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# VÁLASZTÁSI FÜZETEK

## 231.

### INFORMATION for International Observers

**Election of Members of the National Assembly**

**12 April, 2026**



ELECTORAL GUIDELINES

231.

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**12 April, 2026**

Budapest  
2026



NATIONAL ELECTION OFFICE

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## PREFACE

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On Sunday, 12 of April, 2026 the citizens of Hungary will have the opportunity to decide the future of their country by means of democratic Parliamentary Elections.

I firmly believe that election observation contributes to the strengthening of democratic institutions and to the building of public confidence in electoral processes. Your presence is highly appreciated to support our democracy and the full enjoyment of civil and political rights of the people.

The National Election Office of Hungary focuses on the transparency of the electoral procedure and considers it imperative to facilitate the participation of foreign observers at the elections of the members of the General Assembly.

We aim to give the esteemed observers a resourceful insight into the Hungarian parliamentary election system, although it is beyond the reach of this booklet to encompass every aspect of the elections. If you wish to have further information about the elections, you may find more on the website of the National Election Office regarding the current, upcoming and past elections, both in Hungarian and English ([www.valasztas.hu](http://www.valasztas.hu)).

15 January, 2026, Budapest

Attila Nagy, Dr.

## 1. THE HUNGARIAN ELECTION SYSTEM

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The fundament of the present Hungarian election system was adopted by the legislative power during the period of the constitutional transition in 1989 as a result of a multilateral conciliation process. The election system was meant to be temporary, only for the first democratic elections, creating the conditions of the political transition. However, it remained unchanged for two decades, until the electoral reforms in 2010. Overall changes have been introduced in many important aspects, e.g. representation of national minorities in the parliament, the right to vote for citizens living permanently abroad, however the main element of the previous concept, namely the mixed election system was still kept.

Below you will find an outline of the new legal structure of the Hungarian parliamentary election system, also shortly reflecting to issues like campaign financing or the role of the media during the elections.

### 1.1. ELECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The regulatory framework for the election of the Members of the National Assembly is included in the following statutory instruments:

1. **The Fundamental Law**, which articulates the principle of democracy through parliamentary representation, regulates the criteria concerning the right to vote as a fundamental political right, specifies the principles of elections, and the fundamental rules for setting elections.
2. **Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of the National Assembly**, which specifies the elements of the election system, the manner of distributing mandates, and the rules for establishing the results; moreover, it includes provisions applicable to parliamentary by-elections as well.
3. **Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure**, which lays down the rules for the legal elements of the electoral procedure (electoral registers, election bodies, proposal, nomination, voting, counting the ballots, establishing results, legal remedies, etc.).
4. **Act LXXXVII of 2013 on the Transparency of Campaign Costs related to the Elections of the Members of the National Assembly**, which regulates the state funding of election campaign and the legal order regarding the accounting and control of it.
5. **Ministerial Decrees**
  - **Decree no. 17/2013 (17 Dec.) of the Minister of Public Administration and Justice** which specifies the detailed rules of maintaining the central electoral register, other electoral registers and other settlements and foreign representations, where voters having no address in Hungary – at his/her own request – can collect the voting package,
  - **Decree no. 69/2013 (29 Dec.) of the Minister of National Economy** includes the rules of state aid for electoral campaign, the detailed procedure rules regarding the treasury account, the turnover of the treasury card and the rules regarding the use of the treasury card.
  - **Decree no. 11/2025. (IX. 15.) of the Ministry of Justice** covers the normative costs of elections, their items, the rules of accounting and control, and the detailed rules for advancing the costs of interim elections to be held due to the dissolution or disbandment of the representative body or general assembly of a national minority local government. The regulation provides uniform, long-term regulation of the financial management of general and interim elections.
  - **Decree no. 12/2025 (IX. 15.) of the Ministry of Justice** specifies the detailed rules on the performance of tasks falling within the competence of electoral offices during the election of members of the parliament, on the determination of the scope of nationally aggregated data of election results, on the elections-related IT tasks of the capital city and county government offices, and on the forms to be used in electoral processes.

The Parliament has **adopted a considerable amendment to the Act on Electoral Procedure**, addressing several key areas, particularly the integrity of election results, voter accessibility and the transparency of election administration. It is also worth noting that certain deadlines have been standardized in order to facilitate the exercise of citizens' rights (details can be found under each relevant section).

## 1.2. PRINCIPLES

Article 2 Section (1) of the Fundamental Law stipulates that Members of the National Assembly shall be elected by universal and equal suffrage in a direct and secret ballot, in elections which guarantee the free expression of the will of voters.

The **basic principles stipulated in the Act on Electoral Procedure** are important guarantees for the fairness of elections, as well as for meeting democratic requirements while conducting elections:

- safeguarding the fairness of elections, prevention of election frauds,
- voluntary participation in nomination, in the election campaign, and in voting,
- equal opportunities among candidates and nominating organizations,
- support of voters with a disability in exercising their rights,
- exercising rights as intended, in good faith,
- publicising the electoral procedure.

## 1.3. SUFFRAGE

The Fundamental Law of Hungary states that Hungary is an independent, democratic state under the rule of law, in which all public power derives from the people. The people exercise their power through their elected representatives, or – in exceptional cases – directly (by means of a referendum).

Chapter XXIII of the Fundamental Law defines the right to vote as a basic political right.

All adult Hungarian citizens have the right to vote and the right to be elected in parliamentary elections. Due to the mixed election system, a domicile in Hungary is needed for the completeness of suffrage:

Voters having **Hungarian domicile** may cast their votes for a candidate of a single-member constituency (of their domicile) and for a party list.

There are 13 national minorities officially recognized in Hungary (Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian and Ukrainian).

**National minority voters** with Hungarian domicile, enrolled in the electoral register may vote for a candidate of a single-member constituency (of their domicile), and furthermore their direct representation is ensured by being able to vote directly for his/her own national minority list instead of a party list.

**Voters without a Hungarian domicile (neither temporary place of residence nor permanent residence in Hungary)** may vote only for a party list.

The right to vote is only restricted by **grounds for disenfranchisement** stipulated in the Fundamental Law, in the Act on Electoral Procedure and in the Act on the Election of Members of the National Assembly:

1. the following persons shall not have the right to vote:

- persons who are under custodianship and disenfranchised by final court verdict,
- persons who are subject to a final legal judgement forbidding them to participate in public affairs,

2. the following persons shall have the right to vote, but shall not have the right to stand for election:
  - persons who are serving, under a final and binding judgment, a sentence of imprisonment or subjected to compulsory psychiatric treatment in an institute ordered in a criminal proceeding shall not be eligible to stand as a candidate at the election of the Members of the National Assembly.

#### 1.4. THE ELECTORAL REGISTER

The central electoral register is an electronic register managed by the National Election Office. Only voters included in the central electoral register shall be eligible to exercise suffrage.

The central electoral register shall contain the following:

- data of voters with domicile in Hungary who are eligible voters, (The National Election Office automatically enrols all persons of legal age (above 18 years as a general rule and those above 16 and married) in the central electoral register who have a temporary place of residence or a domicile in Hungary and have at least the active rights to vote at elections.)
- data of voters without domicile in Hungary who are eligible voters and have been included upon their request in the central electoral register,
- data of citizens who do not have the right of suffrage due to not being of legal age, but have already attained the age of seventeen years,

Only Hungarian citizens without a domicile in Hungary need to apply for registration to the central electoral register.

Voters have the right to prohibit the release of their data for campaign purposes.

Voters can have insight into their own data in the central electoral register.

