

**Act of 5 January, 2011**

**Election Code**

**(Journal of Laws 31 January, 2011)**

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**ACT**  
**dated 5 January 2011**  
**election Code**  
**(Journal of Laws No. 21, pos. No. 112, No. 26, item. 134, No. 94, pos. 550 and No. 102, pos. 588)**  
**(codified by the National Electoral Office)**

**Section I**  
**Preliminary provisions**

**Chapter 1**  
**General Provisions**

**Article 1**

The Election Code defines the principles and procedure for nominating candidates, the conduct and the conditions of validity of elections:

- 1) to the Polish Sejm and the Senate of the Polish Republic;
- 2) the President of the Polish Republic;
- 3) to the European Parliament;
- 4) the constitutive organs of local government units;
- 5) mayors, town mayors and city mayors.

**Article 2**

Unless otherwise provided for by the Code, voting may only be done in person

**Article 3**

A person is entitled to vote only once, in the same election.

**Article 4**

§ 1 Elections are held only on non-working days

§ 2 The elections management body may provide that a vote in the elections will be carried out within two days.

§ 3 If voting in an election is carried out over a two day period the voting time is set on on a non-working day and the day preceding it.

**Article 5**

Whenever the code refers to:

- 1) elections – this should be understood as elections to the Sejm and the Senate, elections of the President of the Republic, the European Parliament elections, elections to constitutive organs of units of local government elections for mayors, town mayors and city mayors;
- 2) referenda – this should be understood as national referenda and local referenda;

- 3) bodies representing local government – this should be understood, respectively, as the bodies of the municipalities, county councils and local councils provinces;
- 4) The council of the municipality – this shall mean the city council established by law;
- 5) Council – this shall mean the council of the region;
- 6) Mayor – this shall mean the town mayor and city mayor;
- 7) health care institution – it shall mean a hospital, health care and treatment facility, nursing care facility, rehabilitation home, preventative medicinal institution, hospice, and another facility for people whose health condition requires the allocation of full time health benefits, which referred to in the Act of 30 August 1991 on health care (Journal of Laws of 2007 No. 14, item. 89, as amended. d..)
- 8) A nursing home - it shall an institution providing full time care to disabled, chronically ill or elderly people, referred to in the Act of 12 March 2004 on social assistance (Journal of Laws 2009, No. 175, item. 1362, as amended.)
- 9) place of domicile - it shall mean domicile in a particular place at a specific address with the intention of permanent residence;
- 10) Social Security Number - should be understood as a passport of other document confirming the identity of persons who are European Union citizens but not Polish citizens,

#### **Article 6**

All documents as well as judicial and administrative proceedings in matters concerning elections shall be free from administrative fees and court costs.

#### **Article 7**

Documents required under the provisions of the Code prepared in Polish language shall be submitted together with a sworn translation into Polish.

#### **Article 8**

§ 1 Documents from the election are transferred to state archives and can be made available.

§ 2 The minister responsible for culture and national heritage, after seeking opinion of the National Electoral Commission and the General Director of State Archives, shall determine, by regulation, the means of transmission, storage and retrieval of documents concerning the elections, with particular emphasis on the period, after which they must be transferred to state archives, the need for protection of transmitted and stored materials and data contained therein, and the entities with which such documents can be shared.

#### **Article 9**

§ 1 Whenever the code refers to the date for lodging a complaint, appeal or other document to the court, electoral management body, the office of the municipality, the consul general, or ship captain, it shall mean the date of submission of a complaint, appeal or other document in court, city council or county office, the consulate or to the ship's captain.

§ 2 If the date of implementation of and action defined by the Code falls on a Saturday or a public holiday the time limit shall be deemed to expire on the first working day following that date.

§ 3 Unless otherwise provided for by the Code, the election activities specified by the election calendar referred to in § 1 shall take place during business hours of the courts, electoral management bodies, electoral offices of municipalities and consulates.

## **Chapter 2 Electoral rights**

### **Article 10**

§ 1 The following persons enjoy the right to vote (active suffrage):

- 1) in the elections to the Sejm and the Senate and the election of the President of the Republic – a Polish citizen who is at least 18 years of age, on election day;
- 2) in the European Parliament elections in the Polish Republic - Polish citizen who, is 18 years old and a citizen of the European Union and not a Polish citizen, who is at least 18 years of age on election day and permanently resident in the territory of the Polish Republic;
- 3) in elections to bodies representing local government units:
  - a) the municipal council - a Polish citizen and a citizen of the European Union, who is not a Polish citizen, who is at least 18 years of age on election day and permanently resident in the area of the municipality,
  - b) the district council (“*powiat*”) and regional council of the province (“*województwo*”) - a Polish citizen, who is at least 18 years of age on election day and permanently resident in the area, respectively, of that district or region;
- 4) in the elections of the mayor of the municipality (“*gmina*”)- the person having the right to elect the council of the municipality.

§ 2 The right to vote is not enjoyed by persons:

- 1) deprived of public rights by a final court ruling;
- 2) deprived of electoral rights by a final decision of the Tribunal of State;
- 3) incapacitated by a final court ruling.

### **Article 11**

§ 1 The following persons enjoy the right to be elected (passive suffrage):

- 1) in the elections to the Sejm – a Polish citizen with right to vote in this election, who is at least 21 years of age on the day of elections;
- 2) for election to the Senate - a Polish citizen with right to vote in this election, who is at least 30 years of age on the day of elections;
- 3) the election of the President of the Republic – a Polish citizen who is at least 35 years of age on the day of elections and enjoys full voting rights to the Sejm;
- 4) in the European Parliament elections in the Polish Republic - a person having the right to vote in this election, who is at least 21 years of age on the day of elections, and for at least 5 years of

permanent resident in the Polish Republic or the territory of the other-the European Union Member State;

5) in elections to bodies representing local government entities – any person who has the right to elect these bodies;

6) in the elections for the mayor - a Polish citizen with a right to vote in this election, who is at least 25 years of age on the day of elections, however, without the necessity of having permanent domicile in the municipality in which he or she is candidate

§ 2 The following persons do not enjoy the right to be elected:

1) persons convicted to imprisonment for an intentional indictable offense or intentional tax crime;

2) persons who are the subject of a final court decision which deprives of the right to be elected referred to in art. 21a. par 2a of the Act of 18 October 2006 on dissemination of information on documents of state security bodies from the years 1944-1990 and the contents of these documents (Journal of Laws of 2007 No. 63, item. 425, as amended).

§ 3 The right to be elected in not enjoyed by a citizen of the European Union who has been deprived of the right to be elected by the member stats of the European Union of which he or she is a citizen.

### **Chapter 3 Voting Circuits**

#### **Article 12**

§ 1 Voting in elections shall be conducted in constant and distinct voting circuit established on the territory of the municipality, subject to Art. 14 § 1 and art. 15 § 1

§ 2 The division of the municipality into permanent voting circuits, shall be determined through a resolution of the municipal council on motion of the mayor.

§ 3 A permanent voting circuit should include a vote of 500 to 3000 inhabitants. In cases justified by local conditions, a circuit may include a smaller number of inhabitants.

§ 4 The municipal council, by resolution, on motion of the mayor, shall creates a separate voting circuit for each; health care institution, nursing home, prison and police custody building as well as any external branch of such a detention facility in which there will be at least 15 voters on election day. The requirement to establish such voting circuits may be overcome only in justified case by motion of the person in charge of any of the institutions mentioned herein.

§ 5 In the elections to bodies representing local government and elections of mayors a separate voting circuit shall be established in the institutions referred to in § 4, if on election day at least 15 voters listed in the voter register maintained by the municipal council are present on in the institution.

§ 6 If less than 15 persons are present in the institution referred to in § 4, a separate voting circuit may be established following consultation with the person in charge of a given institution.

§ 7 A separate voting circuit may be created in student dormitories or other student residence facilities run by universities or other entities on the basis of agreements with universities, where at least 50 persons entitled to vote submit written information to the rector of the university to whom the dormitories or student residence facilities belong, indicating their intention to remain on the premises of the said dormitories or student residence facilities on voting day.

§ 8 The provision of § 7 is not applicable to elections to bodies representing units of local self-government or elections for the mayor.

§ 9 The municipal council shall establish the voting circuits referred to in § 7, by way of resolution, on motion of the mayor following the obtainment of consent of the rector of the university.

§ 10 The creation of a separate voting circuit is possible at the latest, 35 days prior to the election.

§ 11 In the establishment of voting circuits the municipal council also established their numbers, boundaries and offices of the circuit electoral commissions.

§ 12 The resolution of the municipal council on establishment of voting districts, shall be announced in the official journal of the province and shall be made public in the customary manner. A copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the mayor of the province and the head of the elections commission.

§ 13 The resolution of the municipal council referred to in § 2, 4 and 9, may be subject to a complaint to the electoral commissioner, submitted by at least 15 voters within 5 days from the date of making the resolution public. The head of the elections commission shall examine the complaint within 5 days and issue a decision. The decision of the head of the elections commission is not subject to further legal remedies.

### **Article 13**

§ 1 The mayor shall submit to the council of the municipality a request for changes in the division of the permanent voting circuits, if necessitated by changes in municipal boundaries, changes in the number of inhabitants in the municipality or circuit.

§ 2 Changes by to permanent voting circuits may take place no later than 45 days before election day.

§ 3 Articles 12 § 11-13, apply to changes in the voting circuits, as applicable.

### **Article 14**

§ 1 In order to conduct elections to the Sejm and the Senate, the election of the President of the Republic and European Parliament elections permanent voting circuits are established for Polish



citizens abroad, if there are at least 15 voters within the circuit, and if it is possible to provide voting results to the appropriate election commission immediately after completion of collection of results.

§ 2 In consultation with the National Elections Commission, the minister responsible for foreign affairs, established the voting circuits, referred to in § 1, by way of ordinance and determines their number and the offices of the electoral commissions. The ordinance of the minister shall also indicate at least one circuit election commission within the territorial responsibility of the consulate, where postal voting as referred to in Art 62, may take place.

§ 3 The voting circuits, referred to in § 1, are part of the electoral constituency of the city of Warsaw.

### **Article 15**

§ 1 In order to conduct elections to the Sejm and the Senate, the election of the President of the Republic and European Parliament elections, separate voting circuits are formed for voters residing on Polish maritime vessels traveling on the day of elections, if 15 or more registered voters are present on the travelling vessel and on the condition that it is possible to transfer the result of the vote to the appropriate election commission.

§ 2 For the purposes of this Code a Polish ship shall be defined as is a ship which is wholly-owned by a Polish company established in the Polish Republic, which ship bears the Polish flag and is commanded by a Polish captain.

§ 3 Voting circuits, referred to in § 1, are established through the ordinance of the minister responsible for maritime affairs, following consultation with the National Electoral Commission, and on the request of the shipowner filed no later than 30 days before election day.

§ 4 The voting districts, referred to in § 1, form part of the constituency appropriate for the registered seat of the company.

### **Article 16**

§ 1 The mayor must notify voters, no later than 30 days prior to election day of the following:

- 1) numbers and the limits of fixed and separate voting circuits;
- 2) the designated premises of electoral commissions for the elections;
- 3) the premises of electoral commissions tailored to the needs of voters with disabilities.

One copy of the notice is forwarded immediately to the electoral commissioner.

§ 2 The notice referred to in § 1 must be published by the mayor no later than 30 days before the election in the Public Information Bulletin referred to in the Act of 6 September 2001 on Access to Public Information (Journal of Laws No. 112, item. 1198, as amended).

§ 3 The obligation referred to in § 1 in respect of voting circuits established abroad rests with the consuls. Implementation of this requirement should take place no later than 21 days before election day.

§ 4 The creation of a voting circuit on a Polish maritime vessel must be communicated to voters by the ships captain without undue delay.

### **Article 17**

§ 1 If the competent authorities of the municipalities do not establish voting circuits or changes thereto, appoint or change in the composition of the commission for the voting circuits, in a timely manner or in accordance with the law, the competent electoral commissioner shall call upon such authorities to carry out their duties in a manner consistent with the law within the prescribed date and, in the case that the time period for performance of these tasks expires, the electoral commissioner shall perform these duties and immediately notify the National Electoral Commission.

§ 2 The provision of § 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis if the competent authority has not completed the division of the council, municipality or province into constituencies within the prescribed time limit or in a lawful manner.

## **Chapter 4 Register of Voters**

### **Article 18**

§ 1 The permanent register of voters includes persons who have the right to vote and who have their permanent domicile in the territory of the council.

§ 2 The register of voters is a collection of personal data from the census referred to in § 7 The collection also takes into account the data on voters referred to in § 9 and art. 19 § 2 and 3

§ 3 A person may only be entered in one register of voters.

§ 4 Electoral register is used to draw up lists of voters entitled to participate in the elections, and to draw up lists of persons entitled to vote in the referendum.

§ 5 The register of voters confirms the right to vote and right to be elected.

§ 6 The register of voters is divided into Part A and Part B.

§ 7 Part A of the register of voters includes Polish citizens. This part of the voter register shall include: the name and the name (s), father's name, birth date, Social Security identification number (PESEL) and address of the voter.

§ 8 Voters who are Polish citizens, with permanent residence in the area of the municipality shall be automatically entered into the register of voters.

§ 9 Part B covers the electoral register of European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens, permanently residing in the territory of the municipality and entitled to exercise voting rights in the Polish Republic. This part of the electoral register lists the name and the name (s), father's name, date of birth, nationality of the relevant Member State of the European Union, passport or other identity document number and address of the voter.

§ 10 The voter referred to in § 9, may request in writing to be struck off the register of voters.

§ 11 The register of voters is maintained by the municipality as a delegated task.

§ 12 The register of voters is available for perusal, upon written request, at the office of the municipality.

§ 13 The council of the municipality shall periodically inform the competent electoral authorities of the number of voters in the register.

