



THE CENTRAL COMMISSION ON  
ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA  
OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

# NEWSLETTER

## October, 2021



**ЖК** ШАЙЛОО  
ВЫБОРЫ  
28.11.2021



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## Nomination of candidates in single-mandate constituencies has been completed

According to the Constitutional Law "On Elections of President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic" a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic who is 25 years old on the day of elections, has the right to vote, and has higher professional education may be elected a deputy of the Djogorku Kenesh.

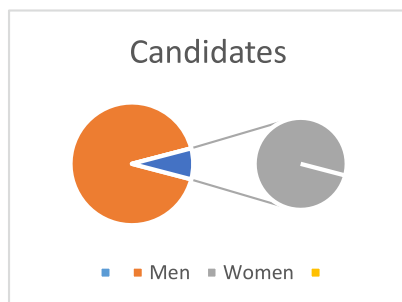
Nomination of candidates in single-mandate constituencies is carried out by:

1) political parties at congresses with indicating the electoral district where each candidate will run. Political parties are entitled to nominate not more than one candidate in a single-mandate constituency. The decision to nominate a candidate shall be made by a secret ballot.

2) by self-nomination by submitting to the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic a statement of intent to run as a candidate in a given constituency.

A candidate can be nominated in only one constituency. The Central Election Commission has formed 36 constituencies across the country.

As of October 13, 2021, 381 candidates (31 women and 350 men) were nominated to deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic from single-mandate constituencies, including 373 self-nominated candidates and 8 candidates from 7 political parties.



The maximum number of candidates 19 have been nominated from the Kadamjay constituency.

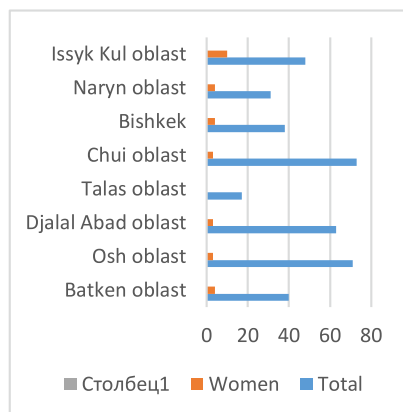
The minimum number 4 candidates have been nominated in the Nookat and Uzgen constituencies.

Nomination by regions:

- The Batken oblast – 3 constituencies, 40 nominated candidates, of which 4 were women.
- The Osh oblast – 9 constituencies, 71 nominated candidates, of which 3 were women.
- The Djalal-Abad oblast – 7 constituencies, 63 nominated candidates, of which 3 were women.
- The Talas oblast – 2 constituencies, 17 nominated candidates, no women.

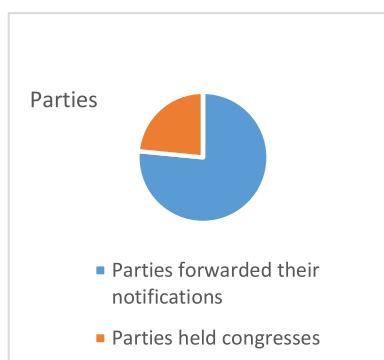
- The Chui oblast – 6 election districts, 73 nominated candidates, of which 3 were women.
- Bishkek – 4 constituencies, 38 nominated candidates, of which 4 were women.
- The Naryn oblast– 2 constituencies, 31 nominated candidates, of which 3 were women.
- The Issyk-Kul oblast– 3 constituencies, 48 nominated candidates, of which 10 were women.

Four candidates have withdrawn their notifications.



### 23 parties have informed the CEC on the nominating candidate lists to the elections of deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic

As of October 13, 2021, out of 73 political parties that had expressed their desire to participate in the parliamentary elections 26 parties have notified CEC on holding congresses, 3 of which have held congresses twice. A total of 23 parties have notified on the nominated lists of candidates.



## **Trainings for Trainers to Promote Women's Leadership Launched**

The Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic together with UN Women have conducted a five-day training for trainers who, in turn, will train women aspiring to political leadership.

The purpose of the training is to prepare trainers promoting women's leadership, inspire new leaders and invest in the skills of aspiring women leaders in Kyrgyzstan.

International trainers and experts, former vice-president of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Liliana Palihovich and Susan Markham have held the training using a handbook on political leadership and candidate training developed by the UN Women's political participation team. The guide is designed for use and adaptation at the country level where the UN Women supports women candidates.