The following table summarizes the enrolment:

	<b>residence</b>	<b>temporary address</b>	<b>how to be entered in the register</b>
1.	Hungarian address	Hungarian address	automatic
2.	Hungarian address	none	automatic
3.	foreign address	Hungarian address	registration
4.	foreign address	none	registration
5.	none (living in Hungary)	Hungarian address	automatic
6.	none	none	registration
7.	not listed in the civil registry		registration

#### 1.5. THE DATE OF THE ELECTION

The general election of Members of the National Assembly - with the exception of elections held due to the declaration of the National Assembly's dissolution or the National Assembly having been dissolved - shall be held on a Sunday during the month of April or May in the fourth year following the election of the previous National Assembly. According to the provisions of the Act on Electoral Procedure, election day cannot fall on public holiday. The date of the voting is set by the President of Hungary between 70th and 90th day before election day, which will fall this year on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.

## 1.6. THE STRUCTURE AND THE ELEMENTS OF THE ELECTION SYSTEM

### 1.6.1. PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

The General Assembly consists of **199** representatives, who are elected in **106** single-member constituencies plus **93** mandates are distributed from national lists. This means that Hungary's **election system** can be considered as a **mixed type** one, using elements of majority and proportionality:

- the **majority** system is applicable in 106 constituencies, where one can vote for individuals, and the candidate who wins the majority of votes will become the representative,
- the **proportional** system applies for national lists (list of a party or national minority), according to which 93 mandates are distributed in proportion with votes cast on the lists. The proportional system also takes into consideration the surplus votes from single-member constituencies.

#### 1. Single-member constituencies (106)

The country is divided into 106 single-member constituencies. Under Act CCIII of 2011 on the Election of Members of the National Assembly (Hungarian short form: "Vjt.") not only **party candidates** but also **independent candidates** may stand for elections. Two or more parties may nominate joint candidates. In order to run as a party or independent candidate in the elections one has to obtain at least 500 certified recommendations by voters living in the given constituency.

The candidate who wins the majority of votes in the single-member constituency will become the representative.

#### Delimitation of constituencies

Pursuant to the Act on the Election of Members of the National Assembly, if the number of persons eligible to vote in a single-member constituency exceeds by 20 percent the national arithmetic mean of the number of persons eligible to vote in single-member constituencies the National Assembly shall amend the Act and tackle the discrepancy.

The population and number of eligible voters are declining nationwide and within individual counties, including Budapest, with the exception of Pest County, where an increase can be observed. In Pest County, the number of voters increased by nearly 90,000 between 2010 and 2022, while in Budapest, the number of voters decreased by nearly the same amount.

The number of voters in Pest County's 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> parliamentary single-member constituencies exceeded the national average by more than 20% in 2022, therefore, a modification of the division of the constituencies took place as of December 31, 2024.

In view of the above, in order to ensure proportionality the number of single-member constituencies in Pest County has been increased from 12 to 14, and, at the same time, the number of single-member constituencies in Budapest has been decreased from 18 to 16. Therefore all constituencies in Pest County and in Budapest had to be redefined. As a consequence by now the proportionality, as prescribed by the law, is fully respected regarding all single-member constituencies.

#### 2. National list

Apart from the single-member constituencies as described above, the country is considered as one **proportional list constituency** where 93 mandates can be obtained. It is important to note that apart from votes cast on party lists or national minority lists the pool of 93 mandates is also used for compensation as the so-called **surplus votes** (see III.) obtained in single-member constituencies, that are added to the party list votes.

There are two types of lists:

- **National party lists**

National lists can be put forward by parties that field at least 71 individual candidates distributed in 14 different counties and in the capital. This ensures that only parties supported all over the country can put forward national lists. Parties are allowed to set up a joint list on the basis of joint candidates.

- **National minority list**

National minority lists can be set up by national minority self-governments. The **conditions** for setting up a national minority list are **more favourable** than that of a party list. At least 1%, but a maximum of 1.500 recommendations by the enrolled voters of the given national minority are needed. Setting up a joint national minority list is not possible.

### 3. Surplus votes

In order to minimize “lost votes”, apart from votes cast directly for party lists, the so-called **surplus votes cast in** single-member constituencies not used for granting a mandate are also added to the party lists.

The following qualify as surplus votes:

- votes cast in single-member constituencies on those candidates who could not obtain seats, (votes cast on party candidates who lost)
- votes cast on the winning party candidate in the single-member constituency which have been effectively not needed to obtain the seat (number of votes cast on the most successful candidate in a given constituency decreased by the votes cast on the second successful candidate minus 1). In case of independent candidates – lacking a nominating party and a national list – no surplus votes can be derived.

Example: in a single-member constituency a total of 100 votes were cast. Out of this the candidate of party „A” obtained 60, the candidate of party „B” obtained 40. In this constituency, party „A” obtained the mandate. The total votes cast on the (loosing) candidate of party „B” (**40**) will be transferred as surplus votes to the national list of party “B”. In case of the successful party “A” the votes not needed for winning the mandate will be transferred to the national list of party “A” ( $60 - 40 - 1 = 19$  surplus votes for party “A”).

### 4. Election threshold

Only those parties are entitled to receive proportional mandates that pass the **election threshold** of 5%. Two parties with a joint list have to pass 10%, joint lists of three or more parties 15%. Parties that did not win at least **5 (or 10, or 15)%** of the total number of votes cast for party and minority lists cannot obtain mandates from the party lists, thus they lose their surplus votes won in single-member constituencies as well. There is no threshold for national minority lists.

### 5. Distribution of mandates

Mandates from the national list are distributed in proportion of the votes cast and the surplus votes of the parties. The **d'Hondt** formula is used for the distribution of seats.

Its essence is that the number of votes received by each party are divided by one, two, three, four, etc., the resulting numbers are then arranged in descending order, and as many of the highest numbers are selected (always choosing the next largest number) as there are seats to be allocated.

In the following example, 100 votes are converted into 12 mandates. (That is, from Party A's 40 votes 5 mandates are obtained, from Party B's 30 votes 4 mandates, from Party C's 20 votes 2 mandates, and from Party D's 10 votes 1 mandate.)

	<b>Party A</b> <b>40 votes</b>	<b>Party B</b> <b>30 votes</b>	<b>Party C</b> <b>20 votes</b>	<b>Party D</b> <b>10 votes</b>
1	40/1= 40,00	30/1= 30,00	20/1= 20,00	10/1= 10,00
2	40/2= 20,00	30/2= 15,00	20/2= 10,00	10/2= 5,00
3	40/3= 13,33	30/3= 10,00	20/3= 6,67	10/3= 3,33
4	40/4= 10,00	30/4= 7,50	20/4= 5,00	10/4= 2,50
5	40/5= 8,00	30/5= 6,00	20/5= 4,00	10/5= 2,00
6	40/6= 6,67	30/6= 5,00	20/6= 3,33	10/6= 1,67

In case of national minority lists exist a preferential quota, which means, that only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the votes required for a mandate on a party list is needed to obtain a preferential mandate.

## 1.7. THE ELECTION BODIES

Contrary to the uniform electoral institutional background in most countries around the world, Hungary maintains traditionally a parallel system. Preparation and conduct of elections are implemented by two different bodies: the **election commissions** and the **election offices (jointly: election bodies)**. Both types exist on national, regional and local level. It is important to underline that within the framework of this 3-level 2-tier system the commissions and offices are set to cooperate with each other, but they are not hierarchically dependent on each other. Offices are administrative bodies with the main task to prepare and organize elections, while commissions are bodies of legal decisions, oversight and arbitration.

### 1.7.1. ELECTION COMMISSIONS

Election commissions are the voters' independent bodies subordinated to nothing but the law, whose primary responsibility is to establish the results, to ensure the fairness of elections, to enforce impartiality and – if necessary – to restore the legal order of elections.