### **Article 19**

§ 1 Voters having their permanent domicile in a particular municipality without permanent residence shall be entered in the register of voters, on written request submitted to the office of the municipality. The application should contain surname, name (s), father's name, date of birth and Social Security registration number (PESEL) of the applicant. The application shall be accompanied by:

- 1) a photocopy of a valid identity document;
- 2) a written declaration in which the applicant shall state his (or her) citizenship and permanent residence in the territory of the Polish Republic.

§ 2 Provision of § 1 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the voter anywhere who does not have a place of domicile but is staying within the area of the municipality.

§ 3 Voters permanently residing in the municipality at a different address than the address of their place of registered permanent residence in the municipality may be entered in the register of voters at the address of residence, provided they submit a declaration in writing to this effect, including the data referred to § 1, indicating the address of the last place of registered permanent residence in the municipality.

## **Article 20**

§ 1 The decision whether or not to add to the register a person referred to in Article 19 shall be taken by the mayor of the municipality (“*wójt*”) or mayor (or the president of a town) within 3 days following delivery of the application and shall ensure its delivery to the applicant.

§ 2 The mayor of the municipality prior to issuance of the decision referred to in § 1 shall be obliged to check whether the person requesting the application for registration meets the conditions of permanent residence within the municipality.

§ 3 Entry of a voter in the register of voter must be immediately communicated to the municipality of the last permanent residence of the voter in order to ensure the voter’s deletion from the previous register of voters.

§ 4 Voters have the right to appeal the decision on refusal to enter him or her on the register of voters to the competent regional court. The complaint is lodged through the intermediary of the mayor of the municipality, within 3 days of receipt of the decision. The mayor immediately transmits the complaint to the court along with the decision and the case file. The mayor may also immediately change or revoke the decision, if he or she considers the complaint justified in its entirety.

§ 5 The court reviews the complaint referred to in § 4, in non-litigious proceedings, within 3 days of its receipt. A copy of the order shall be served on the person who filed the complaint, and the mayor. The court order is not subject to further appeal.

## **Article 21**

§ 1 Persons deprived of their right to vote shall be deleted from the register of voters on the basis of notice provided to the municipality by the court or the Tribunal of State.

§ 2 In the event that the basis on which the voter is disenfranchised of their right ceases to exist, the voter shall be entered into the voter register on the basis of notification by the court or the Tribunal of State.

§ 3 The Minister of Justice, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall, by regulation, establish the procedures and deadlines for notifying municipalities of persons deprived of their right to vote and to the termination of the cause of deprivation of the right to vote, as well as templates for such notification on these issues so as to ensure regular updating of the current data in the voters register on persons deprived of their right to vote and having the right to elect.

## **Article 22**

§ 1. Each person has the right to submit a motion to a head of the commune or mayor (president of a town) on inaccuracies in the register of voters, in particular concerning:

- 1) the omission of an elector from the register;
- 2) the inclusion, in the register, of a person not possessing electoral rights;
- 3) incorrect details about persons included in the register;
- 4) the inclusion of a person who does not permanently reside on the territory of a commune.

§ 2. The complaint shall be submitted orally or in writing to a protocol.

§ 3. The head of a commune, mayor (president of a town) shall be obliged to examine the complaint within 3 days following its delivery and to issue a decision.

§ 4. The decision, together with its justification, shall be immediately delivered to the applicant, and if it concerns others – then also to such persons.

§ 5. A decision rejecting a complaint or one that results in deletion from the register of voters may be appealed to the relevant regional court. The appeal shall be delivered via the mayor of the municipality, mayor (president of the town) within 3 days following the receipt of the decision. The mayor of the municipality, mayor (president of the town) shall immediately submit the appeal to the court along with the decision and files of the case. The mayor of the municipality, mayor (president of the town), when approving the claim, may immediately change or quash the earlier decision if the appeal is justified. The provisions of Article 20 paragraphs 4 and 5, shall apply respectively.

## **Article 23**

§ 1 The data referred to in art. 18 § 9, second sentence, shall be forwarded by the mayor of the municipality, mayor (president of the town) through the intermediary of the appropriate local governor to the minister competent for internal affairs.

§ 2 Provision of § 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the persons referred to in art. 18 § 10

§ 3 The minister responsible for internal affairs shall forward the data referred to in § 1 and 2, to the relevant authorities of the Member States of the European Union.

## **Article 24**

§ 1 The minister responsible for internal affairs shall provide to the competent authorities of the Member States of the European Union, at their request, information concerning Polish citizens who want to exercise their voting rights in another EU Member State, but only to the extent necessary to exercise those rights.

§ 2 The data referred to in § 1, shall be provided by the mayor of the municipality, upon request and through the intermediary of the relevant local governor, to the minister responsible for internal affairs.

## **Article 25**

The minister responsible for internal affairs, following consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall establish what follows by way of regulation:

- 1) the manner of keeping the register of voters, establishing:
  - a) the template for the register of voters,
  - b) methods of updating the register of voters and accessibility thereof,
  - c) the template for a request for access to the register of voters
  - d) the template for an application for inclusion on the register of voters,
  - e) the template for the notice of entry into the register of voters
  - f) the template of the application form referred to in art. 18 § 10, for removal from the register of electors voters,
  - g) conditions that must be satisfied by the technological system established to maintain the register of voters
- 2) manner of periodic transfer by the municipality of information on the number of voters covered by the register of voters
- 3) a template of the form for the written declaration referred to in art. 19 § 1 point 2

- Having regard for the need to ensure the ability to verify the data contained in the register of voters, security entry and processing of these data and their transmission and reception;

4) mode of transmission of the Polish Republic to another other Member State of the European Union, data on citizens of those countries listed in the register of voters and removed from the register of voters, as well as Polish citizens who want to use their voting rights in the territory of another Member State of the European Union, having particular regard to the form and deadlines for the exchange of information, and the necessity of their to protect personal data.

## **Chapter 5 Roll of Voters**

### **Article 26**

§ 1 People who have the right to elect, shall be entered on the roll of voters.

§ 2 A voter may be entered in the roll of voters only once.

§ 3 If the vote is carried out over the period of two days, there shall be an additional inventory for people who are at least 18 years of age on the second day of voting

§ 4 The roll of Voters is used for voting in called elections.

§ 5 Depending on the elections called, the roll of voters is comprised of Part A or Part A and Part B.

§ 6 List of voters consists of:

1) Part A - in elections to the Sejm and the Senate, President of the Republic and in elections to county councils and regional assemblies;

2) Part A and Part B - in the European Parliament elections in the Republic of Poland, in elections to municipal councils and mayor elections.

§ 7 Part A covers the voters of Polish citizens. In this part of the voters listed the name and present name (s), father's name, birth date, Social Security identification number (PESEL) and address of the voter.

§ 8 Part B covers the electoral register of European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens, entitled to exercise their voting rights in elections, which were called in the Polish Republic. In this part of the electoral register lists the name and the name (s), father's name, date of birth, nationality of a Member State of the European Union, passport or other identity document and address of the voter.

§ 9 The roll of voters lists the data referred to in § 7 and 8

§ 10 The roll of voters, subject to Art. 34 § 1 and art. 35 § 1, is drawn up and updated by the municipality, as a designated task, based on the register of voters.

§ 11 The roll of voters drawn up in two copies, separately for each voters circuit, by place of residence of voters, no later than 21 days before election day.

§ 12 One copy of the roll of voters is submitted to the head of the constituency election commission a day before the elections.

## **Article 27**

§ 1 A disabled voter, may submit a written request to the office of the municipality no later than 14 days before the election, to be entered into the roll of voters of their choice from the list referred to in art. 16 § 1 point 3, in the territory of the area of the municipality responsible for the place of his or her residence.

§ 2 The application referred to in § 1 should provide the data listed in art. 26 § 7 or 8

## **Article 28**

§ 1 A voter temporarily staying in the area of the municipality for the duration of election day is entered onto the roll of voters, upon written request made to the office of the municipality no later than 5 days prior to the election.

§ 2 The provision of § 1 shall not apply in elections to bodies representing units of local self-government and mayor elections.

§ 3 In supplementary elections to the Senate provision of § 1 applies only to voters permanently residing in the constituency where the election is carried out.

§ 4 Provision of § 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to a voter anywhere who is not located in the municipality.

§ 5 The application referred to in § 1 shall contain the information specified in Article. 26 § 7 and 8

### **Article 29**

§ 1 The roll of voters in the institutions referred to in art. 12 § 4 and 7, is prepared on the basis of lists of persons who will reside in them on election day, subject to § 2

§ 2 In the elections to bodies representing local government and mayor elections voters referred to in § 1 shall be entered only based on permanent residence, respectively, within the local government or municipalities in which elections for the mayor are conducted.

§ 3 The person in charge of a given institution referred to in § 1 shall provide the list of persons to the municipality no later than 5 days prior to the election.

§ 4 The list of persons who shall be in prison, shall not include persons who have been deprived of their right to vote by a final court ruling.

### **Article 30**

§ 1 Soldiers performing basic or temporary terms of military service, those serving as candidates for professional soldiering or those undertaking military training and exercises, as well as conscripts performing their military service in civil defence units beyond their place of residence, shall be added, on their request, to the roll of voters of their choice created for the locality in which they are serving, subject to § 2. The request shall be submitted between 21 and 14 days before election day, unless the person referred to in the first sentence, came to the place of their current accommodation after this date. The application shall specify the personal data referred to in Article. 26 § 7

§ 2 In the elections to bodies representing local government and elections for the mayor the voters referred to in § 1 shall be entered into the roll of voters, as appropriate, in the territory of the local government or municipalities in which elections for mayor are conducted.

§ 3 The provisions of § 1 and 2 shall apply mutandis mutandis to police officers serving in quartered units, functional officers of Government Protection Bureau, Border Guards, State Fire Service and Prison Service, serving in barracks.

§ 4 Commanders of military units, commanders of civil defense units and commanders of units and police superiors Government Security Bureau officers, Border Guard, State Fire Service and Prison Service are obliged to provide soldiers, state emergency service workers, policemen and officers of the possibility of exercising the rights arising from the provision § 1

§ 5 The Minister of National Defence, the minister responsible for internal affairs and the Minister of Justice, each within their jurisdiction, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission, shall determine how to fulfill the obligations referred to in § 4, taking into account the need for the possibility to exercise the functions of members of electoral commissions and stewards by voters referred to in § 1 and 3.

### **Article 31**

Entry or deletion from the roll of voters referred to in art. 28, Art. 29 § 1 and art. 30 § 1 and 3, must be immediately notified to the municipal office with jurisdiction over the place of their permanent domicile or last permanent residence.

### **Article 32**

§ 1 A voter changing his or her place of residence before the election shall receive, upon application in writing, by fax or electronically, before drawing up of the roll of voters - based on the register of voters, and once the voter - on the basis of voters' register, a certificate of the right to vote in the place of residence on election day.

§ 2 The certificate referred to in § 1, is issued by the office of the municipality.

§ 3 The provision of § 1 shall not apply in elections to bodies representing units of local self-government and elections for the mayor.

§ 4 In supplementary elections to the Senate the provision of § 1 applies only to voters permanently residing in the constituency where the election is carried out.

### **Article 33**

The minister responsible for internal affairs, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall, by regulation establish:

1) the manner of preparation and accessibility of the roll of voters in particular:

a) the template for the roll of voters,

b) methods of updating the roll of voters,

c) the template for a request for access to the roll of voters,

d) the templates for the roll of voters residing in health care facilities, nursing homes, prisons and detention centers as well as the external branches of facilities and prisons, where voting circuits were created,

e) the template for notice of entry or deletion of voters in the roll of voters in another voting circuit

- Having regard to the separate procedure of establishing voting circuits in health care institutions, nursing homes, prisons or institutions of police custody and external branches of such establishments and the place time and form of the roll of voters;

2) a template of the certificate confirming the right to vote and the manner of issuing and accounting certificates, bearing in mind the need to ensure the identification of the person to whom the provision applies.

### **Article 34**

§ 1 Voters stationed on Polish maritime vessels that are traveling on election day are entered in the roll of voters drawn by the ship captain.

§ 2 Entry shall be based on an application by the voters declared on the 3rd day before election day. The proposal should contain the name and the name (s), father's name, date of birth, registration number or Social Security number (PESEL) of a valid Polish passport and the voters



address. In the case of European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens, the proposal should contain the number of another valid identity document, as well as place and date of issue.

§ 3 The provision of Art. 32 § 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to voters stationed on Polish marine vessels, except that the certificate is issued by the ship captain, who drew up the roll of voters.

§ 4 The minister responsible for maritime affairs, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall, by regulation, establish and update the roll of voters referred to in § 1, as well as how to notify authorities of the municipalities covered by the roll of voters permanently residing in the people country and the manner of issuing and accounting for, the benefits of the right to vote, given the need to ensure the ability to verify the data contained in the register of voters, security entry and processing of these data, their transmission and reception, and the principle according to which a voter may be entered into the roll of voters.

### **Article 35**

§ 1 Voters living abroad and holding a valid Polish passport, or in the case of European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens holding a valid passport or other document establishing identity shall be entered into the roll of voters compiled the competent consul.

§ 2 Entry shall be based on personal application lodged verbally, in writing, or by phone, telegram, fax or electronically. The application should contain the name and the name (s), father's name, date of birth, social security registration number (PESEL), indication of the place of domicile of the voter abroad, the number of valid Polish passport and the place and date of issue, in the case of Polish citizens staying temporarily abroad - the place of registration of the voter to register of voters. In the case of European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens, the application should include a number of another valid identity document, as well as place and date of issue. Applications can be made no later than the 3rd day before election day.

§ 3 The provision of Art. 32 § 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the voters residing overseas and in possession of valid Polish passports, except that the certificate shall be issued by the consul, who drew up the list of voters.