Twenty-four trainers have been trained who will now be able to hold follow-up trainings throughout Kyrgyzstan. The initiative aims to inspire women in Kyrgyzstan to participate in parliamentary elections and actively apply leadership skills.



"The result of the training is strategically important: the skilled trainers will be able to share knowledge with and support other women, and this, in turn, will contribute to increasing the number of women leaders participating in the political life of the country," said Mme Akbalyk Djumalieva, a member of the Central Election Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The CEC and UN Women will hold 13 training sessions in seven regions of Kyrgyzstan and about 260 women candidates planning to run for parliamentary elections are expected to take part in them.



## Mme Nurjan Shaildabekova, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic, on what work is done to ensure free elections



One and a half month is left until the next parliamentary elections. They will be held on November 28, 2021. This large-scale political event requires high level organization and today the task is to ensure all conditions for open and fair elections. Experts are confident that the conditions for open and fair elections have been created. Bribery will be

difficult and dangerous.

The President Mr. Sadyr Djaparov has urged the incumbent deputies running for parliament to hold open and honest elections. In the words of the Head of state, he has the strength and courage to stop the use of administrative pressure.

How the parliamentary elections will be organized in the country, how far the domestic electoral system is ready today, in general, if the attitude to elections has changed and, most importantly, whether the trust of citizens in the domestic electoral system has grown, – recounts the Chairman of the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic Mme Nurjan Shaildabekova.

### Democratic and free elections are the key to well-being of any country

According to the law, the electoral process has its stages. Since the appointment of the elections date, two main processes have been launched– on the voters' list and on the nomination of candidates that has already been completed.

Voters and candidates are the main subjects, and the freedom and democratism of elections are evaluated by creating conditions for them.

All the efforts of state and local authorities should be focused on creating conditions for these two subjects.

The main indicator of fair elections is that all who wanted to vote could participate and vote freely, and all ~~wanted~~ to participate as candidates had the opportunity to compete on equal legal terms and to exercise the right to be elected.

### Creating conditions for voters

Conditions for freedom of expression include the voting accessibility. Polling stations must be convenient for various categories of citizens, such as persons with disabilities.

The CEC, within the framework of ensuring the passive suffrage of citizens with disabilities, **forms a Map of needs** that is transmitted to local government bodies (LGBs) and of state bodies' territorial offices to take measures to ensure the footpath for visitors' accessibility for persons with disabilities from his/her place of residence to polling place by organizing social taxi, involving volunteers, sign language interpreters, installation of call buttons, etc.

According to the Map of needs, as of April 2021, the total number of citizens with disabilities was 20 187 persons, an increase of 1902 voters with disabilities compared to the early presidential election on January 10, 2021.

Special measures are taken for categories such as military personnel: analysis of the availability of documents, inclusion in the voters' lists, etc.

#### [Accessibility, freedom of expression and reliable vote count](#)

As the result of the electoral system's reforms and the introduction of new technologies the conditions for citizens' freedom of expression were created in the country, the secrecy of the vote is guaranteed by the state. However due to other violations during the previous elections administrative interference, pressure, compulsion and bribery of voters that indirectly distorted the results of voting not reflecting the real preferences of citizens, we could not evaluate the achieved credibility of the vote counting all the way.

Although it is the most important responsibility of the state to ensure that the fate of elections is decided by the people by their voting, nevertheless we have this component. Together with the Government, we have comprehensively analyzed all the shortcomings and we are working on them together jointly.

With regard to candidates, it is also very important to ensure conditions for equal participation in the elections, to ensure equal treatment in case of violations by the candidates. Because we have faced with the fact that there had been no relevant response from the law enforcement agencies to violations of certain candidates in certain years. This also has been analyzed and the political will has been stated to ensure equal conditions for everyone to participate in the election campaign.

In addition, we must help the candidates and parties to convey their program goals to the voters as much as possible. We must give consideration to that the elections are held under the proportional system with open lists, there are a lot of election subjects, not only parties with rigid lists, but also individual candidates in each list.

Maximum information is also a part of the state's obligations to create equal legal conditions for candidates, we are working on this set of measures.

#### [Interaction of the CEC with Other Electoral Participants](#)

In order to assist election commissions in carrying out these tasks, the National Headquarters has been created that works in a new format. The Secretary of the Security Council was appointed the head of the National Headquarters that shows that elections are becoming a factor of state security in our country.