During their functioning, election commissions operate as authorities and their members are to be considered as official persons. The sessions of the commissions are open to the public, and the representatives of the media.

Commissions operate as independent bodies. Votes of the majority of members present are needed for a valid decision. No abstention is allowed during decision making. Election commissions are represented by a chairman.

In the context of the principle of publicity of the election procedure, civil participation in election observation is provided by the Act on Election Procedure through a process-integrated model.

As a general rule, elected members of election commissions represent the civil society, since such members must comply with the strictest conflict of interest rules of the Act on Election Procedure. Elected members of the election commission may not be member of political parties, or nominating organisations, or serve in government service.

Delegated members of the election commissions – while representing the delegating nominating organisation or candidate – also have election observation-related tasks, since they shall take part in all

sessions of the election commission as members and have the right to monitor documents related to decision-making. All election commissions are regulated in the same way in this respect, including the Polling Station Commissions. This model, together with international election observation, further safeguards, and publicity-related measures of the election bodies result in a solid and sustainable system of guarantees protecting the integrity of the elections

The following election commissions are operating during the election of the Members of the National Assembly:

- **Polling Station Commissions** (PSC) operates in every polling district (approximately 10 thousand around the country), however the duties of the Polling Station Commission are carried out by the local election commissions (LEC) in settlements that have just one polling district,
- **Parliamentary Single-Member Constituency Election Commission** (PSMC) operates in the 106 single-member constituencies; it registers candidates of single-member constituencies, decides on the objections that fall within the competence of the single-member constituency, initiates proceeding at competent authorities, and establishes the result of the election in the constituency,
- **Regional Election Commission** decides on appeals concerning the nomination of candidates, establishes the regional partial results of the voting on national lists,
- the **National Election Commission** (NEC) operates with nationwide powers and jurisdiction. The National Election Commission is a commission of the highest level and shall be the guardian of fair and legal elections. The NEC consists of members elected by the Parliament and party-delegated members of the parties who form a parliamentary group in the National Assembly. From the legal validation of their national list parties without a parliamentary group in the National Assembly may also delegate members without the right to vote, whose mandate lasts until the inaugural session of the new Parliament.

The NEC:

- decides on the objections and appeals that fall within its competence,
- registers observers at foreign representations,
- supervises the counting of postal ballots,
- decides on immunity of the candidates in closed sessions,
- establishes the result of the voting on national lists,
- issues directives on coherent interpretation of the laws for election bodies.

## **Composition of election commissions**

Election commissions consist of elected civil members and delegated members appointed by independent candidates or nominating organizations that put forward candidates or national lists depending on the level.

### **1. Elected members**

- Polling Station Commissions (PSC) have three elected members. The representative body of settlements' municipal governments elect the members on the proposal of the head of the election office who assigns them to the polling stations.
- Three members of Parliamentary Single-Member Constituency Election Commissions (PSMC) and at least two substitute members shall be elected by the body of representatives of the seat municipality of the parliamentary single-member constituency on the proposal of the head of the election office of the single-member constituency.

- The seven members and three substitute members of the National Election Commission (NEC) shall be elected by the National Assembly for a term of nine years on the proposal of the President of the Republic.

## 2. Appointed (delegated) members

Although the commissions' core staff consists of "permanent" members (elected members), additional democratic control has to be ensured by granting the possibility to appoint proxies for those candidates and nominating organizations that participate in the election. Therefore, each independent candidate or nominating organisation that put forward candidates/lists in the constituency may appoint further members to the election commission.

According to the above-mentioned, the following may delegate appointed members:

- Polling Station Commissions: each independent candidate or nominating organisation that put forward an individual candidate and/or a list, may delegate a maximum of 2 members,
- Parliamentary Single-member Constituency Election Commissions: each independent candidate and nominating organisation that put forward an individual candidate in the constituency may delegate one member,
- Regional Election Commission: each nominating organization that put forward a national party or national minority list may delegate one member,
- National Election Commission: each nominating organisation that put forward a national party or national minority list may delegate one member (except those parties that already have party-delegated members in NEC as parties who form a parliamentary group in the National Assembly).

Appointing own members to all election bodies stands in the best interest of parties and independent candidates, since this allows them to verify and facilitate the legitimate conducting of elections in person, as well as to be an active part of in decision-making processes.

The rights and obligations of the elected and delegated members are equal, but the latter do not receive an honorarium. Organisations that put forward candidates and/or list jointly can delegate one member jointly at PSMC, REC and NEC level and 2 members in case of a PSC.

The mandate of election commissions' delegated members expires when the election result is final.

### 1.7.2. ELECTION OFFICES

Election offices are bodies that perform public administrative duties associated with preparing, organizing, and conducting elections, providing information to voters, candidates and nominating organisations, ensuring data management related to elections, the availability of technical conditions, and auditing compliance with professional rules.

Election offices that function at parliamentary elections:

- **Local Election Offices** at settlement level (LEO),
- **Parliamentary Single-Member Constituency Election Offices** at the seat of parliamentary single-member constituencies (PSMO),
- **Regional Election Offices** in every county and the **Metropolitan Election Office** in Budapest (REO/MEO),
- the **National Election Office** at national level (NEO),
- **Foreign Representation Election Offices** (FREO) in Hungary's embassies, consulates-general, consulates and consular offices
- one member of the Local Election Office fulfils duties of the **minute keeper** for the Polling Station Commissions.

Election offices shall:

- carry out organisational tasks related to preparing and conducting elections,
- provide information to voters, candidates and nominating organisations and operate an election information service,
- act as secretariats to the election commissions; prepare cases falling within the competence of election commissions for decision,
- provide the material and technical conditions for the voting,
- oversee the handling, safeguarding and destruction of election documents,
- provide technical assistance in counting the votes and establishing the final result of the elections,

The **National Election Office** is an autonomous public administration institution. The National Election Office shall be independent, and subject only to the law; it may not be bound by any instructions regarding its duties, and it shall carry out its tasks impartially, independently of other bodies and free of outside influence.

The National Election Office shall be an institution with an independent title in the national budget within the budgetary chapter of Parliament and shall be headed by a President. The President of the National Election Office shall be a Hungarian citizen eligible to stand for election to the Parliament appointed by the President of the Republic on the proposal of the Prime Minister.

Contrary to commissions, election offices are part of a hierarchy in the following order: 1. President of the National Election Office, 2. heads of regional election offices, 3. heads of Parliamentary Single-Member Constituency Election Offices, 4. heads of Local Election Offices.

Apart from the head of the superior election office, no other person or body (neither mayors, nor municipal assemblies or representatives thereof) may give orders to the heads of election offices regarding the execution of the tasks related to the preparing and conducting elections.

The members of the election offices are mainly public administration officials and public servants appointed by the heads of election offices.

## 1.8. CANDIDATES

### 1.8.1. NOMINATION

#### **Nomination of individual candidates in single-member constituencies:**

In single-member constituencies, individual candidates may run as independent candidates or as party candidates. Two or more parties may also nominate a joint candidate. A person may only accept nomination in one single-member constituency. A voter may recommend more than one candidate, but only one recommendation per candidate will be valid.

#### **Drawing up a list:**

A national list may be drawn up as a party list or a national minority list.

**A party list** may be drawn up by a party that has nominated at least 71 independent candidates in single-member constituencies, furthermore the party must nominate candidates in at least 14 counties and in the capital. A joint party list may be set up by parties, who run together individual candidates. A party may participate in the establishment of only one party list, either independent or joint.

**National minority lists** – one per national minority – may be drawn up by the national minority self-government. A candidate on the national minority list may be a national minority voter registered in the national minority register of the given national minority and is included in the resolution of

the general assembly of the national government of the national minority. Joint national minority lists cannot be submitted.