§ 4 The minister responsible for foreign affairs, after consultation with the State Commission for Elections, shall determine, by regulation, the manner in which the roll of voters referred to in § 1 is established, as well as how to notify authorities of the municipalities covered by the roll of voters permanently residing people in the country and the manner of issuing declaration on the right to vote, given the need to ensure the ability to verify the data contained in the roll of voters, security of entry and processing of these data, their transmission and reception, and the principle according to which a voter may be entered into the roll of voter only once.

§ 5 Within the jurisdiction of the European Union member states and countries on the territory of which you can enter on the basis of Polish identity card , a valid identity card shall be considered the equivalent document to a valid Polish passport.

### **Article 36**

§ 1 Between 21 and 8 days before Election Day, each voter can check at the office of municipality in which the roll of voters was drawn up, whether he or she was included in the roll

§ 2 The roll of voters is made available for inspection at the office of the municipality.

§ 3 The mayor shall notify the voter, in the usual manner, that the roll of voters has been draw up and the time and place where it shall be made accessible for inspection.

§ 4 The provisions of § 2 and 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the municipality other than the bodies which drew up the list of voters.

### **Article 37**

§ 1 Anyone can file a complaint concerning irregularities in the roll of voters to the body which drew up the roll of voters.

§ 2 In matters referred to in § 1, the provisions of Article. 22 are applicable, except that the time limits for consideration of the complaint and a complaint to the district court amount to 2 days, on the condition specified in § 3

§ 3 Complaints on matters concerning the roll of voters of persons referred to in art. 34 § 1 and art. 35 § 1, respectively shall be promptly reviewed by the ships captain or the consul. Their decisions are not subject to appeal.

### **Chapter 5a**

#### **Communication of information about elections to disabled voters**

#### **Article 37a.**

§ 1. A disabled voter listed in a register of voters in a particular commune shall have the right to obtain information about:

1. an electoral district and an electoral precinct to which he/she is subject;
2. polling stations of precinct electoral commissions mentioned in Article 16 § 1 point 3, being the nearest to a place of residence of a disabled voter;
3. conditions for registering a disabled voter on a list of voters in the electoral precinct mentioned in Article 27 § 1;
4. a date of elections and voting hours;
5. election committees participating in elections, registered candidates and lists of candidates;
6. conditions and forms of voting.

§ 2. The information mentioned in § 1 shall be provided by a commune head or an authorised by him/her worker of a Commune Office in its opening hours, including by telephone or through

printed informative materials sent at the request of a disabled voter, including in an electronic form.

§ 3. A disabled voter shall be provided with the information mentioned in § 1 after he/she has given his/her family name, given name(s) and an address of the permanent residence.

§ 4. The information mentioned in § 1 shall also be immediately made known to the public by a commune head by publishing it in the Public Information Bulletin and as is customary in a particular commune.

#### Article 37b.

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission shall post on a website of the portal mentioned in Article 160 § 2 point 1 information on the rights of disabled voters under the code, in a form taking into account different disabilities.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall draw up in Braille informative material about the rights of disabled voters under the code and shall provide it for parties concerned at the request.

#### Article 37c.

§ 1. Election notices inside and outside a polling station as well as voting results in electoral precincts and districts should be put in places easily accessible for the disabled with reduced mobility.

§ 2. At the request of a disabled voter, a member of a precinct electoral commission shall be obliged to provide texts of election notices orally within the scope of information on election committees participating in elections, on registered candidates and lists of candidates.

### **Chapter 6 Generally applicable provisions for voting**

#### **Article 38**

§ 1 Voting shall take place in person, subject to the provisions of Chapter 7

§ 2 A postal vote is considered a personal vote is in the voting circuits of referred to in art. 14 § 1

#### **Article 39**

§ 1 Voting takes place on the premises of the constituency electoral commission, hereinafter referred to as "polling station."

§ 2 If the vote is carried out in one day, voting takes place without interruption from 7.00 to 21.00.

§ 3 If the vote is carried out in two days, the vote takes place the first and second day without a break from 7.00 to 21.00; there shall be a break from 21.00 the first day until 7.00 am on the second day.

§ 4 At the end of voting the chairman of the electoral commission announces the end of voting. From that point onwards only voters, who came to the polling station an hour before the end of the voting time, may vote.

§ 5 Voting in voting circuits established in health care facilities and nursing homes may start later than the time stipulated in § 2 and 3

§ 6 Voting in voting circuits established on Polish ships and abroad is between 7.00 and 21.00 hours local time on each day of voting. If a vote were to be completed on the day following the day of voting in the country, voting shall take place the day before.

§ 7 Constituency electoral commissions may order the early termination of voting in voting circuits established on Polish ships, if all voters registered in the roll of voters cast their votes. A decision for early termination of voting can take place not earlier than at 18.00, and if the vote is carried out in two days, no earlier than 18.00 on the second day. The early close of voting shall be immediately notified by the electoral commission chairman to the person heading the institution referred to in art. 12 § 4 and 7, the mayor and the appropriate higher level electoral commission.

#### **Article 40**

§ 1 Voting takes place by means of official ballots.

§ 2 The ballot shall contain information on how to vote.

§ 3 The ballot can be printed only on one side. The size and type of font and the size of boxes intended for the placing of the "x" should be the same for the determination of all the lists and candidate names.

§ 4 The ballot card shall have a place for the official seal of the electoral commission and, further in the case of elections:

- 1) for the President of the Republic - the imprint of the seal of the State Election Commission;
- 2) to the Sejm, the Senate and the European Parliament – a stamp of the constituency electoral commission;
- 3) to the council and mayor elections – stamp of the territorial election commission.

§ 5 Templates of ballots are determined by the National Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 41**

Adding additional numbers and names, or surnames, or other additions beyond the tables does not affect the validity of the vote cast.

#### **Article 42**

§ 1 Before voting begins the constituency electoral commission checks to see if the ballot box is empty, then closes the ballot box and seals it with a seal, and the committee verifies that there is a roll of voters on site and the number of cards needed for the right to vote to be carried out, as

well as whether the premises election is a sufficient number of readily accessible areas to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

§ 2 once the ballot box is sealed it may not be opened until the end of voting.

§ 3 from the moment of commencement of voting until the end there must be at least 3 persons present and the polling station who are members of the constituency electoral commission. One of these persons must be the head of the electoral commission or his or her deputy, subject to the condition specified in Article 43.

§ 4 Stewards may be present on voting day at the polling station and during all actions undertaken by the electoral commission based on a issued in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

### **Article 43**

§ 1 If the vote is carried out within two days, after the first day of voting, the electoral commission shall:

1) seal the opening in the ballot boxes;

2) determined by way of protocol:

a) the number of unused ballot papers,

b) the number of people entitled to vote, the number of people included in the roll of voters,

c) the number of ballot papers issued – based on the signatures of people in the electoral roll.

§ 2 After completing the steps referred to in § 1, the electoral commission must place separately in sealed packages unused ballot papers and the roll of voters which, together with the ballot box remain on the premises of the polling station.

§ 3 After the vote on the first day and following the steps referred to in § 1 and 2, the electoral commission chairman closes the perimeter of the polling station and seals the entrance thereto with the official seal of the committee. The mayor provides security of the premises during the break in voting.

§ 4 The electoral commission prepares a protocol which provides the data referred to in § 1 item 2, and makes it public without delay, after the completion of the actions referred to in § 3, the provision of Article. 75 § 5 shall apply accordingly. The protocol must be displayed in the premises of the commission, in a place that is easily accessible for those interested. The template for the said protocol is established by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 5 Before the voting begins on the second day the election commission must by way of protocol check that the seals on the entrance to the premises of the committee, the ballot box, and packages with ballot papers and the roll of voters are intact and have not been tampered with.

§ 6 The minister responsible for internal affairs, after consultation with the State Commission for Elections, shall determine, by regulation, the detailed requirements for the protection of the premises during the break in the voting, including rules for the granting of police assistance mayor for the proper protection of these premises.

§ 7 The detailed way in which the electoral commission's activities referred to in § 1-5, shall be carried out, shall be determined by resolution of the National Electoral Commission, providing principles of conduct of elections and protection of ballot boxes, packets and documents related to elections.

§ 8 The provisions of § 1-5 and 7 apply to the voting circuits established in Polish maritime vessels and abroad, except that:

- 1) to ensure protection of the premises referred to in § 3, respectively rests on the captain of the ship and Consul;
- 2) the minister responsible for maritime affairs, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission, shall determine, by regulation, the detailed requirements and responsibility of the captain of the Polish ship on the protection of the premises during a break in the voting, including the rules for granting assistance in order to properly protect these premises;
- 3) the minister responsible for foreign affairs, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall, by regulation, establish the detailed requirements and duties of the consul for the protection of the premises during a break in the voting, including aid rules in order to properly protect these premises.

#### **Article 44**

§ 1 The constituency electoral commission, after consultation with the appropriate election commission of higher rank, may order the use of a second ballot box during the vote.

§ 2 The ballot box, referred to in § 1 is an auxiliary ballot box designed solely for inserting ballots by voters in voting circuits in health care facilities and nursing homes.

§ 3 In the case of expression by the voter of the will to use the auxiliary ballot box casting his or her ballot will require the presence of at least two people from two different committees for elections.

§ 4 The provisions of this chapter apply to the procedure of voting with the alternative ballot box.

#### **Article 45**

§ 1 In the premises of the electoral commissions, referred to in art. 14 § 2, second sentence, a second ballot box shall be used.

§ 2 The second ballot box referred to in § 1, is intended only for inserting the envelopes for ballots referred to in art. 65 § 1 point 3

#### **Article 46**

Persons carrying arms are prohibited from entry to the polling station.

#### **Article 47**

§ 1 Voting must not be interrupted. If the vote is interrupted, due to extraordinary events of a temporary nature the electoral commission may order a break, an extension in the time for voting or postponement until the next day. A resolution on the extension or postponement of the vote until the next day must be on the consent of the electoral commission of higher rank. The resolution on this matter should be immediately made public, the committee passed a higher level election, mayor, and sent to the National Electoral Commission through the intermediary of the electoral commission of higher level.

§ 2. The provision of Art. 43 § 5 shall apply.

#### **Article 48**

§ 1 (Deleted)

§ 2 Only official election notices shall be displayed at the polling station.

§ 3 The National Electoral Commission may decide to display at the polling station and in place ensuring the secrecy of the vote concise information on how to vote for the proper conduct of the elections. This information shall be compiled, according to the formula established by the National Electoral Commission, by the Director of the delegation of the National Electoral Office , who shall also ensure its placement in all the polling stations.

#### **Article 49**

§ 1 The Chairman of the constituency electoral commission ensures the secrecy of voting and maintenance of order and peace during the vote.

§ 2 The Chairman of the constituency electoral commission is entitled to request persons violating the order and peace leave the polling station.

§ 3 Upon request of the chairman of the electoral commission the chief of the local police station is obliged to provide necessary assistance.

§ 4 In the event of a breach of order in the polling station, Art. 46 shall not be applicable

#### **Article 50**

§ 1 International election observers, invited by the National Electoral Commission, after consultation with the minister for foreign affairs, have the right to observe the elections and the work of electoral bodies, including the constituency electoral commissions.

§ 2 Observers referred to in § 1, have the same powers as stewards, with the exception of making annotations in the official protocol.

§ 3 National Electoral Commission shall issue a certificate to the observers referred to in § 1

#### **Article 51**

§ 1 Only the voter entered into the roll of voters is entitled to vote, or his proxy as well as the voter described in the provisions of § 2-4.

§ 2 On the day of voting, the constituency electoral commission may add to the roll of voters:

1) a person presenting a certificate of the right to vote, attaching a certificate to the directory, if the provisions concerning the election provide for the possibility of obtaining such certificate;

2) a person omitted from the roll of voters who proves permanent residence on the territory of given voting circuit, provided that the office of the municipality has confirmed that it has not received a notice of this person's forfeiture of the right to vote or notice of the inclusion of that person on the roll of voters of another voting circuit;

3) A person struck from the inventory for a given circuit to vote in connection with the entering of the person onto the roll of voters in the institutions referred to in art. 12 § 4, if he or she may prove that he or she left the institution on the day before the election day

§ 3 In elections to the Sejm and the Senate, the election of the President of the Republic and the European Parliamentary elections the electoral commission may add person to the roll of voters who on the day of voting is a Polish citizen permanently residing and voting in the country on the basis of a valid Polish passport, subject to proof of permanent residence abroad. In this case,

the commission makes an annotation of the passport number and validity date in the “remarks” section of the roll of voters as well as placing the seal of the commission and date of voting on a free page of the passport dedicated for visas.

§ 4 The provision of § 2 shall apply accordingly in case the voters entering the institution in art. 12 § 4, on the eve of the election.

### **Article 52**

§ 1 Before voting, the voter must provide proof of identity to the elections commission.

§ 2 A voter, after fulfilling the obligation referred to in paragraph 1 above, shall receive a ballot paper, stamped with the electoral commission’s seal, from the commission. A voter shall confirm the receipt of the ballot paper with his/her signature in the section of the list of voters designated for such purpose in the roll of voters.

§ 3 Voters overseas receives a ballot paper only after presenting the electoral commission with a valid polish passport or for citizens of European Union who are not Polish citizens, another valid identity document. Within the European Union countries and the countries to which you can enter with a Polish identity card under the provisions of Article. 35 § 5 are applicable. It is indicated in the roll of voter that the voter was sent a package of election materials referred to in art. 65 § 1, Article. 66b is applied.

§ 4 A voter who present the electoral commission with a certificate confirming the right to vote shall be allowed to vote, after entry into the roll of voters. The certificate shall be appended to the roll of voters.

§ 5 Upon receiving the ballot paper, a voter shall proceed forthwith to the polling station booth guaranteeing secrecy for voting.

§ 6 The voter puts the card into the ballot box located in an accessible and visible position in the ballot station premises.

§ 7 The voter should put the ballot into the ballot box in such a way so that the printed page is not visible.

