Voters referred to in paragraph 1 (“d”) of this Article, who during the elections of the Supreme council, on the polling day shall be located:
 - a) at the respective designated locations on the Election Day, on a permanent basis for 1 year or more and participate in both the majoritarian and proportional elections;
 - b) at the permanent designated locations on the Election Day, for less than a 1 year term participate in majoritarian elections only in case, if their place of registration falls within the boundaries of the relevant election district.
7. For the purpose of participating in the elections of the Supreme Council held under proportional/majoritarian system, the voter referred to in subparagraph 1 “d” of paragraph 1 of this Article incorporated in the special list of voters shall vote by the location of a military unit. In case a voter wishes to vote on the basis of a place of registration, he/she shall apply no later than 16 days before the elections to the relevant PEC with a request to include him/her in the general list of voters according to the place of registration.
8. If a voter is added to the mobile ballot box list, the special list of voters shall include a note “mobile box”, also the reason for incorporating the voter to the list and endorsed by the signatures of the chairperson and secretary of the PEC.

Article 32. The list of mobile ballot box

1. The list of a mobile ballot box is drawn up based on general and special lists of voters if:
 - a) a voter is unable to independently visit the polling premises due to limited capabilities or health conditions;
 - b) a voter is imprisoned;
 - c) a voter is in hospital for treatment or in any other inpatient medical facility with no polling station established in it;
 - d) a voter is a military serviceman, serves in the military unit at the state border, which is located far from the polling station and within which no polling station is established;
 - e) a voter is on the territory of the election district, but on a place difficult to access.
2. In case a voter is unable to visit the polling place, he/she applies to the PEC with a mobile vote request at least 2 days prior to the polling day. The DEC transfers the information with regard to a voter undergoing treatment at the inpatient medical facility on the polling day to the relevant PEC no later than 2 days prior to polling. The voter shall be incorporated into the list of mobile ballot box after:
 - a) the secretary of the PEC registers in the registration book and endorses with a signature a written application or telephoned verbal application of a voter by indicating the precise time of the telephone call and relevant telephone number;
 - b) the transfer of a voter into the mobile ballot box list is noted in the general or special lists of voters, which is endorsed by signatures of the chairperson of the PEC and commission secretary.
3. Information concerning voters to be included into the mobile ballot box list shall be immediately posted in a visible place of the polling station. Members of the PEC, proxies and observers have a right to inspect whether the mobile voting request is well-substantiated and raise the issue of appropriateness of inclusion of these individuals into the mobile ballot box list before the PEC at any time prior to the Election Day. The PEC shall make decisions with respect to such issues.
4. Number of voters stipulated in paragraph 1 (“a”) of this Article shall not exceed 3 percent of the existing voters in the general list of voters per election precinct. After reaching the

abovementioned number of voters, the decision on adding more voters to the mobile ballot box list is made by the two-third of the respective DEC members attending the DEC session.

5. The list of mobile ballot box shall include data on a voter already included in the general list of voters, and a voter's number shall be additionally specified in the general or special lists of voters.
6. The mobile ballot box list, immediately after it is composed, shall be posted in the visible place at the PEC and polling places.

Article 33. Publication of the lists of voters

1. The PEC shall post the lists of voters and the procedures defined by the Law for submission of applications with regard to lists of voters on the day of the first session of the commission, and the list of mobile ballot box - immediately after it is drawn up in the visible place at the PEC premises and polling stations. The PEC chairperson shall be responsible for failure to comply with these requirements.
2. In the lists referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, within the terms defined by this Law and based on inspection of the list data, the table row "Actual Status" across the last name of a voter, which:
 - a) is on a consular registry of Georgia in another country by the consulate of Georgia, shall indicate "on a consular registry";
 - b) is in another country, but is not on a consular registry of Georgia, shall note "abroad";
 - c) is a conscript or contract serviceman at the Georgian military forces and military units, shall indicate "in military service";
 - d) is incorporated into the special list of voters, shall note: "member of commission", "in hospital", or "imprisoned";
 - e) is included into the list of mobile ballot box, shall indicate: "mobile ballot box".

Article 34. Voting invitation card

1. The PEC is authorized to issue the voting invitation card to all voters registered in the territory of the election precinct and included into the list of voters no later than 2 days before polling, which shall indicate the following:
 - a) date and time of polling;
 - b) address of the polling premises, floor and room numbers;
 - c) number of a voter in the list of voters;
 - d) procedures for submission of an application requesting mobile voting, due to the health conditions or other reason, telephone (fax) numbers of the PEC and other information;
 - e) number of the polling station;
 - f) last name, first name, date of birth (day, month, year) of a voter;
 - g) place of registration of a voter.
2. Failure to receive the voting invitation card does not constitute the basis for limiting the right to suffrage.

**CHAPTER IV
REGISTRATION OF ELECTION SUBJECTS
AND LISTS OF SUPPORTERS**

Article 35. Registration of election subjects

1. For obtaining the right to participate in the Supreme Council elections, a party shall apply with the relevant application, signed by its leader(s), to the chairperson of the SEC no later than on the 57th day before the Election Day.

2. The application shall be enclosed with the party's registration certificate and statute, or the copies of those documents certified by the notary (except for a case, when the party is registered in the CEC on the basis of Article 113 of the Election Code of Georgia);
3. The application shall include:
 - a) official name of the party under which the party is registered at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia;
 - b) name of the party and, if applicable, its short version and/or abbreviated name under which the party participates in elections;
 - c) last name, first name, address (according to the place of registration), telephone number and the sample of signature of the party leader(s);
 - d) last name, first name, address (according to the place of registration), telephone number of the party representative;
 - e) if there are several leaders - the limits of authority of each leader in relation to the electoral process.
4. The title, or the short and/or abbreviated title, of the party, mentioned in subparagraph „b” of Paragraph 3 of this Article, shall not coincide with:
 - a) the official title, or the short and/or abbreviated title, of another party registered by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia;
 - b) the title, or the short and/or abbreviated title, of an election bloc under which it is participating in the elections, if the application of this bloc was filed at the CEC and/or the SEC earlier;
 - c) name, or the short and/or abbreviated name, used by another party/election bloc in the last parliamentary elections or Supreme Council elections, unless the consent of that party/election bloc is available.
5. Relevant SEC office inspects an application and enclosed documents and submits the conclusion to the SEC chairperson no later than the day following the submission of the application to the Commission.
6. No later than the day following the submission of the conclusion, the SEC chairperson shall:
 - a) register the party and its representative for elections, if the filed application and enclosed documents meet the requirements of this Law;
 - b) submit a written notification to the party representative on the non-compliance of the application and the enclosed documents with the requirements of this Law (indicating the areas of noncompliance), if such non-compliance exists, and the party shall have 3 days to adjust the application and documents.
 - c) the corrected application and documents, as specified in subparagraph “b” of Paragraph 6 of this Article, shall be checked and the decision on the electoral registration shall be made within 2 days of their submission. If the corrected application and documents meet the requirements of this Law, the SEC chairperson shall register the party and its representative for elections; otherwise, within the same timeframe, the SEC chairperson shall issue an ordinance on the decline of the application for electoral registration (the ordinance shall state the exact reasons for the decline of the application for registration and the provisions of this Law due to which the application has been declined). The party representative shall be immediately notified about the issuance of this ordinance and, upon request, shall be submitted to the representative of the party.
 - a. The electoral registration of a party shall be cancelled, by ordinance of the SEC chairperson, under the following circumstances:
 - a) upon its own request;
 - b) if the party’s operations are prohibited by the Constitutional Court of Georgia;
 - c) if the electoral registration of the election bloc, to which this party is a member, is cancelled in accordance with subparagraphs „c” or „d” of paragraph 13 of Article 38 of this Law;
 - d) before summarizing the elections results, it leaves or is dismissed from an election bloc, after the expiration of the deadline for submission of party lists by a bloc;

- e) if it fails to submit the party list or the submitted party list is not registered;
- f) if, no later than the 2nd day before the Election Day, the number of candidates in the party list is less than the minimum number prescribed by this Law.

Article 36. Lists of supporters

1. A party, not registered at the CEC, for participation in the elections shall submit not less than 3000 signatures of supporting voters registered in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, having active electoral suffrage and being a citizen of Georgia. Relevant SEC office shall forward the forms of the list of supporters to the party immediately after the application is submitted to the Commission.
2. Political Parties enlisted in paragraph 1 of this Article shall submit to the SEC the signatures of the supporting voters no later than on the 50th day before the Election Day.
3. Voters shall endorse the initiative of an election subject to take part in an election by signing the form of the list of supporters.
4. A sample of the form of the list of supporters shall be approved by the SEC through issuance of an ordinance.
5. The list of supporters form shall include a voter's:
 - a) first and last names;
 - b) date of birth (year, month and day);
 - c) number of personal identity card of a citizen of Georgia (passport of the citizen of Georgia) and a personal number;
 - d) address (according to the identity card of a citizen of Georgia);
 - e) date of signature;
 - f) signature.
6. The form of a list of supporters shall include the first and last names, address (according to the personal identity card of a citizen of Georgia) and the contact telephone number, including the date of filling out the form and shall be endorsed by the signature of a person concerned.
7. The upper left corner of the form of the list of supporters shall include the title (first and last names) of an election subject, whose initiative to participate in elections is supported by voters.

