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# REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY ELECTIONS

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#### Abstract:

The elections legitimize the will of the citizens to represent them in the representative bodies. This legitimacy comes through various forms of electoral processes. These processes take place in various forms, depending on constitutional and legal definitions on the one hand and political culture on the other. Political culture develops parallel to the development of representative democracy. During the development of political pluralism and the multi-party system there are different types of election organization, depending on the elected representative body, the level of power to be elected, the manner of election of the representative bodies and the time of their holding. Based on the elected representative body we have: parliamentary and presidential elections. According to the level of state bodies we choose, we have: local elections and central elections. According to the election method we have: direct and indirect elections. According to certain time intervals we have: regular and extraordinary regular elections. All these types of elections are organized based on the particular electoral legislation, election management and the electorate expressing their free will.

# **Keywords:**

Parliamentary, Presidential, Local, Indirect, Representative Democracy

# 1. Introduction

About 2500 years ago, in Ancient Athens a leader named Pericles gathered in the city's famous Acropolis all its free citizens to get a decision together. From that moment on, human history was enriched with one of its greatest and most democratic concepts, representing the people through the election of representative bodies, which in the course of history has evolved and enriched, reaching the time ours with the multi-dimensional application of the standard one citizen one vote. Elections and representative democracy are two notions that are presented and developed at the same time. They are parallel to each other, because they are conditioned by each other. There is no democracy where people do not choose their own representatives according to their free will, as there are no free elections where the election of the people's representatives is not done according to international standards for democratic elections. Elections are the legitimacy of elected representatives to represent citizens in representative bodies. This legitimization comes through direct or indirect elections. The organization of elections is a rather complex process because it requires a special legal infrastructure, professional management of election administration, and an advanced political culture of citizens participating in elections, especially those who are running for election.

# 2. Parliamentary Elections

In the field of psephology there are several hundred definitions for election and electoral systems. Authors are divided into three groups. Those who speak only for the elections, the second ones for the electoral systems and the third ones about the election and the electoral systems jointly. The elections essentially represent the institutional way in which voters express their political preferences in the form of votes, which votes turn into mandates; while electoral systems are defined and implemented through electoral legislation, which includes electoral form (majority

or proportional), electoral districts, electoral competition, voting, methods of converting votes into mandates and electoral censors. (Đukanović, D. (2006). Izborni sistemi u zemljama nastalim na području nekadašnje Jugoslavije). Elections are institutionalized procedures or formalized and generally accepted procedures recognized by the organization's rules for collecting voting preferences. (Mackenzie W.J.M. (1968). Elections, The Functions of Elections). Elections and electoral systems are a key factor in building a democratic order in modern states. Democratic representation and democratic order are unthinkable without the organization of competitive elections for political power. Free and competitive elections are an essential element of the democratic one. (Štefica, Deren A. (1992). Izbori i izborni sustavi). Unlike the notion of the notion of elections in general, parliamentary elections mean the entirety of formal-legal and procedural rules, which determine the manner of election and constitution of representative bodies. (Bajrami, A. (2005). Demokracia Parlamentare, f. 175) These rules determine the processes of organizing the elections since their announcement, the appearance of candidates in elections, the election campaign, the voting process, the allocation of mandates and the constitution of the representative bodies. These procedures are, in principle, sanctioned by constitutional provisions, as well as by laws and by-laws that implement the elections. Another feature of parliamentary elections is whether they are organized for the election of a one-room or two-room parliament. If the state has a parliamentary chamber structure then the situation is simple because it is here that we only have to choose a structure of deputies through a legal infrastructure, but if the state has a two-chamber parliamentary structure then the issue is much more complicated because, , the choice of rooms is not done at the same time intervals. Two constituencies are elected here, the electoral legislation is different, and the electoral system is almost completely different. In the US, the two-room structure of the Congress is solved through two different electoral systems, with different legal infrastructure, with different mandates. In terms of content, congressmen represent all US states in proportion to the number of voters, while senators represent federal units regardless of the size of the state and the number of population. (https://www.govinfo.gov/). The two-room structure of parliament in Germany and the UK is also chosen. Usually for each room are applied different electoral systems, different legal infrastructure, different representation of citizens in representative bodies, etc. Regardless of whether a country has a one-room or two-room parliamentary structure, elections are organized in order to better represent the will of the people in the legislature. Depending on what time intervals the parliamentary elections are held, we share them in:

- Regular parliamentary elections
- Early elections
- Extraordinary elections

# 2.1. Regular Parliamentary Elections

Upon termination of the mandate of the legislature, regular parliamentary elections are held in accordance with the constitution and other legal acts. The legislature usually ends with the termination of the mandate, as determined by the legal acts in force. Through the elections, the political selection process takes place, ie the election of political representatives and the gathering of the expressed voter preferences on the basis of general and special binding procedures. (Štefica, Deren A. (1992). Izbori i izborni sustave). These elections are held after the expiration of the regular parliamentary term. They are typical for stable systems, where no parliamentary crisis appears. In parliamentary practice, two ways of regular parliamentary elections are known. (Bajrami, A. (2010). Parlamentarizmi – aspekte krahasuese, f. 210).

a. Complete selection of the composition of the legislature and

b. Its partial choice.

The full election of the composition of the new legislature is done after the work of the old legislature has been completed. The full choice of the composition of the legislature is mostly applied in parliamentary practice. This is achieved because the composition of the new legislature is more homogenous and can easily accomplish its electoral program, for which it has received the mandate from the electoral body. This form of legislature choice applies mainly to one-room parliamentary states. Partial, or re-elected parliamentary election applies mainly to states that have a two-room parliament. This is accomplished by making a partial selection of the composition of a third of it. As a special model of renewal of representative bodies, the Senate election in the United States and France takes place, where their renewal takes place every two years. The partial election of the Senate is justified by maintaining the continuity of the work of parliament on the one hand and the renewal of a third of it on the other.

In parliamentary practice there is no exact rule of the length of the regular parliamentary mandate and then the announcement and organization of the elections. In England before the XII century, the parliamentary mandate had no restriction. For the first time, the mandate of the Chamber of Commons was assigned for 7 years in 1716 and then this rule spread to other countries as well. (Luan Omari, (2003).Sistemi Parlamentar, f. 139) In most of the world's states, the regular parliamentary mandate is 4 years, as is the case of Kosovo, Albania, Romania and Germany; parliamentary mandate for 5 years, as is the case of Italy, the Grand National Assembly in Turkey. (The Constitution of the Republic of Turkay, article 77). The 6-year mandate of senators in the US or the 9-year term of office for senators elected for 9 years in France. (The Constitution of France title 4). Regularity of regular parliamentary elections is in the function of the rule of law. States that regularly organize regular parliamentary elections, without having to organize early and extraordinary elections, best argue, the degree of political stability and the quality of representative democracy.

### 2.2 Early Parliamentary Elections

Early parliamentary elections are organized as a result of early parliamentary distribution by the authorized state body. (Glossary of Parlamentary and Legal Tems, Published by the osce Mission in Kosovo, Pristina 2005, pp 279). This right is rightly the President of the Republic and the Speaker of Parliament, or in some states jointly, when the two highest state institutions agree to announce early elections. Unlike the extraordinary elections, early parliamentary elections are not the result of the emergence of special or extraordinary circumstances that justify the need for the election of the representative body. These elections come to light after the dissolution of parliament, relying on the constitutional and legal powers of the highest state body.

According to the Constitution of Kosovo, the Assembly is distributed in these cases:

a. If, in the third ballot, no candidate is elected President of the Republic of Kosovo, the Assembly is dissolved and new elections are announced, which should be held within forty-five 45 days.

b. If after the first failure, neither the second time is resolved by the Government, then the President of Kosovo proclaims elections, which must be held no later than forty days from the day of their revelation (Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 86). In most constitutions, it is not explicitly stated that when early and extraordinary elections are announced. They almost as a rule sanction that after the dissolution of the parliament are organized elections to select the new composition of the legislature. They attribute this issue to the representatives of the highest representative bodies, to assess the overall political situation, whether it is about the political state to announce early or extraordinary elections. Nor does the Constitution of Kosovo specify when the early elections and the extraordinary elections may be announced. According to the Serbian constitution after the dissolution of the People's Assembly, the President of the Republic is obliged to announce the early elections for the election of the deputies of the People's Assembly, in order for the elections to be held no later than 60 days from the day of their announcement. (Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Article 109). Also in Albania, the President of the Republic sets the date of parliamentary elections, local government bodies and referendums. (Constitution of Albania, Article 92).