### **Article 53**

A disabled voter, upon request, may be assisted in voting by another person who is not a member of a voting circuit electoral commission or a poll observer authorised by the candidates.

## **Chapter 7 Voting by proxy**

### **Article 54**

§ 1 A voter with a significant or moderate degree of disability within the meaning of the Act of 27 August 1997 on vocational and social rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 214, item. 1407, as amended) can give the power of attorney to vote on his or her behalf in the election, hereinafter referred to as “proxy vote”

§ 2 The provision of § 1 applies to voters, who are European Union citizens, recognized in the respective European Union Member State, as disabled to the extent referred to in § 1

§ 3 The provision of § 1 also applies to voters who at least is 75 years old on the day of elections.



§ 4 Voting by proxy is not applicable in case of voting in voting circuits established in the units referred to in art. 12 § 4 and 7 and in the voting circuits established abroad and on Polish maritime vessels.

§ 5 The minister responsible for social security, in consultation with the minister of responsible for health shall determine, by regulation, a list of documents to be issued by the competent authorities of EU Member States, supporting the recognition of a disabled person to a degree corresponding to degrees of disability referred to in § 1

## **Article 55**

§ 1 A proxy may only be a person registered in the same municipality, or having the certified right to vote in the same municipality, as the voter granting power of attorney to vote or having a special certificate confirming their right to vote if specific provisions of the Code provide for such possibility, subject to § 4

§ 2 A proxy vote may be taken only from one person, subject to § 3

§ 3 A proxy vote may be taken from two people, if at least one of them is a primary, descendant, spouse, brother, sister, or a dependent relative, under legal custody or guardianship in relation to the proxy.

§ 4 A proxy may not be the person forming part of the electoral commission in the voting circuit of the person providing the power of attorney for the vote, nor stewards or candidates in the election.

## **Article 56**

§ 1 Proxy voting shall be granted before the mayor or another employee authorized by the municipal mayor authorized to draft power of attorney to vote.

§ 2 Act of power of attorney to vote shall be made at the request of the voter, brought before the mayor of the municipality in which the voter is registered, not later than 10 days before election day. The application should include: surname and name (s), father's name, date of birth, Social Security identification number (PESEL) and address of both the voter and the person to be granted power of attorney to vote and a clear indication of the election for which the proxy to vote is being provided.

§ 3 The application referred to in § 2, shall be accompanied by:

- 1) a copy of the current decision of the competent authority on the degree of disability person granting power of attorney to vote, in the case of voters who are European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens, a sworn translation of the document referred to in art. 54 § 5;
- 2) the written consent of the person to be the proxy, including name and the name (s) and address, as well as the surname and given name (s) of person granting power of attorney to vote;
- 3) a copy of the certificate of the right to vote of the proxy - where a person is not a registered voter in the same municipality as the person granting power of attorney to vote and where special provisions of the possibility of obtaining such certification exist.

§ 4 The act of the power of attorney to vote upon verification, based on available official documents and data, should be drawn up in three copies, to be received by the person granting power of attorney, the proxy, and the with the third copy remains in the office of the municipality.

§ 5 Act of the power of attorney to vote shall be made in the place of domicile of the voter giving power of attorney for voting indicated in the application referred to in § 2, subject to § 6

§ 6 Act of attorney to vote may be done on the area outside the municipality if the voter so requests in the application referred to in § 2

§ 7 The municipality shall maintain a list of acts of power of attorney to vote, with the annotation of such act having been made.

### **Article 57**

§ 1 If the request for drawing up of the act of power of attorney does not meet the conditions referred to in art. 54, Art. 55 or art. 56 § 2 and 3, the mayor, within 3 days of receipt of the request, calls on voters to remove defects in the application within 3 days.

§ 2 If the defects can not be removed or they have not been removed within the specified time, mayor refuses to draw up the act on power of attorney with a justification as to the reason for such refusal and serves it immediately on voters.

### **Article 58**

§ 1 The voter has the right to revoke the power of attorney to vote. Withdrawal of proxy to vote shall be submitted at least 2 days before the election by way of statement of the mayor of the municipality in which such act was made or by delivering it to the appropriate voting circuit.

§ 2 A proxy vote will expire by law in case of:

- 1) the death or loss of the right to vote by the person granting power of attorney or by the proxy;
- 2) lack of the preconditions stipulated in art. 55 § 1, or of the conditions, stipulated in art. 55 § 4;
- 3) prior voting in person by the person granting the power of attorney

§ 3 The withdrawal of the power of attorney to vote is noted by the mayor of the municipality prior to transferring the roll of voters to the elections commission of the voting circuit of the person providing the power of attorney .

### **Article 59**

§ 1 Proxy voting is conducted based on the provisions of art. 52 § 2-6, and art. 53, subject to § 3-5.

§ 2 Before voting, the proxy shows must present the elections commission with a document confirming his or her identity and the power of attorney to cast a vote.

§ 3 The electoral commission makes an annotation of the name and the name (s) proxy voters in the electoral roll in the "remarks" section corresponding to the position, under which the voter providing power of attorney was placed, along with the annotation "proxy" and the act of power of attorney.

§ 4 The proxy must acknowledge receipt of the ballot paper with his or her own legible signature, in the place designated for the voter on the roll of voters.

§ 5 If the authorization to vote has been withdrawn or has expired the elections commission refuses to issue the proxy card to vote and takes possession of the act of power of attorney.

### **Article 60**

§ 1 The preparation of an act of power of attorney to vote is a task assigned to the municipality and is free of charge.

§ 2 A proxy can not charge any fee from the voter granting him or her the power of attorney to vote on his or her behalf.

§ 3 It is forbidden to issue the power of attorney to vote for any financial or personal benefit.

### **Article 61**

The minister responsible for public administration, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall determine, by regulation, the detailed procedure of the drawing up of the acts of power of attorney and the necessary templates as well as the application to draw up an act of attorney to vote, consent to receive proxy voting and power of attorney, and the pattern and manner of keeping and updating a list drawn up in acts of power of attorney so as to ensure efficiency and fairness of the proceedings and the credibility of the voting power of the proxy.

(...)

## **Chapter 8 Postal Voting in Overseas Voting Circuits**

### **Article 62**

The voter referred to in Art 35 § 1 may cast a postal vote. Information on the possibility to cast a postal vote and the principles upon which such vote may be cast shall be provided by the consul together with the announcement provided in art. 16 § 3.

### **Article 63**

§ 1 The notification of the intention to cast a postal vote may be submitted to the competent territorial consul on the 15th day before election day.

§ 2 The notification referred to in § 1 may be made orally, in writing, by telegraph, fax or electronically. The notification should contain the name and name (s), father's name, birth date, social security number (PESEL), voter identification of residence abroad, the number of valid Polish passport and the place and date of issue, place of registration of the voter in the voter register - in the case of Polish citizens temporarily staying abroad, as well as the address to which the package for elections referred to in art. 65 § 1 should be sent. In the case of European Union citizens who are not Polish citizens, the notification should include the number of another valid identity document and place and date of issue.

§ 2a. On the basis of the notification referred to in § 2, the consul enters the voter into the roll of voters appropriate for his or her constituency, referred to in art 14 § 2, second sentence. In this case the provision of art. 35 § 2 shall not apply.

§ 3 If the voter declares his or her intention to cast a postal vote referred to in art. 35 § 3, the certificate of permissibility to cast a postal vote is not issued following the sending of the voter of the package for elections, unless the said package is returned intact.

#### **Article 64**

In the case that more than one election is being held in one day, the voter who wishes to cast a postal vote, referred to in art. 63, should indicate which elections his or her application concerns. The application may concern all elections simultaneously conducted on the same day. The action mentioned in art 66 should be undertaken by the voter for each election separately.

#### **Article 65**

§ 1 The Consul immediately upon receipt from the relevant election commission ballots, however not later than 10 days before election day, sends to voters entered in the roll of voters, who expressed his intention to vote by post, the voting package containing:

- 1) addressed return envelope;
- 2) the ballot paper or papers;
- 3) an envelope for the ballot paper(s), hereinafter “the ballot paper envelope”;
- 4) a statement of personal and secret casting of the vote;
- 5) voting instructions

§ 2 The ballot paper envelope shall be marked "envelope for the ballot paper." The return envelope must be addressed to the appropriate consulate. Envelopes must not contain any other marks.

§ 3 The form and size of the envelope, envelopes for ballot papers, the statement referred to in § 1 point 4 and the voting instruction shall be specified by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 4 The consul, under the heading “remarks” on the roll of voters shall make the annotation that the voting package has been sent to the person who expressed their intention to cast a postal vote

#### **Article 65a**

In the case referred to in art. 64, the consul shall send to the voters separate packages for the appropriate elections.

#### **Article 66**

§ 1 A voter who casts a postal vote shall fill in the ballot paper and insert it into the ballot paper envelope, sealing it and subsequently inserting it into the return envelope together with the signed declaration and shall return it by mail at his or her own cost to the address of the consul.

§ 2 The Consul transfers all the return envelopes to the appropriate commission by end of voting.

§ 3 Ballot paper envelopes which have been taken out of the return envelopes submitted by the consul are into the ballot box referred to in art. 45

§ 4 (Deleted).

#### **Article 66a**

Return envelopes, which the consul received after the deadline referred to in art. 66 § 2, and undeliverable packages sent to the address indicated by the voter, remain in the deposit with the consul until such time as the validity of elections is announced by the Supreme Court.

#### **Article 66b**

A voter, to whom the voting package was sent by mail, may deliver the ballot paper envelope in person to the appropriate electoral commission. The provision of Art. 66 § 3 shall apply.

#### **Article 67**

A repeated vote in the election of the President of the Republic and the re-election of the President of the Republic are subject to the following shortened time limits:

- 1) as referred to in art. 63 § 1 - to 10 days before voting or elections;
- 2) as referred to in art. 65 § 1 - to 7 days prior to voting or elections.

#### **Article 68**

The National Electoral Commission, after consulting with the minister competent for foreign affairs, shall determine by resolution the technical conditions of postal voting, accounting for, in particular:

- 1) mode of transmission of the voting package,
  - 2) the manner of securing the ballot box referred to in art. 45,
  - 3) the handling of ballot papers in return envelopes,
  - 4) the treatment of envelopes and voting packages referred to in art. 66a
- in compliance with the respect for principles of conduct of elections and to protect the ballot box referred to in art. 45, in particular regarding the returned voting packages and ballot paper(s)

### **Chapter 9**

#### **Establishment of results of voting in voting circuits**

#### **Article 69**

§ 1 The circuit electoral commission, immediately after voting has been concluded, shall establish the results of voting in the voting circuit

§ 2 If the elections are held over two days, the circuit commission shall establish the result of the elections at the end of the second day.

§ 3 The circuit electoral commission shall establish the results of voting in the ward appropriately to the elections being held.

§ 4 Specific provisions of this Act establish the principles of validity of the vote.

#### **Article 70**

§ 1 Immediately following the close of voting the chairperson of the elections commission shall seal the ballot box, in the presence of the members of the commission.

§ 2 The commission shall establish, on the basis of the actual list of voters, the number of persons entitled to vote and the number of voters to whom ballot papers were delivered

§ 3 The commission shall establish the number of unused ballot papers and then shall place them into sealed packages

#### **Article 71**

§ 1 Following the execution of the obligation referred to in Article 70 above, the chairperson, assisted by the commission, shall open the ballot box, following which the commission shall count the ballot papers contained therein.

§ 2 Ballot papers torn completely into two or more pieces shall not be included in the count referred to in § 1

§ 3 Should the number of ballot papers taken from the ballot box exceed the number of ballot papers delivered, the commission shall indicate the probable cause of such discrepancy.

(...)

#### **Article 72**

§ 1 The circuit commission in the voting circuit referred to in art 14 § 1, establishes the results of the election in the circuit, taking into account also the postal votes cast as taken out from the return envelopes placed in the second ballot box, referred to in Art 45

§ 2 The circuit commission establishes the number of voting packages and number of ballot papers taken out of the return envelopes and records this in the protocol of voting in the circuit.

§ 3 If the return envelope does not contain the declaration referred to in art 65 § 1 pt 4, or if the ballot paper envelope is not sealed, the circuit commission shall destroy the envelope and ballot paper.

#### **Article 73**

Ballot papers of which are not official and do not bear the seal of the election commission are deemed invalid.

#### **Article 74**

The number of valid ballot papers shall be considered as the number of person who cast their vote.

### **Article 75**

§ 1 The circuit electoral commission shall draw up, in two copies, the protocol of voting in the circuit in relevant elections

§ 2 The protocol referred to in § 1, should contain the data referred to in Article 70 § 2 as well as, in accordance with the given elections, the number of invalid votes, the number of valid votes cast for each of the candidates or lists and each candidate from such list.

§ 3 Furthermore, the protocol should note the figures referred to in Article 70 § 3 and 71 § 1 as well as the number of voters voting by proxy.

§ 4 The protocol should specify the time of commencement and conclusion of voting and a summary of the orders and decisions issued as well as of other matters related to the conduct of voting.

§ 5 All members of the electoral commission present at the drawing up of the protocol shall sign it. The protocol shall be stamped with the seal of the commission.

§ 6 Poll stewards shall have the right to enter comments into the protocol, specifying the precise complaints. Annotations on the complaints entered shall be inserted in the protocol.