Article 37. Inspection of lists of supporters

1. For participation in the Supreme Council elections, the lists of supporters of a party registered by the SEC chairperson shall be inspected by the SEC.
2. The election commission consecutively inspects signatures on the forms of the lists of supporters. If number of signatures of supporter is less than the established minimum requirement, or due to invalid signatures revealed after inspection the number of signatures of supporter is less than the established minimum required number, invalid part of the list of supporters shall be returned to the respective election subject, which shall revise the discrepancy within 2 days. The revised list of supporters resubmitted by the election subject shall be once again inspected by the election commission according to procedures stipulated above. If the number of signatures of supporters is still less than the established minimum of signatures, the list shall be fully invalidated and the contestant shall be refused another request for electoral registration.
3. Signature of a voter in the list of supporters shall be considered invalid if:
 - a) the first and last names are not indicated or are incompletely specified;
 - b) date of birth (day, month, year) is not indicated or incompletely indicated;
 - c) place of registration (residential area, street, building and apartment number) is not indicated or specified incompletely;
 - d) date of signing is not specified or does not correspond to the deadline for drawing up the list of supporters defined by the present Law;

- e) not signed or signed by another person, which is confirmed in writing by the voter instead of whom the list was signed;
 - f) a voter registered in another election district is included as a supporter in the list of supporters of a candidate nominated to the election district;
 - g) a signatory to the application submitted to the relevant election commission confirms that the list was signed by deception, intimidation or under pressure, and the signature on this application was certified by a notary;
 - h) personal number of a citizen of Georgia is specified incompletely or inaccurately.
4. A signature shall be considered invalid if it is signed on a form not verified by the person responsible for collecting signatures, or if such a form does not include data or includes incomplete data as stipulated in paragraph 5 and 6 of Article 36 of this Law.
 5. Inspection of the list of supporters of a party shall be concluded within 10 days after its submission and inspection of the list of supporters of a candidate – within 3 days after the submission.
 6. Representatives of election subjects shall have a right to attend the process of inspection of the list of supporters.
 7. Only members of the SEC and employees of the appropriate office of the SEC, as well as the court shall be entitled to have access to the lists of supporters if a lawsuit is brought before the court. The lists of supporters shall be destroyed within 10 days after the expiration of the date of bringing a lawsuit to the court over an issue of registration.

Article 38. Registration/cancellation of registration of election blocs

1. The parties registered by the SEC chairperson have the right to establish an election bloc and to leave an election bloc. To register an election bloc, an application signed by the authorized leaders of all parties constituting the bloc, and the election bloc statute, shall be submitted to the SEC chairperson no later than on the 43rd day before the Election Day.
2. The application shall include the following information about the election bloc:
 - a) the name, and, if applicable, its short version and/or abbreviated name under which the bloc participates in elections, and the list of parties incorporated in the bloc;
 - b) the first name, last name, and address (according to the place of registration) of the leader(s);
 - c) the first name, last name, address (according to the place of registration), telephone number and limits of authority of the representative;
 - d) if there are several leaders, the limits of authority of each leader in relations to the electoral process.
3. The name, short and/or abbreviated name, of the election bloc, mentioned in subparagraph „a” of paragraph 2 of this Article, shall not coincide with:
 - a) the official title, or short and/or abbreviated name of another party registered by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (except for the party incorporated into this bloc) (if the names coincide the other party shall not be permitted to use this name);
 - b) the name, or short name and/or abbreviation of another election bloc participating in the elections, if the application of this bloc was filed at the SEC earlier (if the names coincide the bloc is not permitted to use this name);
 - c) the name, or short and/or abbreviated name used by another party/election bloc in the last parliamentary elections or the Supreme Council elections, unless the consent of that election bloc is available.
4. The election bloc statute, signed by the leaders of all parties constituting the election bloc, shall include:
 - a) the name and, if applicable, the short name and/or abbreviation of the election bloc under which the bloc participates in the elections;
 - b) the list of the parties united in the election bloc;

- c) the administrative body (if applicable) of the election bloc, leaders and their authority;
 - d) the procedure for decision-making by the election bloc, including acceptance of a new party in the bloc, withdrawal or exclusion of a party from the bloc, nomination of candidates for the membership of the Supreme Council and the rules of cancellation of this nomination;
 - e) the person(s) entitled to sign the election bloc documents;
 - f) the rules for using the stamp of one of the election bloc member parties during the electoral events;
 - g) the rules for the appointment of persons responsible for the election campaign funds, a manager and an accountant;
 - h) the rules for making amendments to the election bloc statute.
5. A party of one election bloc shall not be a member of another election bloc, or independently participate, in the same election cycle.
 6. Upon the acceptance of the application and the statute, stipulated in paragraph 1 of this Article, the SEC chairperson shall provide the bloc representative with the document certifying their submission.
 7. The appropriate SEC office shall check the application and statute, mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, and will provide its conclusion to the SEC chairperson no later than the day after the application is filed with the Commission. The SEC chairperson shall, no later than the day after receiving the conclusion, register the election bloc and its representative for elections, if the submitted documents meet the requirements prescribed by paragraphs 1-5 of this Article. If the submitted documents do not meet the abovementioned requirements, the SEC chairperson shall notify the election bloc representative, in writing, on the noncompliance of the documents with the provisions of this Law (indicating the areas of noncompliance). The corrected documents shall be resubmitted to the SEC no later than on the 2nd day after the notice is given. The SEC chairperson shall make the final decision on the registration within 2 days of accepting the corrected documents. If the corrected documents meet the requirements of this Law, the SEC chairperson shall register the election bloc and its representative; otherwise the SEC chairperson will issue an ordinance on the decline of the application for registration (the ordinance shall state the exact reasons for the decline of the application for registration and the provisions of this Law due to which the application has been declined). A representative of the election bloc shall be immediately notified about the ordinance and, upon request the ordinance shall be transmitted to the representative of an election bloc. The registration procedures prescribed in this paragraph shall be completed on the 37th day before the Election Day.
 8. A party, which is registered for the elections, has the right to join a registered election bloc before the expiration of the term of registration of election blocs, under proper application and consent of the election bloc submitted to the SEC chairperson.
 9. Upon registration of the election bloc, the powers of the representatives of the party-members of the bloc to all election commissions shall be terminated under the ordinance of the SEC chairperson, and the bloc shall be entitled to appoint 2 representatives to each election commission.
 10. In the case of the withdrawal or exclusion of party/parties from the election bloc before the expiration of the deadline for nomination of party lists/candidates, each party has the right to continue running in the elections. If, for this reason, only one party remains in the bloc, the electoral registration of the bloc shall be cancelled under the ordinance of the SEC and the parties, previously members to the bloc, shall be entitled to continue to participate in the elections.
 11. In the case of the withdrawal or exclusion of a party from the election bloc after the expiration of the deadline for nomination of party list/candidates, the electoral registration of this party shall be cancelled under the ordinance of the SEC chairperson. If, for this reason, only one party remains

in the bloc, the electoral registration of the bloc shall be cancelled under the SEC ordinance and the remaining party shall be the legal successor of the bloc.

12. No later than on the 30th day before the Election Day, the SEC shall publish the list of registered election blocs, through the press and other media, according to the sequence in which their applications were filed, as well as the list of the registration requests of the blocs whose registration was declined or cancelled, and the reasons thereof.
13. The electoral registration of an election bloc shall be cancelled by ordinance of the SEC chairperson:
 - a) based on its own request;
 - b) if the election bloc breaks up, or, due to withdrawal, exclusion or cancellation of the electoral registration of the member party (parties) of the bloc, only one party is left in the bloc;
 - c) if it has failed to submit the party list, or the submitted party list is not registered;
 - d) if, no later than on the 2nd day before the Election Day, the number of candidates in the party list of the election bloc is less than the minimum number defined by this Law.

Article 39. Submission of party lists

1. Parties and election blocs participating in elections independently are entitled to submit party lists.
2. Each party and election bloc participating in elections independently has the right to submit one party list.
3. The number of candidates for the membership of the Supreme Council in the submitted party lists shall not be less than 25 and more than 35.
4. A candidate nominated for a majoritarian election district may be incorporated in a party list. In this case, it must be specified on the party list that the candidate is nominated for a majoritarian election district.
5. It is prohibited to include the same person in different party lists;
6. The rules for drawing up the party lists shall be defined by the parties and election blocs.
7. The party list shall be submitted to the SEC chairperson after the electoral registration of the party/election bloc, no later than on the 30th day before the Election Day. The party lists shall be enclosed with the registration card filled out and signed by each candidate for membership of the Supreme Council and photos of the candidates.
8. If the candidate is simultaneously nominated for a majoritarian election district, a certificate on drug-inspection shall be submitted together with the registration card and a photo. These documents shall be submitted in 2 copies; a copy of those documents shall be forwarded to the appropriate election commission within 2 days after their receipt.
9. The party list shall include the following information about each candidate:
 - a) first name and last name;
 - b) date of birth (day/month/year);
 - c) address (according to the place of registration);
 - d) personal number of a citizen of Georgia;
 - e) Place of work (name of institution, organization, enterprise etc.);
 - f) position (if unemployed it shall indicate - "Unemployed");
 - g) Party affiliation (if he/she is not a party member, it shall indicate - "nonpartisan");
 - h) If the candidate is nominated for a majoritarian election district, the name and number of this district shall be stated.
10. The registration form shall include the following information for each candidate:
 - a) first name and last name;
 - b) date of birth (day/month/year);
 - c) gender;
 - d) address (according to the place of registration);

- e) personal number of a citizen of Georgia.
 - f) place of work (name of institution, organization, enterprise etc.);
 - g) position (if unemployed, it shall indicate - "Unemployed");
 - h) party affiliation (if he/she is not a party member, a note "nonpartisan" shall be indicated);
 - i) the fact of residence in Georgia for at least last 2 years before calling of the elections or the fact of being on a consular registry of Georgia;
 - j) name and number of the majoritarian election district in case a candidate is nominated to this district;
 - k) consent of a candidate to participate in elections under the given party list and/or to run for this majoritarian district;
 - l) the fact that a candidate has been a member of the Supreme Council after the previous elections;
 - m) signature and date of signature.
11. Registration cards stipulated in paragraph 7 and 8 of this Article shall be issued to the representative of a party/election bloc by the SEC in advance.

