



# Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Belarus

August 2012, №2

## Preparation of the elections to the House of Representatives

Nomination of candidates for the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus ended on August 13, 2012. District election commissions have received 597 sets of documents, nominating 494 candidates.

Those wishing to run for the Belarusian Parliament were nominated by political parties, at general meeting of employees in larger organizations, and by collecting signatures. One method was used by 394 potential candidates, two methods – by 96 people, all three methods – by 4 people.

Following the results of nomination of candidates to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus there are no electoral districts with only one candidate.

In average, the competition among potential candidates is 4-5 persons per electoral district.

Eleven districts have two prospective candidates for a seat in the Belarusian Parliament, 20 districts have three applicants per seat, 35 districts have 4 contestants, 17 districts have 5. Six persons compete for a seat in 12 districts, 10 districts have received seven candidate applications. Three districts have eight potential candidates. In addition, there are two districts with 10 and 11 persons intending to be nominated.

### Number of candidates nominated by parties and their share in total

Party	Number of nominated candidates	Share in total number of applications
Liberal Democratic Party	93	15,6%
United Civil Party	48	8%
Belarusian Popular Front	34	5,7%
Fair World	32	3,9%
Communist Party of Belarus	23	3,2%
Republican Party of Labor and Justice	19	2,5%
Belarusian Socialist Democratic Party	15	0,2%
Belarusian Social and Sports Party	1	15,6%

### Electoral campaigning of candidates

Local executive and administrative authorities have designated sites for electoral campaigning of candidates.

In particular, the web-site of the Minsk city executive committee contains information about indoor and outdoor sites, where candidates and their legal representatives can organize their meetings with voters, and where voters themselves can hold pre-election meetings.

Local authorities provide the installation of information boards in the designated areas where candidates will be able to post their campaign materials. Campaign materials of candidates may also be posted to the bulletin boards on resident and municipal services organizations' buildings (including bulletin boards on the entrances to residential buildings) near the dormitories, healthcare facilities of the city.

### OSCE ODIHR observation mission

ODIHR plans to send 40 long-term and 270 short-term observers to monitor the elections to the House of Representatives. The core team of the mission arrives on August 21. The observers will be arriving after August 24.

### Activities of the CIS observation mission

CIS Observation Mission is working in Belarus from July 25, 2012. Mission is headed by Sergei Lebedev, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and Executive Secretary of the CIS. Currently, the Mission includes 27 accredited observers.

Within the monitoring activities, observers examined the work of District Election Commissions of Minsk and Mogilev, and of Minsk and Vitebsk oblasts. According to the observers from the CIS, the formation of Commissions was carried out in accordance with the Calendar Plan of preparing and holding elections. The Commissions include representatives of labour collectives, NGOs, political parties as well as individual citizens. Commissions are equipped with all necessary methodological guides. The initiative groups were registered within the deadlines established by the Electoral Code.

The Mission did not find any violations in formation of District Election Commissions during the parliamentary elections in Belarus.

Members of the core team of the mission took part in a meeting of the Central Election Commission.

**82.5% of Belarusians are going to take part in the elections**

**District election commissions accredited 335 domestic observers.**

### Public opinion poll

82.5 percent of Belarusian citizens are going to participate in the parliamentary elections on September 23, 2012. This data came out of the telephone survey of the population conducted by the Informational-Analytical Centre under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

In April-May 2012 the same indicator was 70 percent. In 2008 elections at the appropriate stage of the parliamentary campaign 79 percent of survey participants planned to vote.

Vast majority of the population was informed about the upcoming parliamentary elections by the date the survey was held (from June 27 to July 8 2012).

The most popular source of information about the current parliamentary election campaign was television. It was mentioned by 71.5 percent of respondents. 36 percent of respondents turn to the print media for information about elections, the Internet and radio have 24 percent each in average. Information received in communications with friends, relatives, on job, educational institution, and at home satisfies 13 percent of citizens in average.

1 percent of the respondents were not interested in the elections.

### On accreditation of domestic observers

According to the CEC, as of August 6, the District Election Commissions accredited 335 domestic observers. Of these, 269 (80 percent) are members of political parties and public associations. 59 observers were nominated by citizens by submitting applications, 7 are the representatives of labour collectives.

## Nomination of members to Council of the Republic Electoral Campaigning, TV and radio debates

According to the Calendar Plan of preparing and holding elections of the members of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus of the fifth convocation, the nomination of candidates takes place from 2 to 31 August 2012.

The Presidiums of the Councils of Deputies of districts and (for the cities within oblasts) Presidiums of the Municipal Councils of Deputies, regional and city executive committees, as well as the Presidium of Minsk Municipal Council of Deputies and Minsk City Executive Committee have the right to nominate the candidates to the Council of the Republic.

After the nomination of candidates, the Oblast Executive Committees and Minsk City Executive Committee submit to the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus the documents for the nomination of candidates to the Council of the Republic.

The registration of candidates to the upper house of the Parliament starts 60 days and ends 55 days before the expiration of the mandate of the Council of the Republic of the current convocation. This year, CEC will register the candidates for the post of senator from the 1st to the 5th of September 2012.

Eight members of the Council of the Republic will be elected in each oblast and in the city of Minsk not later than September 25 during the meetings of the local Councils of Deputies of the base level through voting by secret ballot. Eight other senators will be appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The elections should be completed and the elected members should be registered not later than October 5, 2012.

Electoral addresses of the candidates to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the fifth convocation will start August 27.

Candidates for deputy mandates, nominated in the city of Minsk, will be able to present their election programs on "Belarus 2" TV channel and on the "Stolitsa" radio station. Candidates, registered in oblasts other than Minsk oblast, will appear in the local television and radio programs. "CTV" TV-channel and "Stolitsa" radio station will offer their air time to the candidates nominated from the Minsk oblast.

**Pre-election speeches will be broadcast by television and radio daily on weekdays from 19:00 to 20:00 and from 18:00 to 19:00, respectively.**

Candidates will also be able to take part in television and radio debates organized by the appropriate media.

Speeches of the candidates and their participation in the debates are financed by the State.