**A person may only accept a nomination on one national list.** A person nominated by a party in a single-member constituency may only appear on the party list of that party.

The order of the candidates on the list is determined by the nominating organization and is not influenced by the voters (closed list).

### **1.8.2. REGISTRATION OF NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS**

An organization may nominate candidates and compile a list for the election after it has been registered as a nominating organization by the NEC. Nominating organizations that put forward a joint candidate or list must register separately.

The following organizations may apply for registration as nominating organizations:

- political parties, and
- national minority self-governments.

Political parties, in order to be registered as nominating organizations, must have a final and binding registration in the court register of civil organizations at the time of the call of the election.

National minority self-governments must be entered in the register of the Hungarian State Treasury.

The nominating organization is registered by the NEC. The registration of the nominating organization may be initiated no earlier than the 68th day prior to the vote. Although the final date is not specifically defined by the law, however it can be calculated from the final deadline of the nomination period. Accordingly, it is advisable to submit the application no later than on the 45th day before the vote, while in the case of national minority self-governments, no later than on the 44th day before the vote.

### **1.8.3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Individual candidates and national minority lists can be recommended on a recommendation sheet.

In the parliamentary elections, individual single-member constituency candidates must collect 500 recommendations.

To establish a national minority list, at least 1% of the voters listed in the electoral register as national minority voters on the 50th day before the election, but no more than 1,500 recommendations, are required.

Voters may recommend more than one individual candidate. A voter may only support one candidate with one recommendation; any additional recommendations are invalid.

Recommendations cannot be withdrawn. Using the service “Whom have I recommended?” of the official election website, citizens can verify which candidate they have recommended.

#### **Requesting a recommendation sheet**

The recommendation sheet is produced with a unique identifier, serial number (and a barcode containing the serial number). The recommendation sheet can be requested in the single-member constituency

- by voters who intend to run as independent candidates, or
- by nominating organizations (parties) that have been registered.

While issuing the sheet required for the recommendation of a national minority list, the NEO shall, free of charge and without the submission of a separate request, provide the nominating organization with the names, addresses, ages and genders of the voters eligible for recommendation at the same time

as the recommendation sheets are handed over. At the time of delivery, the NEO shall also indicate how many recommendations are required to compile the list.

There are some restrictions on gathering recommendations, namely: recommendations may not be collected at the workplace or during work, at central governmental offices, from members of the Hungarian Defence Forces on duty, on means of public transport, at higher or general educational institutions, at public health service provider institutions, or on private property open to public use without the prior written consent of the owner.

#### **1.8.4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS**

The parliamentary single-member constituency election commission shall be notified by individual single-member constituency candidates by 4 p.m. on the 37th day prior to the election at the latest, by submitting the recommendation sheets. In addition to submitting the recommendation sheets, candidates must declare that they will not use foreign support or assets derived thereof for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the will of voters in relation to the election in question.

The national list (both the party list and the national minority list) must be submitted to the NEC by 4 p.m. on the 36th day prior to the election at the latest. The list may contain up to three times as many candidates as the number of seats available on the list (93x3). The PSMC/NEC shall register all candidates and lists that meet the legal requirements no later than the fourth day after their notification. The PSMC/NEC shall refuse to register a candidate or list if their submission does not meet the legal requirements.

#### **1.9. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN**

The campaign period shall last from 21 February 2026 until 19:00 on 12 April 2026, the end of the voting. During this period objections regarding campaign activities may be submitted to election commissions. Out of this period election commissions are not entitled to deal with political activities.

There is no electoral silence, but some restrictions apply on polling day:

- election rallies shall not be held,
- no campaigning of any kind is allowed within 150 metres of the entrance of a building used to access the polling station (in public spaces),
- there shall be no public call for requesting mobile ballot box or for transport to the polling station, and transporting people to polling stations by buses shall not be allowed,
- political advertisement on television and radio shall not be published

##### **1.9.1. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

Campaign activities are a prerogative of both parties, national minority self-governments and candidates. The following activities constitute as campaign activity:

- the use of campaign tools during the campaign period and
- any other form of activity aimed at influencing the voters' decision
- these tools/activities include:
  - posters
  - direct political campaigns (direct engagement with voters by parties or candidates)
  - political advertising
  - campaign rallies

## **Political advertising published by national media**

Public service broadcasters are required to provide time slots for airing political advertisement, without interruption, three times a day. Furthermore, the order of the advertisements must be changed each day, and the concerned organisations may choose their preferred timeslots. The length of a single political advertisement is capped at 30 seconds, and the concerned organisation must submit it 3 days before airing. The political advertisements shall be subtitled or sign language interpreted. During parliamentary elections, the advertisements of parties and national minority self-governments with national lists must be aired.

## **Banned campaign activities:**

- Public call for requesting a mobile ballot box, transporting to the polling station by bus
- Breaching local campaign silence (while there is no general campaign silence in the leadup to the election, there are certain spaces where it is forbidden to carry out campaign activities, such as a polling station)
- Organising a campaign rally on the day of the election
- Publishing campaign advertising on the day of the election
- Publishing exit-poll results before the conclusion of the voting

Previously displayed campaign materials (e.g. posters) do not have to be removed until 30 days after the election.

## **1.9.2. CAMPAIGN FINANCING**

- In Hungarian parliamentary elections, public funds are available to candidates, political parties, and national minority self-governments for their campaign activities. In June 2025, the parliament has passed an amendment to remove the upper limit on campaign expenditures.
- Each single-member constituency candidate is entitled to a state contribution. This support may be used exclusively during the official campaign period and only for material expenses directly related to campaign activities as defined by election law. The Hungarian State Treasury provides the funds, concluding an agreement with the candidate within five working days after their registration becomes final. Candidates nominated by a party that also runs a national list may formally waive their individual support and transfer it to their nominating party.
- Parties that submit a national list receive state support proportional to the number of candidates in the single member constituencies they nominate. Parties presenting a joint list are considered a single entity for this purpose. The support is paid only if, no later than the day after the party list's registration becomes final, the party declares that in case of non-payment of any required reimbursement, and if recovery from the party proves impossible, its executive officers and all listed and single-member constituency candidates accept joint and several liability for repayment.

National self-governments of recognized minorities that submit a minority list are also eligible for public funding. The National Election Commission determines the amount due to each such self-government after the legal deadline for list submission and once all decisions on the registration of minority lists have become final.

## **1.10. VOTING**

### **1.10.1. VOTING IN HUNGARY**

Voters may cast their votes in polling stations.

Prior to the election day **poll cards** are sent to the voters containing information on the election (the type of the election; the date and timeframe of voting; the constituency; the polling district; address of the polling station; information regarding the accessibility of the polling station).

Ballots can be cast at polling stations in Hungary **between 06.00 and 19.00 o'clock on election day**.

In case the voter stays in Hungary, but not at his/her domicile on election day, he/she may change the polling station and can vote at a designated polling station of the settlement he/she is going to stay in (absentee voting). Voters who changed polling districts shall nevertheless vote using the ballot-paper of the parliamentary single-member constituency according to their usual address and the national list ballot-paper. Applications for absentee voting can be requested no later than 9 days prior to election day, but as the 9<sup>th</sup> day before elections is Good Friday, this year the deadline is the **10<sup>th</sup> day prior to election day**.

Voters have to prove their identity by presenting one of the following **valid** documents issued by Hungarian authorities to the Polling Station Commission:

- **a personal identification** card OR
- **passport** OR
- **driving license**.

The Polling Station Commission checks whether the voter is enlisted in the electoral register. Once the voter has been identified, the commission hands over **ballot-papers** to the voter and attaches the imprint of the official stamp to it in the presence of the voter. Using envelopes is mandatory only in cases of absentee voting.