Article 40. Nomination of candidates in majoritarian election district

1. The right to nominate a candidate for the membership of the Supreme Council in a majoritarian election district shall be granted to:
 - a) a party participating in elections independently;
 - b) election bloc;
 - c) an initiative group of voters composed of 5 members registered in the relevant election district.
2. Any party/election bloc participating in the elections independently has a right to nominate in every election district and an initiative group of voters has a right to nominate in respective majoritarian election district one candidate to be elected under majoritarian system for the membership of the Supreme Council.
3. For nomination of a candidate for the membership of the Supreme Council, an initiative group of voters shall file an application to the respective DEC no later than on the 57th day before polling after which it is entitled to start collecting signatures of supporting voters.
4. The application shall include the following information on a candidate for membership of the Supreme Council:
 - a) first name and last name;
 - b) date of birth;
 - c) occupation;
 - d) position (activity);
 - e) place of work;
 - f) place of registration;
 - g) party affiliation;
 - h) duration of residence in Georgia;
 - i) first name, last name, number of a personal identification card of a citizen of Georgia (passport number of a citizen of Georgia), place of registration, contact telephone number and other information (if any) of members of the nominating initiative group of voters and their representative.
5. An application signed by all members of the initiative group of voters shall be attached by a written consent of a nominated candidate for a member of the Supreme Council on running in the elections, a copy of his/her personal identification card and two photos.
6. No later than the day after filing the application, the DEC chairperson shall register the initiative group of voters. If requirements defined by paragraphs 1-5 of this Article are violated, the DEC chairperson shall immediately notify the applicant about the error. Corrected documents shall be resubmitted no later than the following day to the DEC chairperson for registration.
7. To register the candidate for the membership of the Supreme Council, a representative of the initiative group of voters, no later than on the 50th day prior to polling, shall submit to the relevant

DEC the list of supporters of a candidate and a bank document certifying a 5000 GEL deposit made by the majoritarian candidate for the Membership of Supreme Council on the account indicated by the SEC. The amount deposited on the account shall be fully refunded to the candidate in case the candidate receives at least 10 percent of the overall votes in the elections. If not, this amount shall be transferred to the republican budget of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara.

8. A party independently participating in the elections /election bloc/initiative group of voters shall nominate their majoritarian candidates to the election district in accordance with the procedures defined by paragraphs 7-11 of Article 39 of this Law.
9. Nomination of a candidate by the initiative group of voters shall be endorsed by signatures of no less than 1 percent of supporting voters registered on the territory of the relevant election district, except for the case when a nominated candidate became a member of the Supreme Council during the recent Supreme Council elections.
10. Candidate for a member of the Supreme Council shall be registered under the ordinance of the relevant DEC chairperson no later than on the 30th day before the Election Day.
11. The DEC chairperson issues to the candidate for a member of the Supreme Council a relevant certificate within 3 days after registration.
12. The DEC chairperson shall not register a candidate for a member of the Supreme Council if:
 - a) the data stipulated in paragraph 8 of this Article is not complete or incorrect;
 - b) there turned out to be less voter signatures than the established required number in the list of supporters;
 - c) requirements and the timeframes defined by paragraph 7 of this Article are breached.

Article 41. Inspection of party lists and documents of nominated candidates for membership of the Supreme Council submitted to majoritarian election districts and electoral registration

1. A party list shall be registered by the ordinance of the SEC chairperson, and a majoritarian candidate nominated for an election district shall be registered under the respective DEC chairperson ordinance if all documents specified under this Law comply with the requirements prescribed by this Law. Electoral registration shall not be considered if the timeframe established by this Law for submission of documents is breached.
2. A party list submitted by the party/election bloc shall be verified by the appropriate department of the SEC and within 10 days after the submission of the list, but no later than on the 26th day before the Election Day submits its conclusion to the SEC chairperson, who, within 3 days, but no later than on the 25th day before the Election Day shall:
 - a) register a party list and the candidates nominated by a party/election bloc only if the submitted party list and the documents attached comply with the requirements prescribed by this Law;
 - b) give a written notice to the representative of the party/election bloc on any discrepancy, if any, between the requirements established by this Law and the data specified in the party list and the documents attached thereto (by indicating the areas of discrepancy), and the representative shall be given 3 days to correct the discrepancy identified in the party list and other documents;
3. The corrected data specified in subparagraph “b” of paragraph 2 of this Article shall be inspected and the issue of electoral registration shall be resolved within 5 days after their submission, but no later than on the 20th day before the Election Day. If the corrected data complies with the requirements of this Law, the SEC chairperson shall register the party list or the part of such a list which complies with the requirements prescribed by this Law (if the number of candidates in this part is not less than the established minimum) and, within the same timeframe, shall issue an ordinance on the decline of electoral registration of other candidates (the ordinance shall specify reasons for the decline of registration and the provisions of this Law under which the application was declined). If the number of other candidates in the party list, which complies with the

requirements of this Law, remains less than the established minimum requirement, neither the party list nor the candidates nominated by the party/election bloc shall be registered and chairperson of the SEC shall, within the timeframe specified above, issue an ordinance on the decline of electoral registration (the ordinance shall specify reasons for the decline of registration and the provisions of this Law under which the application was declined). The representative of the party shall be immediately notified regarding the ordinance mentioned in this paragraph and the ordinance shall be transmitted to the party representative immediately upon request.

4. The chairperson of the relevant DEC shall register/decline registration request of a majoritarian candidate nominated to an election district by the party/election bloc, initiative group of voters in accordance with the procedures and terms established by paragraph 2 and 3 of this Article. A party/election bloc is obliged to submit registration documents of a majoritarian candidate to the SEC within the terms established by this Law.
5. A candidate for a member of the Supreme Council shall not be registered, and the registration of any registered candidate shall be cancelled by ordinance issued by the relevant election commission chairperson (in cases specified by subparagraphs “a”-“e” and “g” of this paragraph), or by court decision (in case specified by subparagraph “f” of this paragraph), if the applications and documents submitted to the election commission fail to comply with all the requirements provided by this Law, or other provisions of this Law are violated, specifically if:
 - a) a data specified in the applications and documents are incomplete or incorrect;
 - b) a candidate included in the party list is a member of other party participating in the elections;
 - c) a candidate is included in more than one party lists and there is, or there was a consent of such candidate for the inclusion thereof in more than one list simultaneously;
 - d) a candidate included in the party list, consents to be nominated for a majoritarian election district by another party/election bloc, initiative group of voters;
 - e) other elections are held during the Supreme Council elections, and there is, or was, a consent of a candidate for a membership of the Supreme Council for participation in this elections as a candidate;
 - f) requirements defined by paragraph 1 of Article 54 and/or Article 55 of this Law are violated.
 - g) a candidate for majoritarian Member of Supreme Council failed to do a narcotic drug test taken or if the drug test confirmed that the above candidate is a narcotic drug user.
6. An ordinance issued by the chairperson of the SEC/DEC on the decline of electoral registration of party list and the candidates for the membership of the Supreme Council nominated by a political party/election bloc/initiative group of voters may be appealed according to the provisions prescribed by Article 73 and 74 of this Law.

Article 42. Cancellation of electoral registration of registered majoritarian candidates

Electoral registration of a registered majoritarian candidate shall be cancelled by an ordinance of chairperson of the DEC:

- a) based on his/her own application;
- b) in case of prohibition of the party nominating the candidate by the Constitutional Court of Georgia;
- c) if registration of the nominating party/election bloc/initiative group of voters is canceled under paragraph 13 of Article 38 of this Law;
- d) if the person has been deceased;
- e) in other cases prescribed by this Law.

Article 43. Revocation of decision on nomination of a candidate for membership of the Supreme Council

1. A candidate for membership of the Supreme Council, as well as the nominating party or election bloc, shall have a right, at any time, but no later than 10 days before polling, to refuse to

participate in the elections or decline a nominated candidate, for which they shall file an application to a relevant election commission.

2. A party, election bloc, independently participating in the elections, shall be entitled to revoke their decision on the nomination of a candidate for membership of the Supreme Council remaining in the party list, after recognizing the authorities of elected members of the Supreme Council. A party, election bloc may not revoke its decision on nomination of candidates for membership of the Supreme Council, whose names remained in the party lists, upon termination of the authority of the Supreme Council member elected from this list until the recognition of the authority of his/ her successor. Candidate nominated by the party, election bloc shall be withdrawn under the ordinance of the SEC chairperson based on the application signed by the leader of the party (a person determined by the statute of the election bloc) within 3 days after submission of the application. If the application is not approved within this term, the candidate for membership of the Supreme Council shall be deemed as withdrawn from the party list starting from the following day after the expiration of the above term.
3. A candidate for member of the Supreme Council may withdraw his/her candidacy from the party list after the recognition of the authorities of the elected members of the Supreme Council, for which she/he shall file a relevant application to the SEC. His/her candidacy shall be withdrawn under the SEC chairperson ordinance within 3 days after filing the application. If the application is not approved within this term, candidate for member of the Supreme Council shall be deemed as withdrawn from the party list on the day following the expiration of the above term.
4. The SEC shall immediately publish through the press and other media the information on withdrawal of an election subject or a separate candidate from the elections.