# 2.3. Extraordinary Parliamentary Elections

Extraordinary parliamentary elections are held in exceptional circumstances before the expiration of the mandate of the representative bodies. (Glossary of Parlamentary and Legal Tems, Published by the osce Mission in Kosovo, Pristina 2005, pp 279). Reasons for holding extraordinary parliamentary elections usually take on the various political events that cause profound political changes in a country. Extraordinary parliamentary elections in parliamentary practice are usually held in states lacking political stability, where there are frequent shifts and political and social conflicts, civil and inter-ethnic struggles, and so on. (Bajrami, A. (2010), p. 176). Other factors that condition the need for the announcement of extraordinary parliamentary elections are parliamentary crises, which have the consequence of blocking the work of the parliament, which for a long time can not exercise its functions. These parliamentary crises are the result of internal parliamentary conflicts, between the ruling party and parties and the opposition and other obstructions that make the work of parliament impossible. In this case, when this crisis lasts for a relatively long time, the demand and pressure of the electoral body comes to the fore until the announcement of extraordinary parliamentary elections. (Bajrami, A. (2010), p. 211). Typically, we have in Albania the contestation of parliamentary elections in 1996 which were not recognized by the opposition. Under the pressure of the opposition and the lack of civic civility, in 1997 the ruling party was forced to accept the organization of

extraordinary elections for the exit from general institutional anarchy.

In the countries of Eastern Europe, after the collapse of communism in the first two decades, frequent extraordinary parliamentary elections have been organized as a result of political and social conflicts, on the one hand, and the low level of political culture on the other.

# 3. Parliamentary Elections in Two-Room Parliaments

The constitution determines whether a bicameral or unicameral parliamentary system should be established. Federal States tend to create a two-room legislative structure that can be believed to provide representation of states or provinces. Small-state united governments tend to set one-room parliamentary structure. Usually countries that are large in terms of geographic size and number of residents apply a two-room parliamentary structure. The first chambers represent the citizens or the electorate in general, without the designation of administrative divisions, while the second chambers mainly represent the territorial political administrative units, such as regional, cantonal, provincial, federal units. In states that have a two-room parliamentary structure, they are often classified as lower chambers and upper chambers, the lower chambers such as the US House of Representatives, the House of Commons in Britain, the Chamber of Deputies in Italy, etc., elect directly from the electorate and represent a certain number of citizens. The Higher Chambers (usually called the Senate, House of Lords, or the Federal Council) differ considerably in relation to the chambers of both composition and manner of choice.

Although there are numerous variations between different types of second chambers, often known as the upper chamber or senate, two generalizations can be made about them. Second chambers generally have less power than low chambers; and it can rarely happen that the two chambers have the same power. (Electoral Systems, (1997), International International IDEA p. 109). The authority of the two chambers in the two-room parliamentary systems varies greatly from one country to another. In most cases, the upper chamber has more limited authority than the lower chamber. This restriction of the lower chamber's authority can be easily understood, as it has only the power to review the legislation voted by the lower chamber. Also, this chamber has more limited competence in budget and financial matters. On the other hand, there are two-room systems, such as those of the United States, where the two chambers have equal or balanced powers, and both chambers have the same powers to review, amend or adapt the legislation. The most common application of the second chambers is the representation of federal units. For example, states in the USA and Australia, landings in Germany, provinces in South Africa, regions in Italy etc. (Electoral Systems, (1997), International IDEA Manual, p. 109). In other words, the Senate of the Republic of Italy is elected on a regional basis, with the exception of certain countries in the overseas territory. Basically no region can have less than seven senators, with the exception of Molise who chooses two, while Valle d'Aosta a senator. The division of seats between the regions, with the exception of the number of seats elected in the overseas territory, is made in proportion to the population of the regions according to the latest census and the highest residuals. (Constitution of the Italian Republic, article. 57). The election of representatives to the US Senate until the ratification of the XVII Amendment of the US Constitution in 1913 was made by the state legislatures individually, so they were not elected by the people's direct vote. With the adopted amendment, it was given the right of state constituents to elect senators alike as elected members of the House of Representatives. In any state, regardless of the number of its population, are elected by two senators. In the comparative political theory, the two-room parliamentary structure is conditioned as a fundamental element of political liberalism, because it is considered as a contribution to the limitation of powers, even as a concretization of the principle of separation of powers. (Filo, Ll. (2010) Ideological Platforms and American Political Institutions, p.41). Another form of alternative representation of citizens through the second chamber is the creation of a second room to represent particular ethnic, linguistic, religious or cultural groups. Because of these reasons, some of the second chambers are partially selected indirectly. In other words, in the US every two years were solved by 1/3 of the senators.