Voters certify their receipt of ballot-papers by signing the electoral register: The voters are to cast their votes in ballot booths, but they can also do it outside the booth. Afterwards voters deposit their ballot-paper in (or without) the envelope in a ballot-box in front of the Polling Station Commission.

### **1.10.2. VOTING ABROAD**

The Hungarian election system guarantees the possibility of voting for Hungarian citizens staying or living abroad.

**1.** Voting is conducted by Foreign Representations Election Offices for **Hungarian citizens having domicile in Hungary but staying temporarily abroad on election day**. However ballots are not counted at these FREOs, but they are returned in sealed ballot boxes to Hungary. To enhance democratic control, candidate and party observers may be present at the Foreign Representations Election Offices along with representatives of the media and international observers.

Requests for enrolment in the foreign representation electoral register shall arrive on the ninth day before election day at the latest, but as the 9<sup>th</sup> day before elections is Good Friday, this year the deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> day prior to election day. Votes may be cast at foreign representations generally according to the day of voting in Hungary, between 6:00 and 19:00 local time (differences may occur due to global time delay), except for the American continent, where voting is held a day before the election day in Hungary. Voters who vote at a foreign representation shall vote using the ballot-paper of their domestic parliamentary single-member constituency and the national list (party or national minority list) ballot-paper.

**2. Hungarian citizens living abroad without Hungarian domicile may vote via mail (postal ballot).**

For voting by mail citizens have to be registered in the postal voter electoral register, which may be requested not later than the 25th day before the election day. The registration is valid for a 10-year period and is reset by any electoral action (casting a ballot, filing a request to prolong inclusion in the register etc.), otherwise the out of country voter will be automatically deleted from the central electoral register after 10 years.

Voters may obtain their voting package via mail or in person at designated foreign representations of Hungary or at the **settlement of the seat of the** parliamentary single-member constituency or at the **election office** of another designated Hungarian **settlement**. The voting package contains the necessary envelopes, a voter identification statement form, information on voting and the ballot-paper itself. We have to outline once again, that - unlike domestic voters or voters at foreign representations -, the postal voters (lacking permanent residence in Hungary) can only vote for a national list, not for single-member constituency candidates. To maintain the secrecy of the vote, the so-called double envelope system is used: the anonymous vote has to be placed in the inner, sealed envelope. Then the duly completed voter declaration form has to be attached, and these two documents have to be placed together inside the outer envelope (returning envelope). The outer envelope may be returned in multiple ways: by mail to the National Election Office or to foreign representations so that it is received **by 19.00 on election day**, or in person or via a proxy at any foreign representation election office within fifteen days before the election day or in Hungary at the election office of the **settlement of the seat of the** parliamentary single-member constituency on election day. Envelopes returned via foreign representations or parliamentary single-member constituency election offices shall arrive at the National Election Office.

### **1.10.3. SUPPORT FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES**

Voters with disabilities with domicile in Hungary can request the following assistance to exercise their right to vote:

- sending poll cards in Braille, which can be requested until the 68th day before the election;
- easy-to-read information material can be requested until the 68th day before the election;
- using a Braille ballot paper sample at the polling station or while using a mobile ballot box can be requested until the 10th day before the election day;
- using an accessible polling station, for which an application may be submitted until the 3rd day before the election day.
- After the election day is set, a mobile ballot box can be requested from the 66th day before the voting until 12 pm on election day.
- While voting, voters with disabilities may be assisted in filling in the ballot paper by an assistant of the voter's choice or, if no such person is present, by two members of the Polling Station Commission.

## **1.11. ESTABLISHING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS**

### 1. Votes cast in Hungary

After counting the votes, the Polling Station Commission establishes the results of the elections in the polling district and draws up minutes thereof. The Polling Station Commission promptly sends the minutes to the head of the Local Election Office, who makes sure that the data is recorded in the IT systems to facilitate the preliminary results and later also forwards the minutes to the relevant higher level election commissions (PSMC, REC).

Absentee voting: the Local Election Office transports the closed envelopes of absentee voters by means of the single-member constituency election office to the National Election Office, where documents are sorted according to the addressed single-member constituencies. Afterwards these votes are transported to the designated Polling Station Commissions of the respective single-member constituencies at the latest by the 6<sup>th</sup> day after the elections, where they are mixed with the votes cast on election day and at foreign representations.

## 2. Votes cast abroad

- Votes cast at foreign representations

Results are **not determined at foreign representations** after voting is concluded, the **sealed ballot-box is promptly returned to Hungary**, to the National Election Office until 24:00 of the 4<sup>th</sup> day after election day. Afterwards the NEO sorts envelopes according to single-member constituencies, and then hands them over to the head of the competent PSMO.

The head of the PSMO then transports the votes to the designated polling station, where they are mixed with absentee votes and the votes cast on election day.

### Recounting in case of tight result

This applies when, based on 100% processing of preliminary data, the difference in the number of votes between the two leading candidates is 100 or less, or if two or more leading candidates receive an equal number of votes.

#### a) After election day:

The candidate with the second most votes (or any of the leading candidates receiving an equal number of votes) may request recounting even without the occurrence of a breach of law, on the day after the parliamentary election, by 10 a.m. The votes must be recounted within three days of the vote. The local election commission, with the involvement of the members of the local election office, shall carry out the recount.

#### b) After counting the votes of absentee voters and the votes cast at foreign representations

In the event of a tie, votes must be automatically recounted.

If the number of votes between the two leading candidates is 100 or less, the candidate with the second most votes may request recounting by 10 a.m. on the seventh day following the vote. The votes shall be recounted on the seventh day following the vote.

If a recount has already been carried out according to point a), only the votes counted at the 6<sup>th</sup> day after the election (including votes cast at foreign representations and by absentee voters) shall be recounted.

- Postal votes

The NEO may start checking the identification statement on the sixth day before election day at the earliest.

First envelopes and identification statement are checked, whether the voter was a properly enrolled citizen entitled to participate in the election. If this is the case, and the envelopes are closed properly, the anonymous and closed inner envelope can be forwarded to further processing, and the ballot can be counted. Inner envelopes without or with an invalid identification statement cannot be processed; therefore the ballots can't be forwarded to counting. Counting is done only after 19:00 on election day (closing time of domestic polling stations) by the members of the National Election Office under the supervision of the National Election Commission, additional party- and international observers and the media.

The results of 106 **single-member constituencies**, based on the principle of simple majority, are established – after receiving and counting the ballots of absentee voters and those cast at foreign representations – by the PSMC no later than the 6th day after the elections.

Based on the single-member constituency election result minutes of the single-member constituency commissions, the regional partial result minutes from the regional election commissions, and the counting of the postal ballots, the National Election Commission sums up the votes upon which the 93 proportional mandates are distributed.

The election threshold is established based on total list votes and thereafter the party lists are established that may participate in obtaining surplus votes derived from single-member constituencies and the distribution of the proportional mandates.

Based on total party list votes and votes cast for national minority lists, the so-called **preferential quota** is established: to obtain their first mandate, national minority lists must collect only one-fourth of the votes normally required for a proportional seat. After allocating such preferential seats, the rest of the mandates are distributed according to the **d'Hondt formula**.

The National Election Commission establishes the nationwide aggregated results of the elections no later than the 19th day after the elections.

## 1.12. LEGAL REMEDIES

### 1.12.1. TYPES OF LEGAL REMEDIES

The three forms of legal remedy are objection, appeal, and judicial review application.

An **objection** is a legal remedy instrument that may be lodged by enrolled voters, candidates, nominating organization, or anyone else concerned in the given case, citing reference to the infringement of legislation applicable to elections or that of the basic principles of elections and the electoral procedure.