Article 44. Dismissal of a candidate for member of the Supreme Council from carrying out official duties

A candidate for member of the Supreme Council, based on his/her own application and submission of a relevant certificate, shall be granted an unpaid leave for the period of the pre-election campaign.

Article 45. Determination of the assigned number of an election subject

1. The assigned number of an election subject shall be determined according to the procedures and terms specified by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.
2. An application of eligible political union on granting of an assigned number shall be submitted to the SEC.

**CHAPTER V
ELECTION MONITORING AND MEDIA**

Article 46. Domestic and international observers

1. The right to observe elections shall be granted to the domestic and international observer organizations in compliance with the provisions of this Law, and registered with the SEC or relevant DEC.
2. Domestic observer organization may be a local non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity, registered in accordance with the Georgian legislation no later than 1 year prior to the polling day, the statute and regulation (constituent document) of which, at the time of registration, envisages election monitoring and/or protection of human rights and which is registered with the SEC or a relevant DEC for the purpose of observing elections.
3. Domestic observer organization shall observe elections through its representative - domestic observer. One organization is entitled to have no more than one observer at a time at each election commission, and in case of general and Supreme Council elections, as determined by the Organic

Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently, only in the SEC, if a domestic observer organization is registered in the CEC.

4. Domestic observer of a domestic observer organization may be any citizen of Georgia above the age of 18, except for:
 - a) officials holding state-political positions;
 - b) members of the Parliament of Georgia;
 - c) members of the local self-government representative body - Sakrebulo;
 - d) Mayor of a local self-governing city and the head of municipality (Gamagebeli), as well as their deputies;
 - e) judges;
 - f) staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia, Georgian Intelligence Service and Special State Protection Service of Georgia;
 - g) officials of the Prosecutor's Office;
 - h) election subjects and their proxies;
 - i) election commission members.
5. International observer organization may be a representative of another state, organization registered in another state or an international organization, the constituent document/statute of which provides for monitoring of elections, protection of human rights and activity of which is based on international principles recognized by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.
6. An international observer organization observes through its representatives - international observers. One organization is entitled to simultaneously have no more than 2 international observers in each election commission, and in case of general and Supreme Council elections, as determined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently, only in the SEC, if an international observer organization is registered in the CEC.
7. International observers envisaged by paragraph 6 of this Article may be accompanied by an interpreter, who shall be registered together with international observers.

Article 47. Registration of observer organizations

1. An international observer organization, as well as domestic observer organizations observing elections in more than one election district, shall be registered by the SEC (in case of general and Supreme Council elections, as determined by the Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently, observer organization, if registered by the CEC, is not required to be additionally registered with the SEC).
2. A domestic observer organization, which observes elections in one election district, shall be registered by the appropriate DEC.
3. To be registered, a domestic election observer organization shall apply to the appropriate election commission no later than on the 10th day before the Election Day and submit the constituent document/statute notarized according to the legislation of Georgia. The application shall include the name of the election district (districts) in which the organization will observe. The election commission shall make a decision on registration within 5 days of the submission of the application.
4. To be registered, an international observer organization shall submit an application to the SEC no later than on the 7th day before the Election Day and provide a copy of its constituent document. If an observer (group of observers) is a representative of another state authority, he/she shall provide an application and a certificate of authorization. The SEC shall decide on the registration of the organization, observer (group of observers) mentioned in this paragraph within 2 days of the submission of the application.
5. The election commission shall not have a right to decline the application for registration of the

observer organization, if this organization complies with the provisions of this Law. The ordinance of the election commission on decline of the application for registration shall include the justification for the decline and shall be transmitted to the organization no later than the following day after decision is rendered. The ordinance of the commission may be appealed to the court within 2 days of its adoption. The court decision shall be delivered within 2 days.

6. International observation organizations that are registered by SEC shall present the information on observers and copies of their identification document to SEC Secretary no later than 2nd days prior to polling day. The content of the information and the form shall be defined by SEC ordinance.
7. A domestic observer organization registered by the SEC shall submit to the SEC secretary a list of observers appointed at the SEC, DEC and PEC no later than on the 5th day before polling. The list shall include copies of personal identification cards of Georgian citizens owned by domestic observers. A domestic observer organization registered by the DEC shall submit to the secretary of the DEC a list of appointed observers to the DEC and/or its subordinate PEC within the same terms. The list shall include the name of an observer (last name, first name and place of registration).
8. A domestic observer registered with the SEC is entitled to observe elections at any level of election commissions in accordance with the procedures defined by paragraph 3 of Article 46 of this Law.
9. The secretary of the election commission shall, no later than on the 2nd day from the submission of the list of observers, register observers nominated in compliance with the provisions of this Law and issue to the observer organization an observer certificate, which at the same time represents a badge to be worn by the observer.
10. An observer of a domestic observer organization at the DEC and an observer observing elections at the polling station within the territory of the election district are authorized to observe at any election precinct on the territory of the respective election district on the polling day, in accordance with the procedures defined by paragraph 3 of Article 46 of the present Law.

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Article 48. Rights of observers

1. An observer shall have a right to:
 - a) attend and observe sessions of the election commissions;
 - b) be present at the polling place at any time during polling day, unrestrictedly move within the precinct territory and observe all stages of the polling process from any point of the precinct in a free and unhindered manner;
 - c) replace another registered representative of the nominating organization at any time on the polling day (in case of availability of such a representative);
 - d) take part in the inspection of ballot boxes, before they are sealed and after they are opened;
 - e) observe registration of voters in the lists of voters, issuance of ballot papers and special envelopes and their certification without disrupting the polling process;
 - f) attend the procedure of counting of votes and summarizing of results;
 - g) observe the process of mobile voting;
 - h) observe the counting of votes in such conditions in which ballot papers may be visible;
 - i) observe the process of compiling the summary protocol of polling results and other documents by the election commission;
 - j) address the PEC chairperson with an application (complaint) regarding issues related to the procedures of voting and polling, by which an applicant requests reaction on identified cases of specific violations;
 - k) request a voter to show how many ballot papers and special envelopes she/he is having at hand;

- l) make an appeal on actions of an election commission according to the procedures defined by the Georgian legislation;
 - m) observe the ballot box, to the process of inserting special envelopes into the ballot box, opening of the ballot box, counting of ballot papers and drawing up of protocols;
 - n) get introduced with the summary protocols of polling and election results, drawn up by the election commissions; request and receive from the relevant election commission the copies of these protocols.
2. An observer shall not be entitled to:
 - a) interfere with the functions and activities of the election commission;
 - b) exert an undue influence upon the free expression of will of voters;
 - c) agitate in favor or against an electoral subject;
 - d) wear symbols or signs of any election subject;
 - e) be without a badge at the polling place on the polling day;
 - f) breach other requirements of this law.
 3. Responsibility for the violation of rights provided by this Law to domestic/international observers, electoral subject and media representatives or interference in their activities shall be defined by procedures established by the election, administrative and/or criminal legislation of Georgia.
 4. Violation of the requirements of paragraph 2 (“a”-“d”) of this Article by an observer, election subject and media representatives shall result into their responsibility in accordance with procedures prescribed by the election legislation of Georgia.
 5. Election commission shall provide all the conditions for an observer to implement his/her authority regarding all procedures within the election commission, including the process of counting of ballots and summarizing of the results.

Article 49. Representative of an election subject and his/her authority

1. A representative of an election subject (a party independently participating in the elections, election bloc, initiative group of voters) represents an election subject in relations with appropriate election commission.
2. A party independently participating in the elections, election bloc shall be entitled to appoint only 2 representatives at every election commission, and in case of general and Supreme Council elections, as determined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently, only in the SEC, if a party, election bloc simultaneously participate in the above elections. Initiative group of voters is entitled to appoint no more than two representatives at the respective election commission.
3. An election subject referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, shall notify the relevant election commission about the appointment of a representative. In case of submission of complete information, chairperson of the election commission shall, within 24 hours, by its ordinance, take note of the information on registration of a representative and the relevant officer of the election commission shall issue a representative certificate, which at the same time is a badge to be worn by the representative.
4. The application for the appointment of a proxy shall be signed by the leader of a party/election bloc or his/her authorized person, a representative of an initiative group of voters to the upper election commission, and the application shall include the representative's first and last names, year of birth, address, contact telephone number (if applicable).
5. Only one representative of the election subject shall have the right to attend the sessions of the respective election commission, request to speak and express his/her opinion, make decision on some issues, as well as enjoy other rights envisaged by this Law. On the polling day the representative shall enjoy unrestricted rights envisaged by paragraph 1 of Article 48 of this Law

and paragraph 2 of Article 67 of the Election Code of Georgia.

6. An election subject shall have the right to withdraw and/or replace its representative at any time on which it shall inform the appropriate election commission.

Article 50. Representatives of press and other media

1. Representatives of press and other media accredited at the relevant election commission shall have a right to attend sessions of election commissions and be present at the polling place on the polling day.
2. Accreditation of representatives of press and other media operating on the territory of several election districts shall be conducted by the SEC secretary or by the secretaries of the appropriate DEC, while accreditation of media representatives operating on the territory of one election district shall be conducted by the secretary of the appropriate DEC.
3. Applications on accreditation of representatives of the press and other media shall be submitted to the relevant election commission, no later than on the 3rd day before the polling day.
4. Within 1 day after filing an application, secretary of the appropriate election commission shall decide on the accreditation of representatives of the press and other media and shall issue to the accredited representatives appropriate certificates within 1 day after the decision is made. In case of decline of application for accreditation, the secretary shall issue an appropriate ordinance (proper justification for the decline of the application shall be duly stated in the ordinance) within the same timeframe.
5. On the polling day, the same organization of the press and other mass media shall be entitled to have no more than 3 representatives at a time at the election precinct.