Even in France, the Senate's president is elected every time after elections for the partial election of the Senate are held. (Constitution of France, article 32). Most jurisdictions have reflected the different roles of the two chambers, using different electoral systems, for the first and second rooms, (Bajrami, A. (2010), p.129) as well as various legal infrastructure to implement the choice of these chambers.

### 4. The Election of the President

The election of the president is the most special form of organizing the elections because parliament or electoral body elect the state president.

The election of the president takes place in two forms:

- by parliament and
- by the electoral body

The election of the president by the parliament takes place when the state applies a parliamentary system of government and when a constitution of the state foresees that the state president be elected by the parliament. These constitutional provisions are also foreseen with the constitution of Kosovo, Albania, Italy, Germany, etc. However, there are cases when a constitutional state applies a parliamentary system of government, but the president is directly elected by the electoral body, for example. the election of the president in Macedonia, Slovenia, Austria, Serbia etc. Also, each constitutional state sets out specific criteria for electing a president from parliament, such as age, period of time of being resident in the state, the percentage of votes that should be taken in parliament, etc. The Constitution of Kosovo provides that the President of the Republic of Kosovo may be elected any citizen of the Republic of Kosovo who has reached the age of thirty-five years (Constitution of Kosovo, Article 85). In Albania, the president can only be elected Albanian citizen from birth, staying in Albania for not less than 10 years and having reached forty years of age. (Constitution of Albania, Article 86). In Germany, the candidate who has reached the age of forty can be elected president by the Federal Assembly. The Federal Assembly is established by the meeting of members of parliament and a number of members, elected by the people's representatives on the basis of proportional selection principles. (Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, Article 54), and in Italy one citizen who has reached the age of fifty years can be elected President of the Republic and enjoys civil and political rights. (Constitution of the Italian Republic, Art.84). Also, different criteria apply to the manner of voting in parliament. In Kosovo and Albania, the president is elected by a one-room parliament. In Kosovo, the election of the President is done by two-thirds of the votes of all members of the Assembly. If no candidate receives a two-thirds majority in the first two ballots, a third ballot is held between the two candidates who have received the highest number of votes in the second ballot and the candidate who receives the majority of the votes of all deputies, is elected President of the Republic of Kosovo. (Constitution of Kosovo, Article 86). In Albania the president is elected in the first, second or third ballot when a candidate receives not less than three-fifths of the votes of all members of the Assembly. In the last round, the president is elected by an absolute majority of the votes of the deputies of parliament. (Constitution of Albania, Article 87). Unlike these states, in Germany and Italy the president is elected by the Assembly with the absolute majority of the votes of the deputies with a mandate of 5 respectively 7 years. Unlike the election of the president by parliament, today in the contemporary world a large number of states with the parliamentary system and states with the presidential government system apply their choice directly from the people. As for the election of the president by the parliament applying different criteria that are defined by the constitution of each state, as well as for the election of the president directly by the electoral body apply different criteria such as age, time period of being resident in the state, duration of the mandate and other criteria.

It is important that the way of their election is determined by constitution and electoral laws, where the electoral system is also defined. While three main electoral systems are applied for the selection of representative bodies (assembly, parliament, senate, representative chamber etc.) and dozens of subsystems deriving from them, for electing the president directly from the electoral body, the majority system is mainly applied with different variants of voting. The most direct way to choose a president is when the president is elected who receives the most votes. Such are the presidential elections in Mexico, Kenya, the Philippines, Zambia, South Korea, Malawi, Iceland and Zimbabwe. (Electoral Systems, (1997), International IDEA Manual, p.103). It is clear that such a system is simple, inexpensive and efficient, in the highly competitive race of many candidates, leaving open the possibility for the president to be elected, with few votes, while most of the electorate may have voted against his. He legally constitutes the mandate of the President of the Republic, but in reality he does not represent the voice of the majority of citizens, as hypothetically he is likely to be elected with a very low percentage of votes.