Any natural or legal person concerned in the given case may lodge an **appeal** against an election commission's first instance resolution.

Petition for **the judicial review** of an election commission's resolution in the second instance, and against the National Election Commission's resolution may be filed by any natural or legal person concerned in the case at the Supreme Court.

As a special, extraordinary form of legal remedy **constitutional complaints** may be lodged – citing reference to the infringement of constitutional provisions or rights –against Supreme Court decisions to the Constitutional Court.

#### 1. Objections

Objections may be submitted without any duty being charged, referencing a breach of a legal regulation pertaining to the election or the fundamental principles of election and electoral procedure.

Objections shall be submitted so that they are received by the election commission with scope and competence in adjudging them on the third day after the legal violation at the latest. The election commission shall adjudge objections within three days of receipt.

Objections may be withdrawn until the adoption of the election commission's resolution; however, the election commission may continue to proceed ex officio.

- If the election commission grants the objection, it may
  - establish the fact of the legal violation,
  - order the violator to cease the violation,
  - terminate the electoral procedure or the part thereof affected by the legal violation and order it to be repeated,
  - have the power to issue a fine in case of violations of the rules of election campaigns and violations of the obligations of handing over all recommendation sheets and violations of destroying supplied data.
- If the election commission does not grant an objection, it shall dismiss it.

## 2. Appeals

**Appeals** aim to revise first-instance decisions of election commissions and may be lodged by citing reference to the infringement of legislation or a decision based on legal assessment by a commission. Natural and legal persons affected by the case may lodge this form of legal remedy.

Appeals shall be submitted to the election commission that issued the challenged resolution (except decisions of Polling Station Commissions can be contested before the respective Single-member Constituency Commission). Appeals and requests for judicial review shall be submitted so that they are received by the election commission on or before the third day after the adoption of the contested resolution.

In the appeal, new facts and evidence may be brought up, which shall be assessed by the commission together with those that have arisen until then.

The election commission shall uphold or alter the challenged resolution.

## 3. Judicial review application

Natural and legal persons affected by the case may request the **judicial review** of second-instance resolutions of election commissions and resolutions of the National Election Commission. Applicants may file their request by citing reference to the infringement of legislation or a decision based on legal assessment by a commission.

Petition for judicial review shall be submitted so that they are received by the election commission on, or before the third day after the adoption of the contested resolution. In the judicial review procedures, representation by a counsel shall be compulsory.

An exception from this general rule are, petition for judicial review of resolution of the election commission regarding the approval of the content of ballot papers. These shall be submitted so that they reach the election commission that issued the challenged resolution on the day after the election commission's resolution is issued at the latest.

Petition for judicial review shall be adjudicated by the **Curia (Supreme Court)**.

The Curia shall uphold or alter the challenged resolution.

As a basic rule, no further legal remedy shall be available with regard to court decisions, however any person or organization affected in an individual case may turn to the **Constitutional Court** within an **extraordinary remedy**:

- If applying a law contrary to the Fundamental Law (Constitution) in the course of a court procedure conducted in the case resulted that
  - their right ensured by the Fundamental Law had been violated, and
  - they had exhausted all possible remedies, or the possibility of remedy is not ensured.
- Against the judicial decision contrary to the Fundamental Law if the in-merit decision or another decision concluding the judicial procedure
  - violates the right of the petitioner ensured by the Fundamental Law, and
  - the petitioner has exhausted available remedies, or the possibility of remedy is not ensured.

If the Constitutional Court declares that any legal regulation or any provision thereof is contrary to the Fundamental Law, it shall annul the legal regulation or provision in whole or in part. If the Constitutional Court declares that a judicial decision is contrary to the Fundamental Law, it shall annul the decision.

### **1.12.2. TIME LIMITS FOR LEGAL REMEDY**

Time limits shall be calculated in calendar days, and as of the infringement being committed or the date when the contended election commission resolution was passed.

A term of preclusion applies to time limits with respect to legal remedy in every case, excusing delays or filing certification is not possible. When examining a delay, the date that is taken into consideration is the one when the request for legal remedy arrived at the election commission. Thus in case of requests for legal remedy submitted through postal channels, it is not possible to cite reference to any delay of a mail piece, nor to the date of dispatch, which potentially was still within deadline.

As a general rule, a 3-day time limit is implemented in the electoral procedure to those concerned for filing legal remedy related applications.

### **1.12.3. RECOUNTING UPON LEGAL REMEDY**

An appeal against the decision of the Polling Station Commission establishing the results of the polling district may only be lodged together with an appeal against the decision of the election commission establishing the election result. An appeal may also be submitted on the grounds that the decision of the Polling Station Commission establishing the results of the polling district was unlawful, in which case a recount may be ordered if adjudication of the appeal is only possible by recounting of the votes. The election commission reviewing the appeal or the court reviewing the judicial review application shall order a recount of the votes within three days. This shall be carried out by the local election commission within three days after it is ordered, but not later than by 12:00 on the sixth day following the receipt of the application for legal remedy. The local election commission may make use of the assistance of the members of the local election office for the purpose of recounting the votes.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

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### **2.1. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

International election observation plays an important role in the promotion of representative democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. It is a valuable tool for improving the quality of elections, observers help build public confidence in the fairness of electoral processes. Election observation can help promote and protect the civil and political rights of participants in elections. Following elections, reports and recommendations by observer groups can lead to changes and improvements in national law and practice.

### **2.2. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

According to the Act on electoral procedure, observers from other states, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations or associations who are registered with the National Election Office to observe the elections:

- a) may observe the entire election process and be present while the election bodies carry out their work,
- b) may inspect the documents of the election commissions and request copies thereof, with the proviso that these copies shall not contain personal data,
- c) may put questions to members of election bodies and call their attention to irregularities that they detected,
- d) shall not hinder or interfere in the election process and the activities of the election bodies,
- e) shall wear the registration badge supplied by the National Election Office where it can be easily seen during their activities,
- f) shall carry out their activities impartially.

#### **What Election Observers Can Do:**

- Observe the Entire Electoral Process**

Observers are permitted to be present throughout the election process, including all stages of preparation, voting, and counting, and while election bodies carry out their official duties.

- Inspect Election Documents (Without Personal Data)**

Observers may review official documents held by election commissions and request copies. However, any copies provided will exclude personal data to ensure the protection of individuals' privacy.

- Engage with Election Officials**

Observers may ask questions of election officials and may draw attention to any irregularities they observe, helping to uphold the fairness and transparency of the process.

#### **What Election Observers Cannot Do:**

- Interfere with the Election Process**

Observers must not obstruct, delay, or otherwise interfere with the electoral proceedings or the work of election bodies. Their role is strictly observational.

- Operate Without Proper Identification**

Observers are required to wear the official registration badge issued by the National Election Office in a visible manner at all times while performing their duties.

- **Show Bias or Favouritism**

Observers must remain impartial and conduct all activities in a neutral and objective manner, refraining from actions or statements that could suggest political bias.

### **2.3. ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION**

The National Election Office shall keep a register of international observers. Registration is available online [here](#).

The register shall contain the **name, place of birth** and **date of birth** of the international observers as well as the **name of the delegator**.

The National Election Office **shall publish the names of international observers as well as the names of the delegators on the official website of the elections**.

Decisions on the registration and deregistration of international observers shall be made by the president of the National Election Office; **no legal remedy shall lie against these decisions**. The decision of the president of the National Election Office shall be published on the official election website.

In case of the Parliamentary elections of 2026, the international observers shall be registered with the National Election Office by 4 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. It is important to note that Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays in Hungary.