CHAPTER VI PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Article 51. General regulations for pre-election campaign media coverage

General regulations for pre-election campaign media coverage shall be determined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.

Article 52. Pre-election campaign (agitation) and information support for carrying out pre-election campaign

Pre-election campaign (agitation) and informational support for carrying out pre-election campaign shall be regulated by the procedures and terms set forth by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia in case, when the obligations of Public Broadcaster and other broadcasters to allocate free airtime, as defined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, shall be respectively applied to those broadcasters and mass media, the head offices of which are situated on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, except for the case, when general and Supreme Council elections, as provided by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently.

Article 53. Responsibility for the breach of pre-election agitation and campaign rules

Sanctions envisaged by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia, shall be imposed on the election subject for the breach of pre-election agitation and campaign rules stipulated by this Law and the Georgian legislation.

Article 54. Vote Buying

Norms of the Organic Law of Georgia, election Code of Georgia shall apply in relation to the vote buying.

Article 55 -Prohibition of the use of administrative resources in pre-election agitation and campaign

1. According to paragraph 4 of Article 45, any person with the right to participate in pre-election campaign shall not abuse the following administrative resources in the course of pre-election agitation and campaign in support or against any election subject:

- a) Utilization of premises occupied by the bodies of state and local self-government, as well as organizations funded from the Georgian state budget, if other election subjects are unable to use the premises of same or similar function under the same conditions.
 - b) Use of means of communication, information services and other kinds of equipment designate for the institutions of state and autonomous republic or bodies of local self-government, as well as organizations funded from the budget of Georgian state and Autonomous Republic republican.
 - c) Utilization of means of transportation owned by the bodies of state, Autonomous Republic or local self-government free of charge or under preferential terms.
3. Restriction envisaged by subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of the present article shall not apply to civil servants using office cars under subparagraph (y) in Article 2 of this law, except for the state authorized representatives – Governors and head officials of local self-government executive, not elected by direct elections.

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Article 56 -Prohibition of use of budgetary resources, official capacity or working status

1. Person entitled to participate in the pre-election agitation, holding an office in the bodies of state, Autonomous Republic or local government, is prohibited to use his/her occupational status or official capacity in the course of pre-election agitation and campaign in support or against any election subject, which, for the purposes of the present Article, shall mean:

- a) Engaging work subordinated persons or individuals dependent otherwise in activities facilitating presentation and/or election of a candidate;
- b) Collecting signatures and conducting pre-election agitation during official business trips, funded by the body of the state, Autonomous Republic and local self-government;
- c) Conducting pre-election agitation in the course of fulfillment of official duties.

2. Restriction envisaged by paragraph 1 (“c”) of the present Article does not apply to political public officials defined by this Law, as well as to the cases where TV and radio broadcasters use an air-time allocated for pre-election agitation.

3. From the day of calling of elections until the sum up of the election results, implementation of such projects not being previously envisaged in the state/Autonomous Republic republican or /and local budget, as well as increase of those budgetary programs stipulated by the relevant budget prior to the elections, initiation of unplanned transfers or boosting of planned transfers in the local budget, shall be

prohibited. In case of violation of these procedures, an authorized individual shall have the right to apply to court and demand suspension of expenses.

4. In the course of pre-election campaign, production of such printed materials through funds allocated by state/Autonomous Republic republican /local budget, where any election subject or a number assigned to him/her during elections is reflected, and/or which comprise materials in support/against any election subject shall be prohibited. Utilization of an election subject or number assigned to him/her during elections in public service announcement (PSA) in the course of pre-election campaign shall be prohibited.

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CHAPTER VII ELECTION FUNDING

Article 57. Financial support of preparation and conduct of elections

1. Costs incurred by the election administration for preparation and conduct of elections, as well as its activities carried out within the term of its authority shall be financed from the republican budget of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara.
2. The SEC shall, on an annual basis and according to the procedures established by this Law, submit a next year budget estimates for the election administration, based on which the next year budgetary funding shall be defined.
3. If the budgetary funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of elections are not deposited to the SEC account within the term established by this Law, the SEC shall be authorized to file a complaint before the district/city court.
4. The SEC shall be entitled to receive a grant from an individual duly authorized by law. The grant shall be utilized in compliance with the agreement concluded between the SEC and the authorized person.
5. The election administration shall be authorized to conduct public procurement procedures through simplified means as envisaged by the Law of Georgia on Public Procurements, for the purpose of unimpeded conduct of elections during the elections.
6. Appeal of actions/decisions on public procurements of the SEC or a tender commission in the course of the pre-election/election period shall not result in the suspension of the procurement procedures.

Article 58. Funds necessary for elections

1. The SEC shall submit to the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara a plan of funding for preparation and conduct of elections, no later than 55 days prior to polling.
2. The Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, in accordance with the submitted plan, no later than 50 days prior to polling, shall deposit to the SEC account the funds allocated for elections from the republican budget of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara.
3. The SEC, by its decree, shall determine the rules for distribution and use of election funds necessary for the conduct of elections by election commissions.
4. No later than 45 days prior to polling, the SEC shall deposit the funds allocated for DEC to its current account.
5. No later than 20 days following the polling, the DEC shall cease all settlements with organizations and individuals and shall deposit its account balance to the SEC account within 5 days. Within 5 days after the deposit of an account balance, the DEC shall submit a financial report to the SEC.

Article 59. Election campaign expenditures

1. Rules of the election campaign expenditures, submission of the report on the election campaign expenditures, procedures for opening and utilization of the election campaign funds by the election subject shall be determined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia in accordance with the rules and terms established for the elections of the Parliament of Georgia.
2. An election campaign shall be financed from:
 - a) the funds of a political union - if the party independently participates in the elections;
 - b) the funds of the first party in the list of an election bloc - if political unions come together as one election subject;
 - c) election funds opened by the initiative group of voters to finance the campaign of an independent candidate.
3. In case general and Supreme Council elections, as defined by the Election Code of Georgia, are held concurrently, election campaign of an election subject (except for the initiative group of voters) shall be funded from the election funds opened by the election subject for general elections provided by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.
4. Campaign costs shall mean the sum of funds designated for the election campaign of an election subject, as well as all types of goods and services obtained free of charge (reflected in market prices), except for a free airtime cost defined by the procedures stipulated by the law.
5. A candidate nominated by the election subject shall utilize funds of the election subject nominating the candidate.
6. Election campaign costs mean the funds deposited to the relevant bank account, as well as goods and services received free of charge (in market prices).
7. Utilization of finances by the election subject other than that of the relevant funds shall be prohibited in the course of elections.
8. Restrictions envisaged by the Organic Law of Georgia on Political Unions of Citizens apply to the election campaign expenditures and sources of funding, except for the exclusion prescribed by paragraph 9 of this Article.
9. While funding the campaign by an election bloc, parties united in the election bloc may, without restrictions, transfer funds available in the fund of their political unions to the fund of the political union registered as number one in the list of the bloc.
10. Transparency of election campaign costs shall be ensured through norms provided by the Organic Law of Georgia on Political Unions of Citizens. This Law shall be applied to the campaign expenditures of all election subjects, funding of campaigns of independent candidates.

CHAPTER VIII POLLING AND SUMMARIZING OF POLLING RESULTS

Article 60. Polling and summarizing of results

Unless otherwise envisaged by this Law, polling procedure for the Supreme Council elections, summarizing of polling results at the PEC, DEC and SEC shall be carried out by the procedure established for the Parliamentary elections in accordance with the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.

Article 61. Applications and complaints on violation of procedures of polling and counting of votes

Applications and complaints on violation of procedures of polling and counting of votes shall be regulated by the rules set forth by Articles 72 and 73 of the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.

Article 62. Counting of votes at the PEC

1. The PEC shall summarize polling results and include it in the summary protocols of polling results conducted under the majoritarian and proportional election systems.
2. Summary protocol of the results of polling held under the proportional election system shall be drawn up in accordance with the party lists, and the protocol of the elections conducted under the majoritarian election system shall be compiled according to the candidates nominated in the majoritarian election district.

Article 63. Examination of applications/complaints on counting votes and summarizing polling results

Examination of applications/complaints on counting votes and summarizing polling results shall be regulated by rules set forth by Article 74 of the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.

Article 64. Summarizing polling and election results at the DEC

1. On the basis of summary protocols of the PEC, considering the results of the examination of a violation of election legislation of Georgia, the DEC shall, no later than the on the 11th day following the polling, summarize the polling results of the Supreme Council Elections, draw up summary protocols of the polling and election results held in the election district. These protocols shall be forwarded to the SEC no later than the following day.
2. The summary protocol of the DEC polling/election results shall include the:
 - a) number and name of the election district;
 - b) name of the elections;
 - c) polling date (it should be indicated if it is repeat voting or a second round);
 - d) number of voters in the election district;
 - e) number of voters in the election district participating in the elections;
 - f) number of received ballot papers;
 - g) number of void ballot papers;
 - h) name of the election subjects, and the number of votes cast for the election subjects;
 - i) number of actual ballot papers (the sum of votes cast for the election subjects);
 - j) election precinct number, where the polling results were deemed null and void, a total number of voters in that precinct and the basis for considering the polling results as void;
 - k) number of issued ballot papers in election precincts where the polling results were considered null and void;
 - l) time and date of the protocol was drafted;
 - m) protocol date with which a DEC member disagrees (this note shall be made by the commission member in the box “dissenting opinion” and signed by that member);
 - n) summary protocol of election results shall include the data referred to in this paragraph, as well as the name(s) of the elected person(s), the names of persons advanced to the second round and the name of the person elected in the second round.
3. If the polling results at the election precinct(s) are considered void by the DEC, and the total number of voters in that precinct(s) is of an amount that would not affect which person(s) is elected, or which person(s) moves to the second round, the DEC shall determine the elected person, or the person(s) that moves to the second round, without taking into consideration the disputed precinct(s).
4. All members of the DEC attending the commission session are obliged to sign the summary protocol of polling/election results. The protocol shall be endorsed by the DEC stamp.