§ 7 The provisions of § 6 shall be applied accordingly to the members of the electoral commission; the application of provisions of § 6 shall not exempt members from the duty to sign the record

§ 8 Templates of protocols referred to in § 1 shall be established by the National Election Commission

### **Article 76**

§ 1 The voting protocol shall be transmitted as follows:

- 1) to the representative referred to in Article. 173, designated by the competent electoral commission of higher rank; in the elections to the Sejm and the Senate, the election of the President of the Republic and in the elections to the European Parliament,;
- 2) to the - municipal electoral commission; in elections to the municipal council and mayor elections;
- 3) to the county election commission.; in the elections for district council and the regional council region

§ 2 The representative referred to in § 1 item 1, checks for compliance to determine the correctness of the arithmetic results of the vote in the circuit and confirms the correctness of circuit electoral commission the set of results or shows the incompatibility of the arithmetic data in the protocol, which circuit electoral commission is obliged to explain and appropriately improve and make public the corrected result as per the procedure specified in Article. 77

§ 3 Electoral Commissions referred to in § 1 point 2 and 3, check for compliance to determine the correctness of the arithmetic results of the vote in the circuit. In the case it finds inconsistencies in the protocol data arithmetic, the circuit electoral commission is obliged to explain and improve, and make public the corrected result as per the procedure specified in § 4 The manner of transmission and reception and the treatment of the protocol, referred to in § 1, is defined by the National Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 77**

The circuit electoral commission shall immediately make public the results of voting in the circuit, by posting in the polling station, in a place easily accessible to voters, a copy of the minutes of voting in the circuit.

#### **Article 78**

§ 1 The chairperson of the electoral commission shall immediately transmit to the appropriate higher level electoral commission, in a sealed envelope, a copy of the minutes by vote of the circuit, along with explanations for reports of alleged commission of acts referred to in art. 75 § 6 and 7. Poll stewards are entitled to participate in the transfer of the protocol.

§ 2 Voting results of the circuits established abroad are transferred to the constituency electoral commission responsible for the district of Warsaw, and the results of the circuits established on Polish maritime vessels shall be transferred to the commission appropriate for the registered seat of the proprietor of the ship.

§ 3 Principles and procedures of the providing the result of the vote in the voting circuit to the higher ranked committee commission referred to in § 2, shall be defined by the National Electoral Commission, after consulting the appropriate Minister responsible for foreign affairs and minister responsible for maritime affairs.

#### **Article 79**

§ 1 After completing the steps referred to in Article. 78, the chairman of the circuit electoral commission shall immediately, in the manner determined by the National Electoral Commission submit as appropriate, to the mayor, consul, or the ship captain, the ballot papers and the stamp of the committee.

§ 2 The documents referred to in § 1 shall be made available to the competent court in connection with electoral complaints and at the request of the courts, prosecutors or police, for criminal proceedings.

#### **Article 80**

§ 1 During the time of voting the National Electoral Commission provides the number of people included in the roll of voters and the number of voters that have been issued with ballot papers.

§ 2 During the time of voting, the circuit electoral commissions provide the National Election Commission with the figures referred to in art. 70 § 2



§ 3 The National Electoral Commission shall determine the mode and method of data transmission, referred to in § 2

### **Article 81**

§ 1 The National Electoral Commission may after the vote, and before determining the results of the election publish partial unofficial results of voting in elections to the Sejm and the Senate, the election of the President of the Republic and elections to the European Parliament in the Polish Republic, established on the basis information on the results of voting in the circuits received electronically.

§ 2 The mode and manner of reporting referred to in § 1, is established by the National Electoral Commission

## **Chapter 10 Elections complaints**

### **Article 82**

§ 1 A complaint regarding the validity of the elections, the validity of elections in the constituency or the elections of a particular person may be lodged as a result of:

- 1) committing of a crime against the elections, as defined in Chapter XXXI of the Criminal Code designed to influence the voting, establish the voting results and election results, or
- 2) breach of the provisions of the Code relating to voting, or a determination of results of the election, affecting the outcome of elections.

§ 2 Complaints regarding the validity of the election as a result of crime against the elections referred to in § 1, or infringement by the competent authority of the electoral provisions of the Code relating to voting, or determination of results of the election results can be submitted by a voter who was entered on the roll of voters in one of the voting circuits

§ 3 A complaint against the validity of elections in the constituency or against the election of a Member, Senator, MEP, councilor or mayor may be submitted by a voter, whose name was in the register of voters in one circuit in the constituency, on election day.

§ 4 The complaint against the election of President of the Republic may be submitted by a voter whose name was on the roll or voter in one of the voting circuits on election day.

§ 5 The right to lodge a protest shall be also vested in a chairperson of the respective election commission as well as in a representative of an election committee with power of attorney.

### **Article 83**

§ 1 Electoral complaints are lodged with the court indicated in specific provisions of the Code.

§ 2 Rules on lodging of complaints and their mode of processing, and rules on declaring of the validity of the election are laid down in specific provisions of the Code.

## **Chapter 11 Election committees**

### **Article 84**

§ 1 Election committees shall have the right to nominate candidates for election. Electoral committees also perform other election activities, in particular, based on the principle of exclusivity, conduct campaigns for candidates.

§ 2 In elections to the Sejm and the Senate and in the European Parliament, electoral committees may be created by political parties and coalitions of political parties and by voters.

§ 3 In the election of the President of the Republic electoral committees may be created only by the voters.

§ 4 In the elections to bodies representing local government and elections for mayor, election committees may be created by political parties and party coalitions of parties, associations and social organizations, hereinafter referred to as "organizations" and by the voters.

### **Article 85**

§ 1 Activities specified in the Code, relating to the creation of the election committee may be executed from the moment of announcement of elections to the date of acceptance by a competent authority of the notice for the formation of the election committee.

§ 2 Actions taken before announcement of elections are invalid.

### **Article 86**

§ 1 The function of an election committee of a political party is fulfilled by the body vested with the power to represent it externally.

§ 2 The body of the political party referred to in § 1 shall inform the competent electoral body of the creation of an independent committee and of the intention to nominate candidates and to appoint:

- 1) legal representative, subject to Art. 127, to act for and on behalf of the election committee;
- 2) financial representative referred to in art. 127

§ 3 The notice referred to in § 2, shall also provide:

- 1) the name of the election committee formed in accordance with the provisions of Article. 92 and art. 95 and address of the committee and the registration number under which the political party is registered in the register of political parties;
- 2) name (s), name, address and social security identification number (PESEL) of the representative referred to in § 2 point 1;
- 3) name (s), name, address and social security identification number of the financial agent referred to in § 2 paragraph 2

### **Article 87**

§ 1 Political parties may form electoral coalitions in order to jointly propose candidates. A political party can be a part of only one electoral coalition.

§ 2 Election activities on behalf of the electoral coalition are performed by an coalition committee formed by the bodies of the political parties authorized to represent the parties externally.

§ 3 The coalition committee shall include at least 10 persons designated by the political parties referred to in § 2

§ 4 The coalition election committee shall appoint:

- 1) legal representative, subject to Art. 127, to act for and on behalf of the election committee;
- 2) financial representative referred to in art. 127

§ 5 The representative referred to in § 4 point 1, informs the competent authority of the establishment of the coalition election committee and the appointment of representatives referred to in § 4

§ 6 The notice referred to in § 5, shall also provide:

- 1) the name of the election committee of a coalition formed in accordance with the provisions of Article. 92 and art. 95 and the address of the committee and the identification numbers under which political parties forming the coalition are entered into in the register of political parties;
- 2) name (s), name, address and social security identification number (PESEL) of the representative referred to in § 4 point 1;
- 3) name (s), name, address and social security identification number (PESEL) of the financial agent referred to in § 4 point 2

## **Article 88**

§ 1 The function of representing the election committee of an organization is fulfilled by the body authorized to represent it externally.

§ 2 The authority referred to in § 1 shall appoints:

- 1) legal representative, subject to Art. 127, to act for and on behalf of the election committee;
- 2) financial representative referred to art. 127

§ 3 The authority referred to in § 1, must notify the appropriate electoral organ of the establishment of the electoral committee and the appointment of representatives referred to in § 2

§ 4 The notice referred to in § 3, shall also include:

- 1) the name of the election committee formed in accordance with the provisions of Article. 92 and art. 95 and address of the committee and the registration number under which the organization is a registered ;
- 2) name (s), name, address and Social Security identification number (PESEL) of the representative referred to in § 2 point 1;
- 3) name (s), name, address and Social Security identification number (PESEL)of the financial representative referred to in § 2 paragraph 2

## **Article 89**

§ 1 An electoral committee may be formed by at least 15 citizens with the right to vote.

§ 2 The Voters Election Committee shall appoint:

- 1) legal representative, subject to Art. 127, to act for and on behalf of the election committee;

2) financial representative referred to in art. 127

§ 3 the representative and the financial representative shall be appointed from among persons who are members of the citizens election committee.

§ 4 The representative referred to in § 2 paragraph 1, shall notify the competent authority to on the establishment of the citizens committee. The notice shall be provide the names, addresses and Social Security identification numbers (PESEL) of the persons forming a citizens committee.

§ 5 The notice referred to in § 4, shall also include:

1) the name of the election committee formed in accordance with the provisions of Article. 92 and art. 95 and address of the committee;

2) name (s), name, address and Social Security identification number of the legal representative referred to in § 2 point 1;

3) name (s), name, address and Social Security identification number of the financial representative referred to in § 2 paragraph 2

### **Article 90**

§ 1 In order to notify the candidacy of a person to the post of the President of the Republic, at least 15 citizens with the right to vote, shall form an elections committee. This committee based on the principle of exclusivity, is in charge of the election campaign for the notified candidate.

§ 2 An application for candidacy to the post of President of the Republic must be supported by signatures of at least 100,000 citizens having the right to vote to the Sejm.

§ 3 Election Committee shall appoint:

1) legal representative, subject to Art. 127, to act for and on behalf of the election committee;

2) financial representative referred to in art. 127

§ 4 The legal representative or financial representative cannot be a candidate for President of the Republic.

§ 5 The legal representative referred to in § 3 paragraph 1, shall inform the National Elections Commission on the establishment of the committee. The notice shall be provide the names, addresses and Social Security identification numbers of citizens forming the electoral committee.

§ 6 In the notice of the establishment of the election committee the following shall be stipulated :

1) the name of the election committee and office address;

2) name (s), name, address and social security identification numbers of the legal and financial representative

### **Article 91**

Detailed rules for the formation of electoral committees and notification of them to the competent electoral authorities are determines by specific provisions of the Code.

### **Article 92**

§ 1 The name of the election committees shall contain the words "Election Committee" and the name of the political party or abbreviation of the party name, which reflects the registration name of the political party featured in the register of political parties.

§ 2 The name of the coalition election committee shall contain the words "Coalition Electoral Committee" and the name of the electoral coalition or abbreviation of the electoral coalition. The name of the electoral coalition may also be the name of political party electoral coalition, or abbreviations of these party names, reflecting the registered name of these parties in the register of political parties. The name of the coalition committee may not be longer than 45 characters.

§ 3 The name of an election committees of an organization shall contain the words "Election Committee" and the organization name or acronym of the organization, reflecting the name of the organization registered with the competent authority.

§ 4 The name of the voter election committees shall contain the words "Electoral Committee" and the name of the election committee or an abbreviation of its name clearly distinguishable from the names and abbreviations of other electoral committees.

§ 5 The name of the voter election committees created in order to participate in the presidential election shall contain the words "Electoral Committee for the Presidential Candidate" and the name of the candidate.

§ 6 The name and abbreviation of the election committee should be clearly distinguishable from the names and abbreviations of names of other electoral committees.

### **Article 93**

§ 1 The graphic design of the symbol of the election committee of a political party may be the same as the graphic symbol of the party, as reflected in the register of political parties.

§ 2 The graphic symbol of the coalition election committee may be a combination of graphic symbols of political parties forming the committee or the graphic symbol of one of these parties as registered in the register of political parties.

§ 3 The graphic design of the symbol of the election committee of voters must be clearly distinguishable from the graphics symbols of other electoral committees.

### **Article 94**

The name, acronym and graphic symbol used by the electoral committee is protected by provisions on intellectual property rights.

### **Article 95**

§ 1 It shall not be considered as a defect in the notice on the establishment of the electoral committee of a political party or election committee organization legally registered by the competent authority in the case that the name or abbreviation of the name is the same or insufficiently different from the names or abbreviations of other electoral committees. The authority which issued the earlier decision to accept the notification of the establishment of the electoral committee, which has the same or insufficiently distinct name or abbreviation, shall change the name and or abbreviation of the elections committee providing notice of establishment on prior consultation with the legal representative. In the absence of agreement of the legal representative, the authority which issued the order, shall be repeal the order and

request the legal representative to remove the defect within 3 days. The provisions of Article. 97 § 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly.

§ 2 The name and abbreviation of the electoral committee established by voters affiliated with registered organizations of national minorities may be synonymous with the name and abbreviation of the organization. The notification to set up such a committee shall be accompanied by a document issued by the competent authority of the statutory national minority organization attesting to the establishment of the election committee by voters who are members of this organization.

§ 3 The name and abbreviation of the voter election committee must be different from the name or abbreviation of registered political parties or registered organizations in the official register of such, kept by the competent authority.

### **Article 96**

A person may be a legal representative of financial representative of only one election committee.

### **Article 97**

§ 1 If the notice referred to in art. 86 § 2, Art. 87 § 5, Art. 88 § 3, Art. 89 § 4 and art. 90 § 5 meets the conditions set out in the Code, the competent electoral authority shall accept the notice, within 3 days from the date of filing. The decision to accept the notice must be communicated immediately to the legal representative.

§ 2 If the notice contains a defect, the competent electoral authority shall submit a request within 3 days, to the legal representative for removal of the defect within 5 days. In the case of defects not removed within the specified time limit the relevant electoral authority shall refuse to take notice. The decision to refuse to accept the notice, accompanied by a justification shall be delivered immediately to the legal representative.

§ 3 The legal representative has the right to file a complaint against the decision to refuse to accept notice, to the competent body.

### **Article 98**

The election committee can engage in electoral activities following the issuance of the decisions to take notice, referred to in Art 97, by the competent authority.

### **Article 99**

The competent electoral authority shall publish the decision to take notice referred to in Art 97, in the Bulletin of Public Information.