**Registration of international observers is carried out via the website of elections (valasztas.hu)**

### **2.4. DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR OBSERVERS**



#### **for international observers of the parliamentary elections of 2026**

##### **I. Data manager**

National Election Office

Head office: 1054 Budapest, Alkotmány u. 3. VAT number: 15815563-1-41

E-mail: [adat@nvi.hu](mailto:adat@nvi.hu)

Website: [www.valasztas.hu](http://www.valasztas.hu)

Contact details of the Data Protection Officer of the Data Controller: dr. Edina Kéki Data Protection Officer, e-mail: [keki.edina@nvi.hu](mailto:keki.edina@nvi.hu)

##### **II. Scope of personal data processed:**

Mandatory personal data of an international observer registered with the National Election Office (hereinafter referred to as "the person concerned"):

- name of the person concerned
- the delegator;
- the place and date of birth of the person concerned.

Not mandatory personal data

- contact details of the person concerned: e-mail address, telephone number

**III. Purpose of data management:**

The Data Controller fulfils its obligation under Article 4 (2) of Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure ("Act XXXVI of 2013")

**IV. Legal basis for data management:**

With regard to mandatory data to be provided, Article 6(1)(e) of the General Data Protection Regulation (necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller) – Section 4(2) of the Act on Election Procedure (the National Election Office keeps a register of international observers), with regard to non-mandatory data, Article 6(1)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation, the consent of the person concerned to the processing of their personal data for the purpose of maintaining contact.

**V. Duration of storage of the personal data processed:**

The Data manager shall process the mandatory data required for registration until the working day following the ninetieth day after the voting day, and the non-mandatory (contact) data until the withdrawal of the data subject's consent.

The Data manager shall take appropriate measures to protect the processed mandatory and non-mandatory personal data against, in particular, accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, or accidental damage and inaccessibility resulting from changes in the technology used.

**VI. Recipients of personal data:**

The National Election Office as data controller and Idomsoft Zrt. as data processor.

**VII. Transfers to third countries or international organisations:**

As a data controller, the National Election Office does not transfer personal data to third countries or international organisations.

**VIII. Information on the rights of the person concerned:**

The person concerned shall have the following rights in relation to data processing, insofar as the nature and legal basis of the processing make it reasonable:

**Right to be informed:**

The person concerned has the right to know the relevant circumstances of the processing of his or her personal data, as detailed in Article 13 of the GDPR, which the controller facilitates by providing this information.

**Right of access:**

The right of access ensures that the data subject is informed whether or not his or her personal data are being processed by the controller, in which case he or she has the right to access the personal data processed by the controller and to be informed of the modalities of the processing listed in Article 15 of the GDPR.

**Right to rectification:**

The data subject may obtain from the controller without undue delay the rectification of inaccurate personal data concerning him/her, or have incomplete data personal data completed.

**Right to data portability:**

The person concerned shall have the right to obtain the personal data concerning him or her which he or she has provided to the controller, to transmit such data to another controller or to request the direct transfer of personal data between controllers.

**Right to erasure (right to be forgotten):**

The person concerned may request the data manager to cease processing his or her personal data, in which case the data manager shall render the personal data irretrievably unidentifiable, so that the link between the information and the person concerned can no longer be established.

The right to erasure may be exercised when the processing of personal data by the controller is no longer necessary, taking into account the principles of purpose limitation, data minimisation and limited storage.

The person concerned may also request the erasure of his or her personal data if:

- a) the data management is illegitimate
- b) personal data are collected in relation to information society services offered directly to children,
- c) the person concerned withdraws his or her consent,
- d) the person concerned objects to the processing of his or her personal data,
- e) it is required by law.

**Right to restriction of processing:**

The person concerned may request the data manager to restrict processing if:

- a) contests the accuracy of your personal data,
- b) considers that the processing of his personal data is illegitimate and requests the restriction of the processing of his personal data instead of the erasure of his personal data,
- c) the processing of personal data by the data manager is no longer necessary, but they are required by the data subject in order to pursue a legal claim,
- d) the data subject objects to the processing of his or her personal data.

In such a case, the data manager must block the personal data, for example by temporarily transferring the personal data to another data manager, by terminating user access to the data or by temporarily removing the data, and no processing operation may be performed on the personal data. The restriction does not completely remove the controller's control over the personal data.

In case of restriction, personal data may be further processed only with the consent of the person concerned, for the purpose of pursuing legal claims or protecting the rights of others, or for important public interests. All recipients to whom or with whom the personal data have been disclosed must be informed of the restriction of processing. The controller shall inform the data subject in advance of the lifting of the restriction on processing.

**Right to object:**

The person concerned may object to the processing of his or her personal data at any time if:

- a) the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the National Election Office, or if it is necessary for the legitimate interests of the National Election Office or a third party,
- b) if the personal data is processed for direct marketing purposes (not applicable to the present

processing),

- c) the personal data is processed for research or statistical purposes (not applicable to the present processing).

The data manager shall no longer process the personal data in the event of the objection of the person concerned and shall erase the personal data unless it can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds overriding the interests, rights and freedoms of the person concerned, or relating to the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

**Right to legal redress:**

The person concerned shall have the right to lodge a complaint against the data manager's processing of his or her personal data and to have recourse to the courts.

Right to lodge a complaint: the person concerned has the right to lodge a complaint if he or she considers that the processing of personal data concerning him or her infringes the provisions of the GDPR. Complaints can be submitted to the Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information as supervisory authority using one of the following contact details:

Location: 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa utca 9-11.

Postal address: 1363 Budapest, Pf.: 9.

Telephone: +36 (30) 683-5969; +36 (30) 549-6838; +36 (1) 391 1400

Fax: +36 (1) 391-1410

E-mail: [ugyfelszolgalat@naih.hu](mailto:ugyfelszolgalat@naih.hu)

Website: <http://www.naih.hu>

If the person concerned suffers damage in the exercise of his or her rights in relation to the processing of his or her personal data (e.g. he or she has not been able to exercise the above rights, has not been informed about the processing, etc.), he or she may bring a lawsuit. The data subject may also choose to bring the case against the National Election Office before the courts of the place of residence or domicile. In the lawsuit, the National Election Office, as the data controller, has the burden of proof that it has acted in accordance with the relevant domestic legislation and the EU law.

**Right to withdraw consent to data management:**

In case of processing based on Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR, the person concerned may withdraw his or her consent at any time, it does not affect the lawfulness of the data processing carried out on the basis of consent before its withdrawal.

**IX. Possible consequences of non-disclosure:**

The National Election Office may refuse to register the international observer if they fail to provide the mandatory information required for registration.

### 3. RULES REGARDING THE MEDIA

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On election day, representatives of the media may be present in the polling station and carry out their work from the start of voting (6:00 a.m.) until the end of voting, as well as during the preparation of the vote count and the vote count itself, without prior permission. However, they may not be present in the polling station during the preparations until voting has begun.

Media representatives may not interfere with the work of the Polling Station Commission, violate the secrecy of the vote, or have insight into the electoral register or take photographs or make recordings of it. The Polling Station Commission may only provide information on the number of voters. The press may not interview voters within the polling station. However, they may take photographs, make video and audio recordings (video recordings, cutaway shots) of the voting without the consent – and even despite the objection – of the voters, provided that the recordings are not portrait-like, i.e., they do not focus on individual voters, but document the voting as a public event of public interest.

Members of the press must also respect the norms prohibiting campaigning within 150 meters of the building housing the polling station on election day. The meetings of the election commissions are open to the public; therefore, representatives of the media may be present.