For example, if 11 candidates are competing for the president, ten may win 9% of the vote, while the candidate is 11, 10% of the vote. If 50% of the electoral body has participated in the polls, then the president is elected the candidate

with the highest number of votes, in this case won the candidate who received only 10% of the votes of the electoral body that voted or 5% of the vote general of the electoral body. Such is the case of the election of the Philippine president in 1992, where the seven candidates competed, of whom Fidel Ramos was elected with only 24% of the vote. (Electoral Systems, (1997), International IDEA Manual, p.115). Unlike the one-vote majority vote, in most of the countries where the president elects the electoral body, the system applies two rounds of voting if no candidate has won the absolute majority of votes in the first round of voting. Even in this case we have different models. Of course, the second round takes place between the two candidates who have won the most votes in the first round, but there are times when more than two candidates qualify in the second round. In the first case in the second round qualify the two candidates who have won the most votes. This form of voting applies most to the election of the president by the electoral body. This system is applied by Russia, Macedonia, Croatia, Poland, most of the countries in Latin America, a part of the African-speaking countries of Africa and so on. In the second case in the second round qualify more than two candidates, then in the second round the president's mandate is won by the candidate who has won the most votes in relation to the other candidates in the race. However, the rules of the system of elimination of the majority system have undergone changes and have been adapted in different states. In Costa Rica a candidate can win in the first round with 40% of the vote; in Sierra Leone the second round can only be avoided if the candidate wins 55% of the vote in the first round. (Electoral Systems, (1997), International IDEA Manual, p.104). A special form of election of the president is the organization of the presidential election in the United States, where the election of the president is done according to completely specific criteria and procedures in relation to other presidential systems in the world. (Bob, G. (2008) Choosing the President, A Citizen's Guide to the Electoral Process, League of Women Voters, The Lyons Press, Guilford of the Globe Pequot Press). The electoral body in the federal states first chooses electors, while electors elect the president.

#### 5. Local Elections

Like the procedures that are being conducted and the votes cast for the election of MPs for Parliament as well as local government bodies choose their representatives to represent their will by building and empowering the autonomy of local government. With the autonomy of local government, the right and the effective ability of local communities to regulate and direct a good part of public affairs under their own responsibility and to the benefit of their populations. This right is exercised by councils or assemblies consisting of members elected by free, secret, equal, direct and universal voting. The organization of local government is sanctioned through a certain number of domestic acts and international acts. As internal acts are statutes of local government bodies. One of the international acts is the European Charter on Local Self-Government adopted on 15 October 1985 in the form of a convention by the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe. . (European Charter of Lokal Self – Government, Concil of Europe, Strasburg, 1991, article 3). The concept of local self-government, as reflected in the Charter, represents the right of local authorities to regulate and manage a substantial part of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interest of the local population. The local administration itself marks the purpose and the request for participation, its definition, its organization and its administration. It manifests the intention of more or less independent people to lead the affairs in their local community, directly or through their representatives. The specific role that local government plays in a political system is to draw attention to a number of special considerations.

- 1. First, local government has more to do with everyday life issues,
- 2. Secondly, local government performs more services and exercises less power,
- 3. Third, local government is the lowest level of power that is directly subordinated to and controlled by the central government. (Haxhiu, S. 2013, p. 73).

Local self-government should be considered as an integral part of the entire governing system. This is necessary for better governance, more democracy, greater credibility and more accountability in managing public affairs. This can only be achieved through the selection of genuine representatives of the people, based on higher democratic standards for free elections. Local elections are a key political moment, which by the time, country, subjects, phases and other characteristics are so complex that it is impossible to engage in a full electoral system that operates the way voters express their party preference. Local elections are also an essential and secure indicator of the extent of citizen

involvement in the local political life. Local elections are the type of elections in which the bodies of their local government units are elected. They are the City Council, the Municipal Assembly, the Municipal Assembly, the Mayor, the Mayor, etc. There is a large number of systems and sub-systems in the world for the organization of local elections, however, most of these choices apply the majority system or the proportional system. (Electoral Systems, (1997), International IDEA Manual, p.111). In Kosovo, elections for local self-government bodies are held on Sunday every four years. Elections can not be held earlier than 60 days before the end of the mandate and no later than thirty 30 days after the end of the mandate. (Law on Local Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, (2008) Article 4). Early and extraordinary elections may also be held in accordance with the legal provisions on local elections.