## **Article 100**

§ 1 The election Committee, subject to § 2 and 3, is terminated by operation of law after 60 days from the day:

- 1) of adoption of the financial statements of the election committee by the competent electoral authority or;
- 2) of ineffective expiry of the time limit for filing a complaint appeal referred to in art. 145 § 1 and 5, or;
- 3) of handing down of the ruling referred to in art. 145 § 2 or 5, concerning the complaint or appeal of a decision of the competent electoral authority's decision to reject the report.

§ 2 An election committee entitled to the subsidy referred to in art. 150 or art. 151, is terminated by operation of law after 6 months from the date of receipt of the grant.

§ 3 If an electoral complaint has been filed against the validity of elections, the validity of elections in the electoral district or the validity of the election of a person, the election committee, which has registered the list of candidates or a candidate is not dissolved before the court decision becomes final.

## **Article 101**

§ 1 The election committee may be dissolved before the election based on the provisions of its creation, subject to § 3. The dissolution of the committee shall be notified immediately to the electoral body, who took notice of the creation of the committee. In the case that dissolution of the committee occurs after the registration of candidates or candidate lists, the relevant elections commission shall also be informed.

§ 2 Following the adoption by the competent authority of a notice on the created a coalition committee, changes to the composition of the coalition commission are unacceptable. A unilateral statement of withdrawal from the coalition committee has no legal force.

§ 3 Voter election committee are terminated by operation of law, if the number of people who have established the election committee is less than the minimum number specified by the Code.

## **Article 102**

§ 1 Within 7 days from the date of acceptance by the competent authority of the notice to establish the election committee, the legal representative shall notify the authority of the address of the website on which the election committee places the information specified by the Code.

§ 2 The competent authority shall provide information regarding the addresses of web-sites referred to in § 1 in the Public Information Bulletin.

§ 3 The obligation referred to in § 1 does not apply to election committees, which submit candidates solely to the municipal council or district council.

## **Article 103**

§ 1 The legal representative or a person empowered by him or her may nominate a steward to each elections commission. If the election committee did not register candidates or lists of

candidates in all constituencies, the stewards may be appointed to the constituency elections commission on the territory of the constituency in which the candidate of list of candidates has been registered. In the election of mayor the election committee may designate stewards for the entire municipality.

§ 2 The legal representative or a person authorized by him or her shall issue the steward with an official certificate, based on the template provided by the National Elections Commission.

§ 3 The function of a steward designated to the National Election Commission, district and territorial electoral commission may be undertaken by the legal representative of the elections committee or a person authorized by him or her.

## **Chapter 12** **The election campaign**

### **Article 104**

The election campaign starts from the date of publication of the announcement of the competent authority ordering the election and ends 24 hours before voting day.

### **Article 105**

§ 1 Electioneering (campaigning) is defined as encouraging the public to vote a certain way or to vote for the candidate of the election committee.

§ 2 Electioneering (campaigning) can be carried out from the date of acceptance by the competent authority of a notice of establishment of the electoral committee in accordance with the provisions on form and place, specified by the Code.

### **Article 106**

§ 1 Each voter can campaign for election candidates, including collecting signatures in support of candidates, based on prior written permission of the legal representative.

§ 2 The signatures, referred to in § 1 can be collected at a time that would preclude the application of any form of duress inflicted for the purpose of their collection.

§ 3 Collecting signatures in exchange for financial or personal benefit is prohibited.

### **Article 107**

§ 1 It is prohibited to campaign on voting day, and 24 hours before voting day, including the convening of meetings, organizing marches and demonstrations, giving speeches and distributing materials.

§ 2 Election campaigning in the polling station and in the building where the premises is located, is prohibited.



## **Article 108**

§ 1 It is forbidden to conduct electioneering:

- 1) in the offices of government administration and local government administration and the courts;
- 2) at the workplace, in a manner and form that would interfere with its normal functioning;
- 3) in military units and other organizational units subordinate to the Ministry of National Defence and civil defense units and subordinated units under the auspices of the minister for internal affairs.

§ 2 Election campaigning with the purposes of reaching students is prohibited in schools

§ 3 School classes on civic education involving the dissemination of knowledge among students about rights and responsibilities of citizens, the meaning of elections in the functioning of a democratic state and the principles of the organization of elections shall not be regarded as election propaganda.

§ 4 It is prohibited for election committees, candidates and voters engaged in campaigning to organize raffles, other games of chance and contests where the winners receive cash prizes or items with a value higher than the value of items commonly used in advertising or promotion.

§ 5 It is forbidden to supply or distribute, in the course of campaigning, alcoholic beverages free of charge or at prices of net value or prices which are not higher than the purchase price or production cost.

## **Article 109**

§ 1 Electoral material is defined as any message issued by the election committee which is made public and connected with information related to the election.

§ 2 Election materials should contain a clear indication of the election committee, from which they derive.

§ 3 Election materials are protected by law.

## **Article 110**

§ 1 Posters and election slogans may only be placed on the walls of buildings, public transport stops, announcement columns, fences, lampposts, power equipment, telecommunications and other places only after obtaining the consent of the owner or property manager of the facility or equipment.

§ 2 Upon the setting up of own equipment for the purpose of the election campaign, regulations of public order should be applied accordingly. The provision of Art. 109 shall also apply as appropriate.

§ 3 Election Posters and slogan should be placed in such a way that they can be removed without causing damage.

§ 4 It is prohibited to display of posters and slogans of a surface area greater than 2m<sup>2</sup>.

§ 5 Municipal police or fire is required to remove, at the expense of electoral committees, posters and elections slogans which are attached in such a manner that may endanger human life or health or safety of property or traffic safety.

§ 6 Posters and slogans and announcement equipment set in up in order to carry out campaigning must be removed 30 days after the election.

§ 7 The mayor shall remove election posters and slogans, and equipment not removed within the period established by § 6. The responsible body bears the costs of the removal.

## **Article 111**

§ 1 Election material disseminated in the press within the meaning of the Act of 26 January 1984 Media Law (Journal of Laws No. 5, item. 24, as amended. D..) including, in particular, posters, leaflets and slogans, as well as speech or other forms of election propaganda, which contain information that is untrue, may be subject to a complaint filed by the legal representative or his or her authorized representative, to the district court for a preliminary ruling:

- 1) prohibiting the dissemination of such information;
- 2) confiscating the election material containing such information;
- 3) ordering the rectification of such information;
- 4) ordering the publication of answers to statements which violate personal rights;
- 5) ordering an apology to the person whose personal rights have been violated;
- 6) requiring the participant to the proceedings to pay the amount to 100,000 zlotys to an organization of public benefit.

§ 2 The District Court recognizes the request referred to in § 1, within 24 hours in non-litigious proceedings. The court may hear the complaint in the case of an excused absence of the applicant or participant in the proceedings, if the hearing has been legally notified. The final order of the court in the proceedings, together with a substantiation, shall be served immediately on the person concerned, as referred to in § 1, with an order to execute the court decision.

§ 3 The decision of the district court may be appealed to the appeals court within 24 hours, which appeals court shall review within 24 hours. The order of the Court of Appeal is not entitled to further appeal and is subject to immediate execution.

§ 4 Publication of the correction, reply or an apology must take place at the latest within 48 hours, at the expense of person ordered to do so. The court ruling shall indicate the media within the meaning of the Act of 26 January 1984 – on Media Law, where such correction reply or apology is to be published, and the required date of such publication.

§ 5 In case of a refusal to publish a correction, reply or apology by the person ordered to do so, in the manner specified in the order for the court, the court shall execute the publication of the correction, reply or apology, *ex officio* at the expense of the person ordered to do so.

§ 5a. The provisions of the Act of 29 December 1992 on Radio and Television concerning advertising activities in television and radio shall be applicable to the corrections, responses or apologies published through radio broadcasters or television, except that the time for their publication does not included advertising time, as defined in Article. 16 of that Act.

§ 6 In matters referred to in § 1, 4 and 5, the provision of art. 104 shall not apply.

## **Article 112**

Information, communications, and electoral slogans, published in newspapers printed at the expense of electoral committees must include an indication of the person or body responsible for paying and from where they originate. The editor as defined, by the Act of 26 January 1984 – Media Law, is responsible for placing this publishing this information.

### **Article 113**

Execution of the rights prescribed by the Code does not limit the possibility of filing complaints by those wronged or harmed, under the provisions of other laws against those persons whose acts or omissions during the election campaign infringed the person's personal or financial interests.

### **Article 114**

Immediately upon commencement of the election campaign the mayor of a municipality shall allocate an adequate number of places for the free posting of official notices of election and election posters and billboards of all committees and will provide a list of sites to the public through ordinary means as well as through the Public Information Bulletin.

### **Article 115**

§ 1 From 24 hours before the vote until the end of voting, it is prohibited to disseminate to the public the results of pre-election surveys, public opinion polls concerning the expected voting behavior and election results and the results of polling conducted on Election Day.

§ 2 The provision of § 1 shall apply on the territory of the Polish Republic.

## **Chapter 13**

### **The election campaign in the programs of radio and television broadcasters**

#### **Article 116 (Deleted)**

### **Article 117**

§ 1 Electoral committees, whose candidates were registered shall, within 15 days before the election until the end of the election campaign, have the right to disseminate, free of charge, broadcasts in the programs of state radio and television broadcasters.

§ 2 Dissemination of broadcasts shall be defined as the emission of speeches of representatives of election committees or candidates as well as emission of recorded broadcasts prepared by the election committees.

§ 3 Election broadcasts are part of the radio or television program, which do not originate from the broadcaster but rather constitute a separate entity as a result of the content or form.

§ 4 The airtime allocated to one election committee can not be transferred to another election committee.

§ 5 Broadcasts of one of the election committee may not contain content which campaigns on behalf of another committee or its candidates.

§ 6 The National Broadcasting Council after consultation with the National Electoral Commission and the respective boards of public radio and television broadcasters and the relevant program councils, shall establish by regulation:

- 1) the time for free distribution of election broadcasts in each of the national and regional programs,
  - 2) time-sharing framework for free distribution of election programs for the period 15 days before polling day until the end of election campaign
  - 3) procedures in matters of allocation of free broadcast time,
  - 4) the manner of recording and preparation of the emission of election broadcasts, taking into account the type of broadcast and recording medium,
  - 5) the manner of dissemination of information about the dates of election broadcasts
- having regard to the type of election being carried out and the need to ensure the most senior technical standard broadcast election programs, as well as the widespread availability of election broadcasts and information about the dates of their issue.

### **Article 118**

§ 1 Election Committee election broadcasts shall be delivered to public broadcasting radio and television, not later than 24 hours before their dissemination.

§ 2 Time of emission of election programs provided by the electoral committees shall not exceed the time established for them under the provisions of Article. 117 § 6

§ 3 In the event that a public radio or television broadcaster deems that the election broadcast materials exceed the time fixed for those programs, the broadcaster shall call upon the election committee immediately requesting the shortening of the program. In case the election committee does not respond to the request of the broadcaster to shorten the programme, the broadcaster shall interrupt the emission at the point at which the broadcast reaches the allowable limit.

### **Article 119 (Deleted)**

### **Article 120**

§ 1 Polish Television SA, hereinafter referred to as "Polish Television", has a duty to conduct debates between those representatives of electoral committees in elections to the Sejm or to the European Parliament, who have registered their candidates in all constituencies, and between candidates in the case of elections for the post of the President of the Republic. The time allocated to conducting of debate is not included in the air time, referred to in art. 117

§ 2 The National Broadcasting Council shall determine by regulation, after consultation with the Board of Polish Television, the detailed rules and procedures for carrying out the debates, referred to in § 1, including the duration of the debates and the national program, in which the debate will be conducted, how to prepare and issue debates, and how to disseminate information about the date of debates - in order to ensure respect for the principle of equality of presenting positions and opinions of the debate.

### **Article 121**

Detailed rules and procedures for conducting electioneering (campaigning) in public programs and non-public radio and television broadcasters shall be established by specific provisions of the Code.

### **Article 122**

§ 1 From date of announcement of the elections until and including voting day, public broadcasters shall provide the State Election Commission and election commissioners, the opportunity to present free of charge, information, clarifications and related messages regarding the elections and provisions of law in force in this regard, in national and regional programs,

§ 2 The National Broadcasting Council, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission and the boards of public radio and television broadcasters, shall, by regulation, establish the procedure for the cases referred to in § 1, taking into account the need to ensure public information about elections, the rules governing their conduct and the time limitations arising from the electoral calendar.

## **Chapter 14**

### **Funding of elections from the state budget**

### **Article 123**

Expenses related to the organization and conduct of elections shall be borne by the state budget in the section on Reserves, based on the principles defined in this chapter.

### **Article 124**

§ 1 The state budget covers the expenses associated with:

- 1) the activities of the National Electoral Commission and the National Electoral Office as stipulated by the Code;
- 2) the activities of the election commissioners and lower level election commissions, as well as for the purposes of ensuring their management by the bodies and organization entities designated for this purpose;
- 3) the activities of government administration bodies and their subordinate central offices and agencies, as well as other state bodies;
- 4) the duties assigned to local government units;
- 5) reimbursement of expenditures referred to in art. 154 § 6

§ 2 Financial resources for the tasks that must be performed by local government units shall be transferred in such time as to allow for their proper execution.

§ 3 Information on the expenditures referred to in § 1 point 1-4, shall be provided to the public by the Head of the National Electoral Office within 5 months from the date of the election.

§ 4 Principles of financial planning and the expenditure referred to in § 1 and 2, and as well as the requisite financial reporting shall be stipulated by the provisions of the Act of 27 August 2009 on Public Funds (Journal of Laws No. 157, item. 1240, as amended).

§ 5 The state budget also provides an annual amount of resources in the Reserve section of the budget for early elections and supplementary elections.

§ 6 Disposal of funds referred to in § 1, is within the powers of the head of the National Election Office

## **Chapter 15**

### **Financing of election campaigns**

#### **Article 125**

Financing of election campaigns is public (transparent).

#### **Article 126**

Expenses incurred by the election committees in connection with called elections are covered from their own resources.