5. If a DEC member disagrees with the data included in the summary protocol, he/she is entitled to indicate in the protocol what he/she disagrees with, and attach a written dissenting opinion to the protocol.
6. The DEC secretary shall include the data referred to in this Article, immediately after it is established, in the public display protocol posted by the DEC at a visible and accessible place.
7. Candidate, who receives more votes than others, but not less than 30% of total number voters participating in elections in the respective majoritarian election district, shall be considered to be elected in the majoritarian election district. The number of votes derived from invalid ballot papers shall be deducted from the number of votes cast by voters participating in the elections.
8. The summary protocol of the DEC polling/election results (enclosed with any dissenting opinions of DEC members), as well as DEC ordinances on amending the PEC summary protocols (if such amendments have been made) shall be immediately transmitted to the SEC.
9. A copy of the DEC summary protocol (enclosed with the dissenting opinions of DEC members), upon its request, shall be immediately forwarded to the representatives of a party/election bloc/initiative group of voters and to members of an observer organization. The copy of the protocol shall be endorsed by the DEC stamp and the signatures of the DEC chairperson and the secretary (these protocols have the same legal power as the DEC summary protocols). The representative/observer shall verify the receipt of the protocol with his/her signature in the logbook.
10. If the verified copy of the summary protocol, requested under the rule established by this Law, is not issued, the commission chairperson and secretary shall be held responsible, under the legislation of Georgia.

Article 65. Summarizing the election results at the SEC

1. On the basis of the protocols received from the district and precinct election commissions, no later than on the 19th day following the conduct of polling, the SEC shall summarize the Supreme Council election results on which the summary protocol of the election results shall be drawn up.
2. The SEC shall summarize the election results and draw up the summary protocol of election results indicating the:
 - a) number of voters;
 - b) number of voters participating in the elections;
 - c) number of ballot papers considered void;
 - d) number of votes cast for the election subjects.
3. The summary protocol of election results shall be signed by the SEC chairperson and SEC secretary. One copy of the protocol shall be kept with the SEC and the other copies shall be forwarded to the Supreme Council and the CEC. Copies of the protocol shall be transmitted to all interested persons.
4. The SEC shall ensure the posting of the summary protocols of the polling results on the SEC website in parallel with the receipt of the summary protocols from the election precincts. The employees of the election administration are prohibited to make announcements on the preliminary results of the elections, unless these results are published on the SEC website in an appropriate manner.
5. It is prohibited to summarize election results by the SEC before election complaints in the common courts are finalized and if the rulings of these courts are not fully taken into consideration.
6. In the case of a submission of an application/complaint and/or existence of a SEC member dissenting opinion, the SEC may summarize the election results on the basis of the PEC summary protocols.

7. Mandates assigned under proportional system are granted only to the election subject that receives no less than 5% of total votes. The number of votes derived from invalid ballot papers shall be deducted from the number of votes cast by voters participating in the elections.
8. In order to ascertain the number of mandates acquired by the election subject, the number of votes received by the election subject shall be multiplied by 15 and divided by the total number of votes received by those election subjects. The whole part of the derived number is the number of mandates acquired by the election subject.
9. If the total number of mandates received by the election subject turns out to be less than 15, each of undistributed mandate shall be conferred sequentially first to those election subjects, who did not acquire mandates in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Article, but received more than 5% of votes cast in the elections, and thereafter to those subjects, who already acquired at least one mandate; in such a case, one mandate will be given sequentially to the election subjects having received more votes in the elections.
10. In case, when the number of undistributed mandates is less than the number of those election subjects acquiring more than 5% of votes cast in the elections, but failed to receive a mandate, these elections subjects shall receive the mandate in the expense of those election subjects, who acquired more than one mandate. In such a case, first the mandate will be taken off that election subject receiving more mandates. If the number of mandates received by the election subjects is equal, first the mandate will be taken off that election subject, who has acquired fewer votes in the elections.
11. If more than 15 election subjects received 5% or more votes cast in the elections, the distribution procedure described in paragraphs 7-10 of this Article shall not apply. In such a case, one mandate shall be awarded to those election subjects, having received more votes in the elections.
12. If two or more party lists received an equal number of votes, a mandate shall be conferred to the one having registered first at the SEC.
13. Candidates for the membership of the Supreme Council shall be considered elected under proportional election system, whose assigned numbers on a party list are smaller or equal to the number of mandates acquired by the given party list.
14. If, in an election district, as a consequence of gross violation of this Law, polling results are announced invalid in more than half of the polling stations or in some precincts, in which the total number of registered voters is more than the half of the total number of registered voters in the election district, the election results in the election district shall be declared invalid and the SEC shall call re-run majoritarian election in this district.
15. If an application/complaint is filed requesting the invalidation or verification of polling results, the SEC shall make a decision by issuing an ordinance on opening of the sealed packages and re-counting of the ballot papers received from the relevant PEC.
16. The repeat voting may be appointed both after the first round and the second round of elections. If necessary, the SEC is authorized to task the same or different composition of the PEC to hold the repeat voting. The repeat voting shall be held within 2 weeks after the first round (second round) of elections.
17. The repeat voting during the elections held under the proportional system shall be appointed in those cases when the total numbers of registered voters in these precincts constitute more than 10% of the total number of constituency. In such cases, the repeat voting shall be held within 2 weeks after the elections.
18. If elections held under proportional election system are announced as held, but none of the parties and election blocs received 5% of the votes, by the SEC ordinance, re-run elections shall be held within 2 weeks after the elections.
19. Right to run in the re-run elections shall be conferred only to those parties and election blocs having received at least 2% of the votes in general elections. The party lists of the parties and

election blocs participating in re-run elections remain unchanged. Changes in the lists shall be made only according to the general rule defined by this Law.

20. The summary protocol of the final election results shall include the titles and numbers of those election districts and precincts, in which elections were declared invalid, as well as the reasons for declaring the elections invalid, total number of voters in the elections, the number of elected members of the Supreme Council and their list arranged in alphabetical order.
21. Within 5 days of summing up the final results of elections, the SEC shall publish the summary protocol of election results through the press and other media.
22. Upon summarizing the final results of the elections, the SEC shall publish the information on the election results on its web site, in accordance with each election precinct and, no later than the following day, convey this information to the press and other media.
23. It is the SEC's duty to ensure the publicity of protocols defined by paragraph 14 of Article 71 of the Election Code of Georgia, including its immediate publication on the SEC web site; at the same time, if the results of an election precinct have been appealed to the court in accordance with the rule established by the legislation of Georgia, the SEC is obliged to make proper note of this on the respective protocol published on the web site, immediately after the official notification is received.

Article 66. Second round of the Supreme Council elections

1. If a member of the Supreme Council failed to be elected in the first round of majoritarian elections, the SEC shall call the second round of elections along with summarizing of the first round results. The second round of elections shall be held no later than on the 14th day after the first round. 2 candidates having received more votes in the first round shall participate in the second round of the elections. If more than two candidates obtained similar best results or several candidates following the candidate with the best results received equal number of votes, all the above candidates shall run in the second round of elections.
2. A candidate having won more votes in the second round of elections shall be deemed elected. If the candidates receive an equal number of votes, the candidate having received votes in the first round of elections shall be deemed elected. If the votes received in the first round are equal, re-run elections shall be called.

Article 67. Re-run elections of the Supreme Council

1. If elections are announced to be failed, also if election results in the majoritarian election district are declared invalid, re-run elections shall be held.
2. Re-run elections shall be held within 2 months after the declaration of elections as failed or after the declaration of the election results invalid. By its ordinance, the SEC shall announce the election date and timeframes for election arrangements no later than 7 days after the declaration of the election as failed or recognition of the election results invalid.
3. Under its ordinance, the SEC shall announce the date of re-run elections to be held in a majoritarian election district along with the timeframes for election arrangements no later than 2 months before the Election Day.
4. If elections held under proportional election system are announced as held, but none of the parties and election blocs received 5% of the votes cast in the elections, by the ordinance of the SEC re-run elections shall be held within 2 weeks after summarizing the election results.
5. Right to run in the re-run elections shall be enjoyed by only those parties and election blocs having received 2% of the votes in general elections. The party lists of the parties and election blocs participating in re-run elections remain unchanged. Changes in the lists shall be made only according to the general rule defined by this Law.

Article 68. Extraordinary elections of the Supreme Council

In case of early dismissal of the Supreme Council, extraordinary elections of the Supreme Council shall be held on the 60th day after the enforcement of the edict of the President of Georgia on the dismissal of the Supreme Council and the date of the extraordinary elections shall be appointed by the President of Georgia upon the enforcement of the edict on early dismissal of the Supreme Council.

Article 69. By-elections of the Supreme Council

1. By-elections of the Supreme Council shall be held in case of a withdrawal of an elected member of the Supreme Council from the majoritarian election district. By-elections shall be held in October according to the rule prescribed by this Law. If there are less than 60 days left until the by-elections of the Supreme Council, it shall be held in October of the following year. By-elections shall not be held if it coincides with the year of expiry of the Supreme Council authority.
2. The date of the by-elections of the Supreme Council and the terms of election events shall be set by the ordinance of the SEC no later than 2 months prior to the Election Day.
3. With the aim to participate in the Supreme Council elections, a party/election bloc which was registered with the SEC during the last Supreme Council elections, shall file an application with SEC signed by the head official(s), in order to obtain the right to participate in by-elections, after the by-elections are called, but no later than on the 57th day prior to the Election Day.