### 6. Indirect Elections

In the contemporary world in principle, it is the rule of choice of people's representatives in a direct way, however, as an exception, indirect choices are also applied. Indirect choices have been applied in many countries of the world in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They have been applied in France, Spain, German principals, and so on. First, the second voters were elected, then the first constituents who elected MPs as representatives of the people. At the end of the 13th century in France, the representatives of the people were elected under a two-stage system, where voters elected the second voters, while the second voters chose the assembly's representatives. Even in the period of Napoleon Bonaparte a number of senators have been appointed. In Albania, for the first time, the law on pluralistic elections was adopted in 1920, which was far from standards for democratic elections of the time. Elections were organized according to the two-stage electoral system that was applied earlier in different European countries. Every 500 voters had to be elected a second voter and every 11,000 voters a deputy. (Luan Omari, (2003) Sistemi Parlamentar, p.165). In February 1925 in Albania, the new election law was adopted, essentially the same as the previous law, but with some changes and additions of the technical and practical nature. The voting system remained the same: the two-way and indirect voting system. Reducing the number of seats in parliament doubled the number of voters in an electoral zone and at the same time the number of votes a candidate had to win. Even in the new law MPs represented the nation and not just the electoral zone. (Krasniqi, A. (2009) Political Systems in Albania, p. 116). In the contemporary world, only a few countries apply the indirect choices of representative bodies. This form of election applies mainly to states with a two-chamber parliamentary system for the election of the House of Commons. This is best illustrated by the election of Senators in France, of Deputies in the Bundesrat of Germany, the election of the President in the US, etc.

In France, the Senate is indirectly elected by elected representatives of local government, as well as the senators who are elected, in overseas territories. (Constitution de la Cinquieme Republique France, article 24). In Germany, the House of Lords or Bundesrat consists of members of the Land Government. The land is elected and revoked by the Bundesrat deputies. Each Land chooses at least three MPs. Land with more than two million inhabitants has four MPs, and those with more than six million people are five MPs. (Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland, article. 51). Landes have the right to revoke their representatives from the Bundesrat and to replace them with other members of their governments. Also in the US, the president and vice president are elected by a college of presidential electors. The college is formed by members elected by each state that does not hold the post of Senator and a member of the House of Representatives or other positions. (Bob, G. (2008) Choosing the President, A Citizen's Guide to the Electoral Process). The second constituency election is made by the citizens of the states through a majority vote with a list and a round, which is organized on Tuesday after the first Monday of November. Each state appoints a second voter as there are congressmen and senators. Since the mandate of the second electorate is de facto known, because they are previously determined for a candidate, the new president is known since Tuesday evening. (Duhamel, O. (1993) Constitutional Law - Democracies, p.131). Upon the end of the election, the electorate (electors) gather in the respective states and vote in ballots for the president and vice president. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes in each state wins all the electoral votes of that state. The Elector of 50 States and of the District of Columbia, which is 538 members, announces the winner of the candidate who collects at least 270 votes. (Filo, Ll. (2011) Ideor Platform and American Political Institutions). Indirect choices have been applied to a large number in communist regimes in Eastern Europe. Even today, communist China applies an indirect electoral election system.

### 7. Conclusion Recommendations

Representative democracy is realized through the organization of elections according to standards defined by constitutional or legal legal acts on the one hand and through international legal acts on the other. Most states elect constituencies and electoral systems by constitutional norms and less by legal norms.

There is no standard for elections and their types. Each constitutional state first determines the governance system from which we then know what to choose. Electoral processes are also different. There are few international legal norms in the form of international standards that claim to regulate the way MPs are elected for parliament, the election of the president, mayors, communes, municipal councils, municipal assemblies.

These standards, however, have unified some types of elections, setting criteria for election of deputies, presidents, local government representatives such as age, sex, being resident in the country, representation of particular ethnic, linguistic, religious or cultural groups etc.

These criteria were sanctioned through the European Charter on Local Autonomy in 1985, the Copenhagen Document in 1990 and in particular through the basic principles of the Venice Commission in 2002.

However there are also a number of issues that need to be standardized for all types of elections so that their observation is easier, such as:

- unification of the age standard for the election of deputies, the president, the mayor, the municipal council, the mayor, etc.,
- the unification of the standard of being resident in the state, to run for election posts,
- unification of the standard for the percentage of participation in elections, for example, all elections can be declared valid if at least 50% of the electoral body have participated in them,
- a standard percentage for the representation of small ethnic groups in parliament, municipal councils, municipal assemblies, etc.,
- standardize the system of two rounds of voting,
- to remove the indirect voting system which does not represent the direct will of citizens to select any type of elections.

By sanctioning these standards for all types of elections, political culture is generally enhanced as well as the quality of organs receiving mandate from the people through free vote.

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