#### **Article 127**

§ 1 The financial management of the election committee is the responsibility of and carried out by the financial representative.

§ 2 The financial representative shall not be:

- 1) a candidate for MP, a candidate for senator, candidate for Member of the European Parliament or a candidate for President of the Republic;
- 2) the legal representative, subject to Art. 403 § 5, paragraph 1;
- 3) a public official within the meaning of art. 115 § 13 of the Criminal Code.

§ 3 A person may be a financial representative of only one election committee.

#### **Article 128**

Election committees to carry out their accounting on the principles defined in the Act of 29 September 1994 on Accounting (Journal of Laws of 2009 No. 152, item. 1223, No. 157, item. 1241 and No. 165, item. 1316 and of 2010, No. 47, pos. 278) for non-commercial entities.

#### **Article 129**

§ 1 Election committees may raise and disburse funds only for purposes related to the election.

§ 2 It is forbidden for the election committee to raise any funds:

- 1) before acceptance by the competent authority of a notice on the establishment of the electoral committee;
- 2) after the election.

§ 3 It is prohibited for the election committee to disburse any funds:

- 1) before acceptance by the competent authority of a notice of establishment of the electoral committee;
- 2) after the date of the financial statements referred to in art. 142 § 1

### **Article 130**

§ 1 Responsibility for the financial obligations of the election committee shall be borne by the financial representative.

§ 2 Without the written consent of the financial representative financial obligations may not be incurred on behalf of and for the election committee.

§ 3 In the case where the assets and property of the financial representative can not cover claims against the election committee, the responsibility for financial commitments shall rest with:

- 1) in relation to the financial obligation of the election – by the committee of a political party or organization or the political party which formed an election committee, and; in the case of the election committee established by an ordinary association – by the members of the association jointly;
- 2) in relation to the financial obligation of a coalition election committee - by the political parties included in the electoral coalition jointly;
- 3) in relation to the financial obligations of a voters election committee - by the person of voters included in the committee jointly.

§ 4 Responsibility for the financial obligations referred to in § 1-3, also includes the obligations related to the settlement of financial benefits taken by the committee or arising as a result of violation of the Code, excluding benefits referred to in art. 149 § 4

### **Article 131**

§ 1 It is prohibited to transfer funds and in-kind benefits from one election committee to the benefit of another committee.

§ 2 It is prohibited for the election committee to carry out public collections.

### **Article 132**

§ 1 The financial resources of the election committee of a political party can only come from the fund the election of the party, created pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 27 June 1997 on Political Parties (Journal of Laws of 2001 No. 79, item. 857, with further . d...)

§ 2 The funding coalition election committee shall only come from election funds of political parties comprising the coalition election.

§ 3 Financial resources of:

- 1) the election committee of an organization,
- 2) the voters election committee

- shall only come from the contributions of Polish citizens with their permanent domicile in the Polish Republic, and bank loans taken out solely for purposes related to elections.

§ 4 The financial resources of the election committee for the candidate for President of the Republic can only come from the contributions of Polish citizens with permanent domicile in the Polish Republic, and the election funds of political parties and bank loans taken out for purposes related to elections.

§ 5 Electoral committees may not accept in-kind benefits, with the exception of free dissemination of posters, slogans and leaflets by individuals.

§ 6 A guarantor of the loan referred to in § 3 and 4 may only be a Polish citizen having permanent domicile in the Republic of Poland, and the commitment of the guarantor may not exceed an amount equal to the sum of payment referred to in Article. 134 § 2. Security established on the loan is not transferable.

### **Article 133**

§ 1 The election committee of a political party and coalition election committee, have free access during the election campaign to the premises of political party, as well as their office supplies.

§ 2 The voters election committee can enjoy free access to the premises and office supplies of a member of the committee, during the election campaign.

§ 3 The election committee of an organization can enjoy free access to the organization's premises and office supplies during the election campaign.

### **Article 134**

§ 1 The financial resources of the election committee shall be collected on only one bank account. The notice referred to in art. 97, provides the basis for opening a bank account, an entry in the Register of National Economy (REGON) and give a tax identification number (NIP) on the terms specified in the regulations on registration and identification of taxpayers.

§ 2 The sum of contributions from a Polish citizen for the election committee may not exceed 15 times the minimum wage, defined under the Act of 10 October 2002 on the minimum wage (Journal of Laws No. 200, item. 1679 , 2004, No. 240, item. 2407 and of 2005 No. 157, item. 1314), in force on the day preceding the date of announcement of elections.

§ 3 A candidate for MP, a candidate for senator, candidate for President of the Republic, and candidate for MEP who is a Polish citizen can contribute to the election committee a sum of not more than 45 times the minimum salary for the work defined under separate regulations, in force on the day following the date of announcement of elections.

§ 4 If the sum of the contributions of a Polish national to an election committee exceeds the amount set out respectively in § 2 or 3, then the excess amount above the allowable limit shall be forfeited to the State under the terms of art. 149

§ 5 The funds may be contributed to the electoral committee by bank check, bank transfer or bank (debit/credit) card.

§ 6 The agreement on establishment of a bank account agreement concluded on behalf of the electoral committee must include a provision form of payment required by the Code as, the acceptable sources of funds that may be received by a election committee, as well as the time within which it is permissible to make payments.



### **Article 135**

§ 1 Electoral committees shall disburse only the amount of funds set by the limits established by the specific provisions of the Code, for the purposes of the election campaign.

§ 2 Expenditures of the election committee, who has submitted candidates for more than one elected body, is calculated as a cumulative amount deriving from the sum of all limits set by the specific provisions of the Code, disbursed for the purpose of the election campaign.

### **Article 136**

Expenditure of the election committee for election propaganda conducted in the forms and based on the principles of advertising, including in the press within the meaning of the Act of 26 January 1984 - Law baler-in, can not exceed 80% of the limit referred to in Article 135.

### **Article 137 (Deleted)**

### **Article 138**

§ 1 In the event of surplus of funds raised for the purposes of the election campaign the electoral committee shall deposit the funds into the election fund of the political party.

§ 2 In the event of surplus funds raised for purposes of the election campaign, a coalition electoral committee deposit the surplus funds to the election funds of the political parties in the proportion set out in the coalition agreement, and in the absence of relevant provisions thereon, the funds shall be transferred to an organization of public benefit. The financial representative shall inform the competent electoral authority of the transfer of the surplus funds within 7 days from the date of transfer.

§ 3 In the case of acquired surplus funds for the campaign by electoral committees referred to in art. 88-90, these committees will transfer the surplus funds to an organization of public benefit. The financial representative shall inform the competent electoral authority of the transfer of the surplus.

§ 4 The amount of the surplus shall be determined following final affirmation (acceptance or rejection) by the competent authority of the financial statements, subject to the obligation undertaken referred to in art. 130 § 2

§ 5 Transfer of surplus occurs within 14 days from the day:

- 1) service of the order of the adoption of the financial statements or
- 2) ineffective expiry of the deadline for lodging a complaint or an appeal referred to in art. 145, or
- 3) validation of a decision of the court - in the event of a complaint or appeal referred to in art. 145, or
- 4) the coming into force of a court ruling on the forfeiture to the state budget, financial benefits taken by the election committee in violation of the Code - in the case referred to in art. 149 § 5

### **Article 139**

All calls and written information provided by the election committee and election committee of electors of organizations to raise funds for the election must include information about the content of art. 132 § 3-5, Art. 134 § 3, Art. 149 § 1 and art. 506

### **Article 140**

§ 1 The Committee is obliged to keep records of:

- 1) loans, including the name of the bank granting the loan and all the essential conditions for its recovery, in particular: the date of the loan, its amount, interest and other costs of its acquiring, guarantors, and the commitment to be repaid;
- 2) payment from one individual of a value exceeding the amount of the minimum wage, defined under the Act of 10 October 2002 on the minimum wage, as applicable on the day preceding the announcement of the date of elections, indicating the name, surname and place of residence of such person.

§ 2 The committee is obliged to publish the records referred to in § 1, on its website, and keep it updated in order to ensure information on loans and deposits are made public within 7 days of such loan or deposit being made.

§ 3 The records referred to in § 1, should be placed on the website of the committee at least until the day of:

- 1) providing financial statements by the National Electoral Commission to the public or
- 2) submission of financial statements by the electoral commissioner.

§ 4 The minister responsible for public finance, after consultation with the National Elections Commission will determine, by regulation the templates applicable to the records referred to in § 1, the manner of their conduct, and the manner of their transfer to electoral authorities, in particular:

- 1) the scope of data contained in the records
  - 2) methods of updating registers,
  - 3) presentation of the information contained in the registers on the website of the committee
- Having regard to the importance of the clarity and legibility of the data contained in the records.

§ 5 The obligation referred to in § 1 does not apply to election committees, who submitted a candidate or candidates only to municipal council or district council elections.

### **Article 141**

§ 1 Financing of electoral committees of political parties in matters not governed by this Code, is governed by the provisions of the Act of 27 June 1997 on Political Parties.

§ 2 Since the adoption by the competent electoral body of the notice referred to respectively in Articles. 86 § 2, or Article. 87 § 5, until the election day, a political party, which established an election committee on its own or as part of the electoral coalition, can not campaign to promote the objectives of programmatic political party policy.

### **Article 142**

§ 1 Within 3 months from the date of the election, the financial representative shall submit to the competent electoral body, to which the elections committee submitted its notification of establishment, a report on revenues, expenditures and financial commitments of the committee, including bank loans and the basis on which they were obtained hereinafter referred to as "financial report."

§ 2 If the financial report shall be submitted to the National Electoral Commission to reporting statements shall be accompanied by an auditor's report.

§ 3 An auditor's opinion and report, is not required in the cases where the financial representatives submits a declaration within 30 days of election day, notifying the competent authority that the election committee had no income, no expenses were incurred and no financial obligations were undertaken.

§ 4 The auditor referred to in § 2, the National Electoral Commission is selected from among candidates nominated by the National Council of Chartered Accountants in the number agreed with the National Electoral Commission.

§ 5 The election commissioner, examining the financial reports, may order analysis, expert opinion and reports.

§ 6 The costs of an opinion and the reports referred to in § 2 and 5, are charged to the state budget in the Budget, in the section on public finances and financial institutions.

§ 7 The minister responsible for public finance, after consultation with the State Electoral Commission, shall, by regulation, establish the form of financial reports and the detailed scope of information required to be contained therein as well as a list of the types of documents that must accompany the financial report, so to enable verification of the reports and information provided.

### **Article 143**

§ 1 In elections to the Sejm and the Senate, the European Parliament elections and election of the President of the Republic, the National Electoral Commission publishes the financial reports of the election committees within 30 days from the date of their submission, in the Public Information Bulletin.

§ 2 The financial reports referred to in § 1, shall be published by the National Electoral Commission in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, "Polish Monitor" after the expiry of the period mentioned in § 1

§ 3 The financial reports are submitted to the electoral commissioner and may be made available by him on request of stakeholders. The election commissioner shall publish, in the form of a communication in the printed media with coverage of at least the extent of a region (*"vovoidship"*) about the place, time and manner in which the financial reports may be open for inspection.

§ 4 The record of deposits made by polish citizens to the elections commissions of organisations and election commissions of voters shall be made available by the National Electoral Commission upon request, in the mode and manner prescribed by the Act of August 29, 1997 on the protection of personal data (Journal of Laws 2002, No. 101, pos. 926, as amended.)

§ 5 Other types of documents annexed to the financial reports are made available for inspection by entities listed in Article. 144 § 7 in the period provided for raising objection to the financial report, and to all other entities, they are made available after this period pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 6 September 2001 on Access to Public Information.

## Article 144

§ 1 Within 6 months from the date of submission of the financial report the electoral body, which has received the financial report shall:

- 1) adopt the report without reservations;
- 2) adopt the report, pointing to any irregularities, or
- 3) reject the report if it finds:
  - a) the raising or spending of funds by the election committee is in violation of the provisions of Article 29, or the limits, referred to in art. 135,
  - b) that public collections were carried out in spite of the prohibition referred to in art. 131 § 2,
  - c) acceptance by the election committee of a political party or coalition election committee, funds from a source other than the Election Fund,
  - d) the adoption by a voters election committee or an election committee of an organization of financial benefits, or in-kind benefit in violation of the provisions of Article. 132 § 3-6,
  - e) acceptance by the election committee of a political party or coalition election committee of in-kind benefits in violation of Article. 132 § 5

§ 2 Rejection of the financial report may also occur in the case that security for loans was issued in breach of Article. 132 § 6, as well as actions undertake which resulted in a reduction of the liabilities of the committee by a person other than that mentioned in art. 132 § 6, or made in violation of the limit of the payments referred to in art. 134 § 2

§ 3 In case of doubt as to the accuracy of financial reports, the relevant electoral body may call upon an election committee to report defects or to provide additional clarifications within a specified period.

§ 4 The electoral body, examining financial reports, may commission expert reports or opinions.

§ 5 Public administration bodies shall provide the State Election Commission, at its request, assistance necessary to study the financial reports.

§ 6 Supervisory authorities, auditing and inspection, functioning within government administration and territorial self-government bodies cooperate with the National Electoral Commission and are required to provide the State Election Commission, at its request, the results of the audit carried out by these authorities.

§ 7 Within 30 days from the announcement of financial reports:

- 1) political parties,
  - 2) electoral committees, which participated in any election,
  - 3) associations and foundations, which in their statutes declare activities related to analysis of financing of election campaigns
- May submit to the National Electoral Commission, written substantiated objections to the financial reports of electoral committees.

§ 8 An electoral body, within 60 days from the date of filing objections referred to in § 7, shall provide a written response thereto.

## Article 145

§ 1 In case of rejection of the financial reports of the election committee by the State Election Commission the financial representative, within 14 days of service of the decision to reject the

report, has the right appeal to the Supreme Court against the order of the National Electoral Commission's decision to reject the report.