Article 70. The procedure for replacement of a withdrawn member of the Supreme Council

1. If a withdrawn member of the Supreme Council was elected under the party list of the party independently participating in the elections, his/her seat shall be occupied by the following candidate for member of the Supreme Council in the party list within 1 month, if the candidate gave his/her consent to become a member of the Supreme Council within 15 days after the vacancy became available. Otherwise, the vacancy shall be taken by the next candidate for a member of the Supreme Council in the list, etc. If there is no candidate remaining in the party list, the mandate of the member of the Supreme Council shall be deemed cancelled.
2. If a withdrawn member of the Supreme Council was elected under the party list of an election bloc and it was specified in the party list that he/she was a member of one of the parties of an election bloc, his/her seat shall be occupied within 1 month by the next candidate for the member of the Supreme Council of the same party in the list, if such candidate gives his/her consent to become a member of the Supreme Council within 15 days after the vacancy became available. Otherwise, the vacant seat shall be occupied by the candidate of the same party named next in the list, etc. If it was not specified in the party list that this person was a member of one of the parties of the election bloc, his/her successor shall be determined according to the procedure established by paragraph 1 of the present Article.
3. After acknowledgement of the authority of the members of the Supreme Council by the Supreme Council, the status of the candidate for a member of the Supreme Council shall be suspended for the persons remaining in the party lists. Immediately after the early termination of the authority of an elected member of the Supreme Council under the party list, the status of a candidate for the member of the Supreme Council shall be reinstated to the person, who is a successor of this member according to the present Article.
4. In cases stipulated by paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, based on the conclusion of the relevant SEC office, the SEC chairperson shall adopt an ordinance on the replacement of the withdrawn member of the Supreme Council. The ordinance shall be conveyed to the Supreme Council along with the relevant documentation.

Article 71. Registration of elected members of the Supreme Council

Within 2 days after summarizing the final results of the elections, the SEC shall register the elected members of the Supreme Council and shall give them temporary certificates on their election as Members of the Supreme Council.

Article 72. Narcotic drug inspection elected members of the Supreme Council

1. On the 7th day after the polling day, all candidates for a member of the Supreme Council according to the preliminary election results elected from the party lists of the parties/election blocs, who has overcome the election threshold (except for persons defined in Articles 39 (8) and 40 (8) of this Law), shall pass a narcotic drug test and an appropriate certificate shall be drawn up, which shall state that a candidate for a member of the Supreme Council is either healthy or a drug user.
2. If a person elected as a member of the Supreme Council under the party list fails to take a drug test within the timeframe stipulated in the first paragraph of this Article and/or refuses to take the drug test, the Supreme Council shall adopt a decree on refusal to recognize the authority of this member.
3. The institution authorized to carry out the drug test is obliged to submit to the SEC the certificates on carrying out the drug test and the list of elected members of the Supreme Council having taken the drug test no later than by the 14th day after the elections.
4. In cases envisaged by paragraph 2 of this Article, the SEC shall determine the successor for a member of the Supreme Council in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 70 of this Law.
5. Narcotic drug test shall be carried out by an authorized institution. The SEC shall draw up a list of such institutions, by its ordinance, no later than on the 57th day before the Election Day.

**CHAPTER IX
ELECTORAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Article 73. Appeal term and procedure

1. Violation of election legislation may be appealed to the relevant election commission. The decision of the election commission may be appealed only to a higher election commission or a court, in accordance with the procedure and terms determined by this Law, unless otherwise defined by this Law.
2. Decisions of the PEC/commission head officials, within 3 calendar days of their delivery, may be appealed to the relevant DEC, which shall examine the appeal within 1 calendar day. The decision of the DEC, within 2 calendar days may be appealed to the relevant district/city court, which shall examine the appeal within 2 calendar days. The ruling of the district/city court, within 1 calendar day of its delivery, may be appealed to the Court of Appeal, which shall examine the appeal within 1 calendar day. The ruling of the Court of Appeal is final, and not subject to appeal.
3. In the case that the DEC decision is appealed to the SEC regarding the appeal of the PEC decision, an application/complaint shall not be considered.
4. Decisions of the DEC/commission head officials, within 1 calendar day of their delivery, may be appealed to the SEC, which shall examine the appeal within 1 calendar day from its delivery. The decision of the SEC, within 1 calendar day of its delivery, may be appealed to Batumi City Court. Batumi City Court shall examine the appeal within 2 calendar days. The Batumi City Court ruling, within 1 calendar day of its delivery, may be appealed to the Court of Appeal, which shall deliver its ruling within 1 calendar day of the submission of the appeal. The ruling of the Court of Appeal is final, and not subject to appeal.
5. The decision of the SEC/head officials of the SEC may be appealed to Batumi City Court, within 2 calendar days of its delivery. The Batumi City Court shall examine the appeal within 2 calendar days. The Batumi City Court ruling, within 2 calendar days of its delivery, may be appealed to the

Court of Appeal, which shall deliver its ruling within 2 calendar days of the submission of the appeal. The ruling of the Court of Appeal is final, and not subject to appeal.

6. In the case that the lawsuit/complaint is lodged before the court, the court is obliged to immediately inform the DEC/SEC of the receipt of the lawsuit/complaint and, once the ruling is delivered - on the ruling. The District/City Court ruling shall be sent to the parties by 12:00 of the next day.
7. If a party fails to appear at the court hearing, the court shall deliver its ruling based on an inquiry into case materials and in accordance with the relevant provisions of Administrative Procedural Code of Georgia.
8. The application/lawsuit/complaint shall be considered to be lodged before the election commission/court from the moment it is registered in the relevant election commission/court.
9. Lodging of an application/lawsuit/complaint before the election commission/court shall not terminate the ruling appealed.
10. The extension of appeal and dispute resolution terms, defined by this Law, shall be prohibited, unless otherwise determined by this Law.
11. An application/lawsuit/complaint submitted to the election commission/court concerning election disputes defined by Article 74 of this Law, by the persons not referred to in the same Article, shall remain unconsidered.
12. The term and procedure for appealing the election commission decision and violation of Georgian election legislation, and the term for examining of application/lawsuit/complaint and the delivery of ruling, as well as the group of applicants is determined by Georgian legislation, unless otherwise determined by this Law.
13. Applicants/observer organizations/election subjects shall be informed on the time and place of the consideration of a complaint by the election commission, pursuant to the requirements set forth by this Law.
14. If the applicant is an observer organization or its representative, registered with the election commission, the respective observer of this organization or this organization, registered with the election commission, shall be notified of the time and place of the consideration of the complaint.
15. If the applicant is an election subject or its appointed representative, the representative of this subject, appointed under Article 49 of this Law, shall be notified of the time and place of the consideration of the complaint.
16. If the applicant is a member of the election commission, he/she shall be personally informed of the consideration of the complaint.
17. It is the duty of the parties to clearly indicate in the application a telephone number (home and/or cell phone), as well as a fax number and email address (if any), of the applicant.
18. For considering the complaint, in order to meet the terms of examination of the complaint required by this Law, the parties may be summoned in writing, or by telephone (including cell phone, text message), email, fax or other technical means. The summon of the party by technical means shall be confirmed by:
 - a) contacting the telephone number indicated by him/her;
 - b) email, fax or text message – through confirmation received by relevant technical means. If such confirmation is received, the party shall be deemed summoned. The party shall also be considered summoned in the case when it is unfeasible to contact him/her through the technical means indicated in the complaint (if the cell phone, fax, computer are turned off, etc.).
19. Summoning of the party through technical means shall be reflected in the act, which shall be attached to the complaint presented at the commission session.
20. The SEC act shall be drawn up and signed by a SEC legal department employee and by a head of the department.

21. The lower election commission act shall be drawn up by one of the members of the commission, as assigned by the commission chairperson, and signed by this member of the commission and the chairperson.
22. The Election Administration shall be obliged to inform the party of the time and place of the examination of the case no later than 3 hours prior to the start of the examination.
23. The form of the act shall be approved by the SEC ordinance.
24. The absence of the party shall not be grounds for postponing the examination of the complaint.
25. A party attending the commission session shall be provided with the draft documents and copies related to the examination of the complaint, as well as those that will be presented at the commission session, before the start of the session.
26. A party shall have the right to participate in the process of examination of the complaint, as established by the election legislation.
27. The decision on the examination of the complaint shall be made based on accurate inquiry into, and study of, the evidence submitted by the parties and the materials acquired by the election administration on its own initiative.
28. A party participating in the process of examination of the complaint, upon his/her request, shall be provided with the decision on the complaint (except for the protocol of the commission session) until 12:00 of the day following the adoption of the decision, considering the terms of composition of relevant documentation set forth by the legislation of Georgia.
29. A party, who has failed to appear at the examination of the complaint, regardless of his/her notification, shall be provided with the commission decision in writing.
30. If the party fails to appear at the commission session in the course of examination of the complaint, the date on which the party received a written document on the decision shall not be the grounds for calculating the term of appealing of the commission decision.
31. The election commission is obliged to indicate in the decision the term and place (name and address of an institution) where the decision may be appealed.