We have brought together all levels of leadership at the Headquarters meetings in all regions from the regional leadership to ayil okmotu (local administration), all who somehow or other is involved to the elections. Alongside this we have held at the same day a regional meeting of the law enforcement agencies, training for regional media centers and the media. We held trainings even for employees of

banks on elections' financial transparency and also certainly for candidates to acquaint them with all new rules.

The main message of these events is the purity of the electoral process, its recognition by citizens as legitimate and fair depends not only on the electoral commissions, each state agency, local administrations (LSG), law enforcement agencies, media, candidates, voters – all of them must participate in the process to make elections legitimate, free and fair.

Therefore, the state bodies and local administrations (LSG) were assigned the tasks to provide maximum assistance to the commissions in solving all organizational and logistical issues, but at the same time not to allow any interference neither in the work of the commissions, nor in the campaigns of candidates and parties, not to act in the interests of any parties or individual candidates. And this will be a very important contribution of the state bodies to the electoral process.

We have discussed in detail with law enforcement agencies action plans in case of any violations, worked out protocol for each kind of violation. It is important that law enforcement bodies to act in a timely, prompt and effective manner. If the law enforcement agencies are able to respond promptly to all arising violations of the law at the initial stage of the election campaign, this will be a very good message from the state to counter violations.

The law enforcement agencies have been informed on the special aspects of the election campaign, that stand for a short-term political, multi-subject process. Above all is that there is an understanding both of the law enforcement agencies' leadership and rank-and-file officers, who will provide the work on violations at the local level, on how to make this process effective.

Initially, there is a message that the state will not connive at violations. This is a good message both for citizens, that the situation is under control in terms of violations, and for the candidates, who can contribute in the form of compliance with the rules of the election campaign.

#### Informing in the Course Elections

We have held important meetings with media, discussing the role of mass media in the election process and what contribution they can make. It is encouraging to note that we have an understanding of that the value of information, especially in the pre-election period, is in its reliability and timeliness.

The role of the information aspect in these elections is increasing because of the new electoral procedure has been implemented. Citizens must receive all the necessary information about all candidates in single-mandate districts, information about all participating parties and their programs. Given the fact that citizens vote not only for parties, but also for candidates, we should make efforts providing them with information about all the candidates in the list of parties. Therefore, the media in the regions have been called for active interaction, so that citizens could be informed, make an informed and, above all, free choice of those whom they deem worthy.

### Women and Youth Participation in the Elections

Work now continues with female candidates to give them more confidence to run for office.

It is also necessary to mobilize the potential of young voters. Unfortunately, their participation has decreased in recent years, only 25% of citizens under 25 participated in the elections, although their potential is enormous. Young voters under the age of 30 make up more than 31% of the voter list. This is 1 million 200 thousand citizens.

### 58% of Kyrgyzstan citizens positively assess the work of the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic

The Public Foundation "Obschee Delo" has analyzed the data of the IRI (International Republican Institute) on how the citizens of Kyrgyzstan assess the CEC effectiveness since 2012.

In 2012, 47% of respondents positively assessed the CEC activity.

Upon average, over the years of the study, the positive assessment of the CEC performance ranged from 31% to 59%.

We have compared evaluations of election commissions in Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, where IRI used the same methodology in the citizens' survey as in Kyrgyzstan. It turned out that 59% was the highest positive assessment among these four countries.

The positive assessment of the Moldova's CEC ranged from 13% in 2015 to 41% in 2019. In Georgia, the evaluation of the CEC's activity ranged from 34% to 54%. The IRI publications on the evaluation of the Armenia's CEC's activity were found only since 2018. During this period, the attitude of citizens to the activities of the CEC was also ambiguous: from 24% to 53%.

The percentage of respondents who positively assessed the work of the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic has been increasing since 2015 until the end of 2017. The peak of positive assessment is in the polls held in February and March 2017, where 59% of respondents assessed the CEC activities as positive.

At this time, the share of those who evaluated the CEC's work negatively was decreasing, as well as the share of those who were unaware of the CEC's work.

This circumstances coincided with the first year of the CEC new staff under the leadership of the current chairperson, Mme Nurjan Shaildabekova.

The IRI took four opinion polls among the residents of the country before the parliamentary elections on October 4, 2020, before the presidential elections in December 2020 and after the elections in February-March 2021 as well as during the repeat elections to local councils in Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok in July 2021.