The representatives of the press (pursuant to Section 20/B of Decree 17/2013 (VII. 17.) of the Minister of Public Administration and Justice) wishing to enter and work in a **polling station** are required to present the following identification documents to the Chairperson of the Polling Station Commission:

- personal identification document (ID card, passport, or driver's license) **and**
  - authorization issued by the media content provider **or**
  - press card issued by a professional journalists' organization.

(At foreign representations, the foreign representation's election office may accept other documents as well taking into account local circumstances.)

On election day, the National Election Office operates an **election centre**. (Address: Budapest, District V, Alkotmány utca 3.) Accreditation is required for admission. Representatives of the press will receive their accreditation cards on election day upon entering the election centre.

Based on the accreditation, the following locations can be visited at the election centre:

- processing of postal votes, votes cast at foreign representations or by absentee voters (National Election Office)
- monitoring of results, possible press conferences (Ministry of Construction and Transport, main hall)
- meeting of the National Election Commission (National Election Office, 2nd floor)

## 4. IT SYSTEMS OF THE ELECTION

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### 4.1. IT SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS

The Hungarian government has been running IT systems since 1989 in order to support the processes of elections, from the setting up of districts through the creation of electoral registers to establishing the final legal results.

### 4.2. CORE IT SYSTEMS SUPPORTING THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES

#### Election Information System (NVR)

The Election Information System, which was created according to standard principles, is a complex system that has a shared database and data set, and is comprised of modules that are built up in an integrated manner, for supporting the following election tasks:

- reception and adjudging of requests regarding the electoral roll,
- group of tasks associated with compiling electoral registers (setting up districts, compiling the initial electoral register and notification pool, keeping electoral registers up to date, closing electoral registers and generating copies of polling district electoral registers thereof, managing foreign representation electoral registers),
- group of tasks associated with preparations for the election of Members of the General Assembly (entry of parties, candidates, lists in the register, validation of candidate recommendations, transfer of information necessary for producing ballot-papers and carrying out logistic tasks, managing polling districts' information),
- production and printing of ballot-papers,
- tasks to be completed on election day until voting is finished (monitoring turnout rates and extraordinary incidents),
- operative management for vote counting by means of a management information system,
- automated determination of the preliminary results,
- providing support for establishing the final official (legal) results of the election and publishing these on a web-based information interface.

### 4.3. INTERNET INFORMATION SYSTEM

The official election website ([www.valasztas.hu](http://www.valasztas.hu)) contains non-biased, non-partisan information exclusively published by the National Election Office. It is available in Hungarian and, with almost identical content in English.

The website ensures the provision of information to the public at large. It provides information to voters (e.g. administrative procedures, where and how they can vote), candidates and nominating organizations (e.g. registration and nomination procedures, appointment of the members of the election commissions, legal remedies) and other interested parties as well, such as election observers and the media. Contents are also available about election bodies, especially the National Election Office and the National Election Commission.

### 4.4. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM (VÁKIR)

The Election Administration System is an information system which carries out and organizes administrative tasks associated with the elections. The foremost objective of this system is to operate a closed, secure IT communication channel among national, regional, as well as local election bodies. This channel offers electronic messaging capability, as well as a forum for registered users, which allows to request and provide assistance by topic.

The system can be accessed by every Local Election Office with connection to the National Telecommunication Backbone Network, to the document office and registrar network. Only duly authorized computers and users are able to log in to and use the system's closed loop network.

The system furthermore operates as a database that contains election offices' data, sorted in a geographical region system.

#### **4.5. FINANCE AND LOGISTICS SYSTEM (VPIR - VLOG)**

The Finance and Logistics System has the task of providing appropriate IT applications and associated services for the efficient support of the financial, accounting, and logistics work of agencies engaging in the activities that are associated with elections.

It supports the following activities on the basis of special budgetary (legal) regulations that regulate how election tasks are conducted:

- budgeting and planning purchases and cash equivalents,
- regulating financial and logistics (organization) processes,
- completing activities on deadline in a professionally sound manner that enjoys IT support,
- the coordinated work of bodies and specialists participating in execution.

#### **4.6. ELECTRONIC DECISION-MAKING**

As of 1 December 2023, the National Election Office decides on applications related to the electoral roll in an automatic decision-making procedure. This IT development does not only allow citizens to electronically manage their electoral affairs from the comfort of their homes, but also to have their applications processed immediately, even on public holidays.

Automatic decision-making means that the authority makes a decision electronically without human intervention.

Notification of the decision may be carried out in the following ways:

- to the client's citizen mailbox
- personal receipt
- by e-mail
- to a postal notification address
- to home address.

##### **Automatic Decision-making can be made:**

*by decision* on applications concerning the electoral roll and on ex-officio removal from the electoral roll,

*by issuing a certificate of authority when there are* no grounds for disqualification and on the request for data recorded in the electoral information system.

In the case of applications, it is still possible to submit the application in person or by proxy on paper.

## 5. ANNEXES

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### 5.1. NATIONAL ELECTION OFFICE

#### **President:**

Dr. Attila Nagy

Phone number: 06-1-795-5827

Email: [nagy.attila@nvi.hu](mailto:nagy.attila@nvi.hu)

#### **Deputies:**

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Vice-President

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Dr. Péter Minda

Vice-President for Economic Affairs

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Dr. Márton Kiss

Vice-President for IT and Legal Affairs

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#### **Heads of organizational units:**

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Head of Department

IT Department

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Dr. Tamás Mucsi

Head of Department

Organization Department

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Erika Palkó

Head of Department

Human Resources Department

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Secretariat of the National Election Commission  
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**Election Information Service:**

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**International and Press Department:**

Dr. Krisztina Anita Kovács  
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For international issues: [international@nvi.hu](mailto:international@nvi.hu)

## **5.2. NATIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

Dr. Róbert László Sasvári (President)

Dr. Zoltán Zsolt Lehel (Vice-President)

Dr. Csaba Cservák

Dr. Zselyke Borbála Kicsi

Dr. Zoltán Attila Réthelyi

Dr. László Levente Szabó

Dr. Tamás Károly Szalay

### **Delegated members:**

Dr. Dezső Avarkeszi - Demokratikus Koalíció

Dr. Tamás Fazekas - Párbeszéd Magyarországért Párt

Dr. Gergely Gönczi - Momentum Mozgalom

Dr. András Imre Grundtner - Mi Hazánk Mozgalom

Dr. András Litresits - Magyar Szocialista Párt

Dr. András Lovas - Keresztyéndemokrata Néppárt

Dr. Edina Ormándi - Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom

Dr. Zoltán Sárhegyi - FIDESZ- Magyar Polgári Szövetség

### **Substitutes:**

Dr. István Szabó

Dr. Norbert Tóth

Dr. Balázs Szabolcs Gerencsér

National Election Commission

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Postal address: National Election Commission, 1397 Budapest, Pf.: 547.

Phone number: +36 (1) 795-8408

Email: [nvb@nvi.hu](mailto:nvb@nvi.hu)

### 5.3. CONTACTS OF REGIONAL ELECTION OFFICES

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Baranya	7621 Pécs, Széchenyi tér 9.	72/500-402	72/500-469	<a href="mailto:valasztas@baranya.hu">valasztas@baranya.hu</a>
Békés	5600 Békéscsaba, Árpád sor 18.	66/441-141	66/441-122	<a href="mailto:tvi@bekesmegye.hu">tvi@bekesmegye.hu</a>
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	3525 Miskolc, Városház tér 1.	46/517-713	46/799-914	<a href="mailto:tvi@hivatal.baz.hu">tvi@hivatal.baz.hu</a>
Budapest	1052 Budapest, Városház utca 9-11.	1-327-1177	3-188-188	<a href="mailto:fvi@budapest.hu">fvi@budapest.hu</a>
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