Article 74. Election disputes and group of claimants

1. The terms and rules for submission to, and examination by, the Constitutional Court of Georgia of a constitutional claim on the compliance with the Constitution of procedures regulating elections, and elections conducted, or to be conducted, based on these procedures, are defined by the Organic Law of Georgia on the Constitutional Court of Georgia and the Law of Georgia on Constitutional Legal Proceeding.
2. A complaint can be filed to the court concerning the lists of voters by a representative from registered party/election block/voters' initiative group, having electoral registration, in a relevant election commission, organization with an observer's status, a member of the relevant PEC and DEC, as well as a citizen, whose application on inclusion in the voters' list have not been upheld by the election commission.
3. A complaint may be filed to the court regarding the establishment of election districts, within the term provided by the present Law, by a representative from a registered party/election block, having electoral registration in the SEC, organization with an observer's status and a SEC member.
4. A complaint may be filed to the court regarding the establishment of election precincts, within the term provided by the present Law, by a representative from registered party/election block, having electoral registration in the respective DEC, organization with an observer's status and a member of the respective DEC.
5. An individual, defined by the legislation of Georgia, shall have a right to file a complaint to the court with regard to the appointment/election of a SEC/DEC member, within the term provided by this Law.

6. A complaint may be filed to the court, regarding the appointment/election of a PEC member, within the term provided by the present Law, by a representative from a registered party/election bloc/voters' initiative group, having electoral registration, in the respective DEC, organization with an observer's status and a member of the respective DEC or PEC.
7. A complaint may be filed to the court, within the term provided by the present Law, regarding an ordinance of an election commission, and its chairperson, on the pre-term termination of the authority, as well as the failure to make a decision on the pre-term termination of the authority, of a member of an election commission or its head official (in case of existence of the grounds provided by Article 28 of this Law), by a registered party/election bloc, having electoral registration, organization with an observer's status, a member of the respective or upper election commission, whose authority has been terminated early under this ordinance.
8. A complaint may be filed to the court regarding an ordinance of the SEC on the pre-term termination of the authority, or the failure to make a decision on the pre-term termination of the authority, of a lower election commission, by a SEC member, a registered party/election bloc representative, having electoral registration in SEC, organization with an observer's status and more than a half of the commission members, whose authority has been pre-term terminated under this ordinance.
9. The SEC shall be entitled to file a complaint to the court concerning the failure to deposit funds, allocated for the elections from the republican budget of an Autonomous Republic of Ajara, to the SEC account, within the term prescribed by this Law. The complaint shall be filed within 10 calendar days of the expiration of the above term.
10. The following subjects shall be entitled to file a complaint to the court regarding the electoral registration of a party, election bloc, voters' initiative group and their representatives:
 - a) a party, election bloc, representative in the SEC, if the SEC chairperson failed to register this party, election bloc, or their representatives, or cancelled their registration;
 - b) a party, election bloc, representative of a voter's initiative group in the relevant DEC, if the DEC chairperson failed to register the voters' initiative group, or their representatives, or cancelled their registration;
 - c) a party independently participating in the elections, an election bloc, at least 2 persons having an election observer status (appointed as observers in the SEC), if they deem that a party, election bloc was registered in violation of the requirements of the election legislation of Georgia;
 - d) a party independently participating in the elections, an election bloc, a representative of the voters' initiative group in the relevant DEC, at least 2 persons having an election observer status (appointed as observers in the relevant election district), if they deem that an initiative group of voters was registered in violation of requirements of Georgian election legislation.
11. The following subjects shall be entitled to file a complaint to the court concerning an ordinance by the election commission chairperson on the registration of a party participating independently in the elections, a party list presented by the election bloc, separate candidates included in the party list:
 - a) a party, an election bloc, a majoritarian candidate, a representative of a voters' initiative group in the relevant DEC, if the SEC chairperson failed to register the party list presented by the election bloc or a party, separate candidates included in the list, whereas the DEC chairperson failed to register candidates nominated by the party, election bloc, initiative group of voters or when chairpersons of these commissions cancelled their registration;
 - b) A party independently participating in the elections and having electoral registration, a registered election bloc, at least 2 persons having election observer status (appointed as observers in the SEC), if they deem that the SEC chairperson has registered a party/election bloc list, separate candidates included in the list of the party/election bloc in violation of the requirements of the election legislation, as well as if separate candidates included in the party/election bloc list fail to

- meet the requirements set forth by the legislation or those requirements have been met in violation of the procedures proscribed by the legislation of Georgia;
- c) A party independently participating in the elections and having election registration, a registered election bloc, a representative of an initiative group of voters in the relevant DEC, at least 2 persons having election observer status (appointed as observers in the DEC), if they deem that the DEC chairperson has registered candidates nominated under the majoritarian system in violation of the requirements stipulated by the election legislation, as well as if candidates nominated under the majoritarian system fail to meet the requirements of the legislation requirements or those requirements have been met in violation of procedures envisaged by the legislation of Georgia;
 12. The right to file a complaint to the court concerning the SEC ordinance on registration of local and international observer organizations, shall be granted to: the abovementioned organization, if the organization is not registered by the SEC, a party/election bloc having electoral registration, a registered organization having an observer status, if the entities consider the registration of the observer organization a violation of the election legislation.
 13. The right to file a complaint to the court regarding an ordinance of the DEC on the registration of a domestic observer organization, shall be granted to: the abovementioned organization, if the organization was not registered by the DEC, representatives of a party/election bloc and voters' initiative group, having electoral registration in the DEC, a registered organization having observer status, if the entities deem the registration of the observer organization a violation of the election legislation of Georgia.
 14. The right to file a complaint to the court regarding an ordinance of the SEC/DEC secretary on accreditation of representatives of press and other media, shall be granted to: a representative of press and other media, whose application for accreditation is not upheld by the election commission, a party/election bloc with electoral registration, a representative of a voters' initiative group in the relevant election commission, or an organization holding an observer's status.
 15. The right to file a complaint to the court on actions referred to in Paragraph 1 of Article 54 of this Law, shall be granted to:
 - a) a party, election bloc, organization with an observer status, election commission, if the complaint concerns the violation of the above-mentioned procedure by the party, election bloc;
 - b) a party, an election bloc, a representative of a voters' initiative group in the relevant DEC, a majoritarian candidate, an organization with election observer status, election commission, if the complaint concerns the violation of the above-mentioned procedures by the candidate nominated to the electoral district.
 16. The right to file a complaint pertaining to the violation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 46 and paragraphs 1-4 of Article 50 of the Election Code of Georgia by press and other media, shall be granted to the subject determined by the legislation of Georgia.
 17. The right to file a complaint to the court, with respect to the ordinance of the chairperson of the election commission in violation of the provisions of Article 48 of the Election Code of Georgia and Article 42 of this Law, shall be granted to: the party nominating the candidate, an election bloc, an initiative group of voters, the candidate on whom the ordinance is issued, a representative in the DEC of another party, an election bloc, an organization with election observer status, voters' initiative group having electoral registration (if it concerns a majoritarian candidate), unless the commission confirms the above-mentioned violation.
 18. The right to file a complaint to the court regarding the actions and decisions of the PEC, and its individual members, during polling and the summing up of polling results (other than drawing up the summary protocol of polling results), shall be granted to: a representative of a party, election bloc, voters' initiative group in the precinct or upper DEC, an observer of an organization with election observer status, in the precinct or upper DEC.

19. A complaint on the issues specified in paragraphs 17 and 18 of this Article shall be filed in the appropriate district/city court no later than the day following the polling day. The court shall deliver its ruling no later than the following day after the day the complaint is filed. The ruling of the district/city court may be appealed to the Court of Appeal no later than the following day, and the Court of Appeal shall deliver its ruling no later than the day after the day the appeal is filed.
20. In case the summary protocol of the PEC is appealed, the right to apply to the court, regarding the respective ordinance of the upper DEC, shall be granted to: a representative of a party, an election bloc, a representative of voters' initiative group with electoral registration, in the respective DEC, the organization with election observer status.
21. The right to apply to the court, with respect to the DEC ordinance deeming, or failing to deem the polling results null and void at an election precinct, shall be granted to: a representative of a party, an election bloc, a voters' initiative group, a majoritarian candidate, an observer of an organization with election observer status at the relevant DEC.
22. The right to lodge a complaint before the court, concerning the SEC ordinance declaring elections as being held, or announced to have failed, shall be granted to: a party independently participating in elections, an election bloc, a representative of voters' initiative group in the DEC (if it concerns the election district), a majoritarian candidate, an organization with election observer status.
23. The right to file a complaint to the court regarding the relevant ordinance of the SEC on the summary protocol of the DEC shall be granted to: a party independently participating in elections, an election bloc, a representative of voters' initiative group at the DEC, a majoritarian candidate, an organization with election observer status.
24. The right to lodge a complaint to the court, pertaining to the summary protocol of the election results of the SEC, shall be conferred to: a party independently participating in the elections, an election bloc, a majoritarian candidate, an organization with election observer status.

CHAPTER X RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF THE ELECTION LEGISLATION

Article 75. Responsibility for violation of the election Legislation

Responsibility for violation of the election Legislation shall be determined by the Organic Law of Georgia, Election Code of Georgia.

CHAPTER XI TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 76. Transitional provisions

1. Legal acts, adopted by the SEC before coming into effect of this Law, shall remain legal force after this Law becomes effective.
2. The SEC shall ensure to bring its legal acts into conformity with the present Law within 1 month after this Law comes into force.

Article 77. Final provisions

1. Law of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara on Elections of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara (Official Gazette "Ajara" N209-210, 26.10.2004) shall become invalid immediately after the effectiveness of this Law.
2. This law shall enter into force from July 4, 2012.

**Chairman of the Government of
Autonomous Republic of Ajara
L. VARSHALOMIDZE**

**Chaqvi
June 21, 2012
N167**

Made Ammendments:

1. Law of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara August 2, 2012 №175 – website, 02.08.2012y.