Until February-March 2021, the percentage of negative attitude to the work of the CEC remains higher than positive (51%). After that, the percentage of those who positively assessed the work of the CEC rose to 58%.

People aged 18-35 are more confident in the effectiveness of the CEC's activity in holding elections.

Women assessed the work more positively (44%) than men (31%).

**Mr. Iskander Gaipkulov, Head of the Control and Audit Group under the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic, on the work on ensuring financial transparency of elections**



The Control and Audit Group consists of three members of the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic, members of the state audit bodies, as well as public experts. According to the new Constitutional Law “On the Elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic”, we are assigned with great tasks in terms of financial transparency and financial responsibility of all participants of the electoral process.

The CEC has already adopted a set of regulations aimed at ensuring transparency of elections financing from the state budget as well as transparency of election funds of parties and candidates participating in the elections.

The adopted regulations in addition to the state budget planning and reporting standards for elections also provide the disclosure of sources of origin of funds allocated to the candidates and political parties’ elections fund, the transparency of political parties’ expenditures during the election campaign.

The upcoming elections will be held under a mixed system; so both political parties and candidates nominated in single-mandate constituencies must establish electoral funds. All funds must operate on a non-cash basis. All paid services must be open for display, in this direction we have performed a huge work with experts.

Each participant will have a personal page on the "Electronic Candidate" portal <https://talapker.shailoo.gov.kg/ru/parliamentary>, where besides of personal information and programs all financial transactions will be displayed, from where the money comes and where it is spent. In order to make the elections’ financing as open as possible, jointly with the National and commercial banks as well as with the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic the new regulations were developed that envisage control of funds for each item of expenditure.

Each voter can see financial operations of a candidate and political party that will be provided openly and honestly. Moreover, in the course of the elections, since parties and candidates are required to systematically submit reports on the receipt and expenditure of funds by election funds.

Another our task is the proper use of funds allocated to district election commissions. The Control and Audit Group will control all expenses not only of



the district, but also of the Central Election Commission during the election process.

As part of ensuring financial responsibility during the elections the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic holds trainings for financial commissioners, bank employees throughout the country on the procedure of establishing election funds, provision of financial reports and, in general, on ensuring financial transparency of elections.

***For reference:***

In order to ensure openness and transparency of the elections of deputies to the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, the following information is subject to mandatory posting on the CEC's official website (<https://shailoo.gov.kg/> , <https://talapker.shailoo.gov.kg/>):

1. Information (banking information) on receipt and expenditure of funds on a special account of a candidate, political party, provided by a banking institution, according to the legislation on personal data and banking secrecy;
2. Financial reports of candidates, political parties (first, second, final) on funding of election campaigns;
3. Information on the amount of:
  - electoral deposits of candidates, political parties;
  - returned electoral deposits to candidates, political parties;
  - funds transferred to the state budget.

**Mme Akbalyk Djumalieva, Head of the Working Group on improving the implementation of voting rights of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic with disabilities**



Currently, the list of voters with disabilities is determined at the polling stations, and the Maps of needs are filled out.

Map of needs is a resource on what assistance a citizen with disabilities needs at the time of voting.

There are citizens with disabilities who vote at home, but there are also those who, along with other citizens, come to vote at the polling station.

We must provide all conditions for citizens with disabilities who want to vote in person. For instance, ramps must be installed for convenient movement of those who cannot walk. Currently, the ramps are installed at 85% of the polling stations.

We should make clear that along with the ramps, the SNIps are also issued. After the elections in all social objects whether it is schools, kindergartens, clubs, it will be possible to use the same ramps in the future. This will ensure free movement of citizens with disabilities.

We control the areas where ramps have not yet been established, in cooperation with local administrations. Besides, there are loose sight citizens, whose records we keep in advance to know how many of them can read Braille, to prepare special ballots. Such printing is more expensive than regular ballots, so we need to know the exact number of optically challenged citizens.

There are also optically challenged citizens who cannot read Braille, for them other conditions are required, for example, some of them need accompanying volunteers. We will provide them with a social taxi. Therefore, it is important at this stage to map the needs as much as possible.

The CEC takes lists of citizens with disabilities from the Social Fund and organizations providing social assistance. Sometimes the information is inaccurate, so the workers involved are now working on this issue.