§ 2 The Supreme Court examines the complaint and issues a decision on the matter within 60 days of receipt of the complaint. The judgment shall be served on the financial representative and the State Election Commission.

§ 3 The Supreme Court bench which considers complaints is composed of seven judges, in non-litigious proceedings.

§ 4 A judgment of the Supreme Court is not subject to any further remedies.

§ 5 In case the financial reports of an election committee are rejected by the election commissioner the financial representative of the committee is entitled to submit an appeal to the regional court within 14 day of service of the decision of rejection. The appeal the district court take place in non- litigious proceedings followed the proceedings which must take place within 30 days of receipt of the appeal. The decision of the district court is not entitled to any further remedy.

§ 6 If the Supreme Court or the district court finds the complaint referred to in § 1, or an appeal referred to in § 5, of the financial representative to be justified, the National Electoral Commission or election commissioner, as appropriate, shall adopt the financial report immediately.

§ 7 After the expiry of the time limit for bringing the appeal referred to in § 1, or in cases referred to in § 5, or after the issuance of the decision referred to in § 2 or 5 any the appeal or complaint of the financial representative shall be considered unfounded, and the body, which to whom the financial report was submitted shall communicate its decision of rejection of the reports to the chief of the competent local tax office appropriate for the registered office of the election committee.

#### **Article 146**

The electoral body, to whom the financial report was submitted, shall publish in the Bulletin of Public Information, in the form of a communication, information about the acceptance or rejection of the financial reports of electoral committees.

#### **Article 147**

§ 1 In the event of failure to submit the financial report by:

- 1) The election committee of a political party - a political party is not entitled to subsidies referred to in art. 150 or art. 151, and the right to subsidies referred to in art. 28 of the Act of 27 June 1997 on Political Parties;
- 2) The election committee of a coalition - a political party forming part of the electoral coalition is not entitled to subsidies referred to in art. 150 or art. 151, and the right to subsidies referred to in art. 28 of the Act of 27 June 1997 on Political Parties;
- 3) The election committee of voters – is not entitled to subsidies referred to in art. 150 or art. 151

§ 2 Financial reports submitted after the specified time limit shall be subject to the provisions of art. 142-145.

#### **Article 148**

§ 1 In case of rejection by the National Electoral Commission of the financial report or the denial of a complaint referred to in art. 145 § 1, the subsidy granted to the political party or voters election committee referred to in art. 150 or art. 151, is reduced by an amount equal to three times the amount of funds raised or expenditure made in violation of the provisions referred to in art. 144 § 1 point 3

§ 2 In case of rejection by the National Electoral Commission, of the financial report or the denial of a complaint referred to in art. 145 § 1, the subsidy granted to the political party referred to in art. 28 of the Act of 27 June 1997 on Political Parties, is reduced by an amount equal to three times the amount of funds acquired or expenditure made in violation of the provisions referred to in art. 144 § 1 point 3

§ 3 Deduction of grants or subsidies referred to in § 1 and 2 may not exceed 75% of the grant referred to in art. 150 § 1 and art. 151 § 1, or 75% of the amount of the subsidy referred to in art. 28 of the Act of 27 June 1997 on political parties.

### **Article 149**

§ 1 Financial benefits acquired by the election committee in violation of the Code, shall be forfeited to the State Treasury. If the acquired amount has been expended or lost, its equivalent shall be forfeited.

§ 2 The pecuniary benefit forfeited to the State Treasury, is also the value of activities carried out resulting in a reduction value of the liabilities of the committee by a person other than that mentioned in Article. 132 § 6, or made in violation of the principles referred to in art. 132 § 6, or Article. 134 § 2

§ 3 § 1 does not apply to financial benefits given to an election committee in breach of the provisions of the Code, which the election committee returned within 30 days of their transfer.

§ 4 § 1 does not apply to financial benefits given to an election committee in breach of the provisions of the Code, which benefits or their equivalent are within 14 days from the date of delivery of election committee decision on acceptance or rejection of its financial reports, and in case of complaint or appeal referred to in art. 145 § 1 and 5 - within 14 days from the date the decision becomes final issued by a competent court, that have been voluntarily deposited into the bank account of the tax office competent for the registered office of the committee. In kind benefits received by the election committee shall be transferred to such tax office. Confirmation of payment of the transferred material benefit or its equivalent by the election committee shall be communicated to the competent election authority by the election committee.

§ 5 The acceptance of financial gain in violation of the Code is decided upon by the competent election authority in the decision on acceptance or rejection of the financial reports.

§ 6 In the event of failure to undertake the actions referred to in § 4 of the first and second sentence, or one of those activities, the head of the tax office competent for the registered office of the election committee, at the request of the National Electoral Commission and electoral commissioner, shall file a motion to the court against the entities referred to in art. 130 § 1, for a ruling on the forfeiture of the benefits or their equivalent or otherwise the transfer or material benefit or its equivalent.

§ 7 The district court appropriate for the registered office of the tax authority referred to in § 6 has the jurisdiction to adjudicate in matters referred to in § 1.

§ 8 The District Court hears cases referred to in § 6, in non-litigious proceedings.

§ 9 Execution of a benefit or its equivalent shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of administrative proceedings for execution of monetary claims. The body executing the order shall be the head of office of tax office referred to in § 6

§ 10 Seized movable property, debts and other property rights are converted into monetary assets by the head of the tax office in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 17 June 1966 on the execution of orders in administration (Journal of Laws of 2005 No. 229, item. 1954, as amended) regarding the execution monetary claims.

## Article 150

§ 1 The political party, whose election committee participated in the elections, the political party comprising an election coalition committee, and the election committee of voters participating in elections to the Sejm and the Senate is entitled to a grant from the state budget, hereinafter referred to as an “entity subsidy”, for each mandate for deputy and senator obtained. Expenses incurred as a result of the entity subsidy shall be covered by the state budget from the section on Budget for public finance and financial institutions.

§ 2 The amount of subsidy is calculated as follows:

$$D_p = \frac{W}{560} \times M,$$

560

where the symbols are defined as:

$D_p$  - the amount of subsidy afforded,

$W$  - total campaign expenses of election committees (up to the amount of spending limits allocated to electoral committees in elections to the Sejm and the Senate), which received at least one mandate,

$M$  - the number of mandates of deputies and senators received by the election committee.

§ 3 The entity subsidy applies only to expenditures revealed in financial reports.

§ 4 The entity subsidy shall be granted in the Operators in the amount referred to in § 2 and 3, and for each mandate for Deputy or Senator, obtained re-election to the Sejm and the Senate, and supplementary elections to the Senate.

§ 5 The amount of subsidy enjoyed by the political party forming part of the electoral coalition is determined by dividing the amount calculated in accordance with § 2, between the parties forming the coalition in the proportions specified in the agreement establishing the electoral coalition. Proportions specified in this agreement can not be changed. If the political parties forming the coalition in the election did not indicate the proportion in an agreement the subsidy shall be paid to them in equal parts.

§ 6 The transfer of the subsidy to the designated entities referred to in § 1, shall be made to their bank account by the minister responsible for public finances on the basis of the information provided by the National Electoral Commission on those entitled to receive the subsidy as well

as the number of mandates received by the electoral committee. The subsidy is paid within 9 months from the date of the election.

§ 7 In the case of division, merger or liquidation of political parties, their entitlement to subsidies shall be governed by the provisions of art. 37 of the Act of 27 June 1997 on Political Parties.

### **Article 151**

§ 1 The political party whose election committee participated in the elections, the political party that is part of the election coalition, and the election committee of voters participating in European Parliament elections are entitled to a subsidy hereinafter referred to as the “entity subsidy” from the state budget, for each mandate for each MEP, obtained. Expenses related to the entity subsidy shall be covered by the state budget in the section on Budget for public finances and financial institutions.

§ 2 The amount of subsidy is calculated as follows:

$$D_p = \frac{W}{L} \times M,$$

where the symbols are defined as:

$D_p$  - the amount of subsidy afforded,

$I_n$  - the amount of zloty equal to the number of voters who voted,

$L$  - the number of elected deputies in the Polish Republic to the European Parliament

$M$  - number of seats won by the electoral committee.

§ 3 The grant applies only to expenditure revealed the financial reports adopted by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 4 The amount of subsidy enjoyed by the political party forming part of the electoral coalition is determined by dividing the amount calculated in accordance with § 2, between the parties forming the coalition in the proportions specified in the agreement establishing the electoral coalition. Proportions specified in this agreement can not be changed. If the political parties forming the coalition in the election did not indicate the proportion in the coalition agreement, the subsidy is payable to each of them in equal parts.

§ 5. The transfer of the subsidy to the designated entities referred to in § 1, shall be made to their bank account by the minister responsible for public finances on the basis of the information provided by the National Electoral Commission on those entitled to receive the subsidy as well as the number of mandates received by the electoral committee. The subsidy is paid within 9 months from the date of the election.

§ 6 In the case of division, merger or liquidation of political parties, their entitlement to subsidies shall be governed by the provisions of art. 37 of the Act of 27 June 1997 on political parties.

## **Section II**

### **Electoral bodies**



## **Chapter 1**

### **General provisions**

#### **Article 152.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission and election commissioners are permanent electoral bodies.

§ 2. District, regional and territorial electoral commissions and precinct electoral commissions respectively are electoral bodies established in connection with ordered elections.

§ 3. Voivodship, poviats and communal electoral commissions are the territorial electoral commissions.

§ 4. An operational and territorial competence of the electoral commissions mentioned in § 2 and 3 is stipulated in special provisions of the code.

#### **Article 153.**

§ 1. One shall be entitled to be a member of only one electoral commission. Candidates in elections, electoral plenipotentiaries, financial plenipotentiaries and persons of trust shall not have the right to be members of commissions.

§ 2. Membership in an electoral commission shall expire on the date of signing consent to candidature in elections or of taking up duties of the plenipotentiary or person of trust mentioned in § 1.

§ 3. Members of an electoral commission shall not be entitled to carry out election agitation for particular candidates and lists of candidates.

#### **Article 154.**

§ 1. Members of electoral commissions shall be entitled to:

- 1) allowances and reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses;
- 2) flat-rate allowances for the time of performing tasks of a commission member with regard to members of district, regional and territorial electoral commissions and for the time connected with carrying out of voting and determining of voting results with regard to members of precinct electoral commissions.

§ 2. If a member of a district, regional or territorial electoral commission has not participated in all meetings of the commission, the allowance mentioned in § 1 point 2 which he/she is entitled to shall be reduced proportionally to the number of the commission meetings in which he/she has not participated.

§ 3. Members of the National Electoral Commission as well as chairpersons of district and regional electoral commissions who perform duties ex officio as election commissioners shall not be entitled to the flat-rate allowances mentioned in § 1 point 2.

§ 3a. The provision of § 1 point 1 shall apply accordingly to members of the National Electoral Commission and election commissioners.

§ 4. A member of a precinct or territorial electoral commission in connection with performance of tasks shall be entitled to maximum 5 days of leave from work retaining the right to social security benefits and the rights under the employment relationship, excluding the right to remuneration.

§ 5. Members of electoral commissions shall enjoy legal protection provided for public officials and shall bear responsibility just as public officials.

§ 6. Pursuant to provisions of the Act of 30 October 2002 on maintenance in view of occupational accidents or diseases occurred in special circumstances (OJ No. 199, item 1674, with subsequent amendments), members of electoral commissions shall be entitled to maintenance in view of an accident while performing tasks of these commissions.

§ 7. The National Electoral Commission by way of a resolution shall determine:

1) the amount and detailed rules on granting the allowances, reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses as well as flat-rate allowances mentioned in § 1,

2) conditions for reducing the amount of allowances for members of electoral commissions in the event of non-participation in performance of some tasks of the commissions,

3) ways of documenting of the days of leave from work mentioned in § 4

– taking into account the scope of duties of members of electoral commissions.

### **Article 155.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission, an election commissioner, a district electoral commission and a regional electoral commission shall be entitled to set up, for the election period, their inspections to implement tasks laid down in the code.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall be entitled to entrust performance of its inspection's tasks to inspections set up by an election commissioner, a district electoral commission or a regional electoral commission.

§ 3. Provisions of Article 154 § 1 and 4–6 shall apply accordingly to persons appointed to the inspections.

§ 4. The National Electoral Commission by way of a resolution shall determine:

- 1) the amount and detailed rules on granting allowances, flat-rate allowances and reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses to persons appointed to the inspections,
  - 2) ways of documenting of days of leave from work for the period of participation in works of the inspections
- taking into account the scope of duties of persons appointed to the inspections.

### **Article 156.**

§ 1. Services as well as technical and material working conditions for precinct and territorial electoral commissions, including the possibility of using electronic technology, and performance of tasks connected with organisation and carrying out of elections on the territory of a commune, poviát or voivodship shall be ensured respectively by a commune head, staroste or a marshal of a voivodship. The tasks performed within this scope shall be ordered tasks of territorial self-government units.

§ 2. Organisational units which permanently manage state and municipal immovable properties shall be obliged to make the premises available free of charge:

- 1) at the request of a director of a territorially competent regional office of the National Electoral Office –intended for seats of district and territorial electoral commissions;
- 2) at the request of a commune head – intended for seats of precinct electoral commissions.

§ 3. The premises intended for seats of electoral bodies should be easily accessible for the disabled.

§ 4. Also premises of entities other than mentioned in § 2 can be intended for seats of electoral commissions, after prior agreement with entities managing these premises.

§ 5. Provisions of § 1-4 shall apply accordingly to captains of Polish sea ships and consuls.

## **Chapter 2**

### **The National Electoral Commission**

#### **Article 157.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission is a permanent, supreme electoral body competent to carry out elections and referendums.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall comprise:

- 1) 3 judges of the Constitutional Tribunal designated by the President of the Constitutional Tribunal;

2) 3 judges of the Supreme Court designated by the First President of the Supreme Court;

3) 3 judges of the Supreme Administrative Court designated by the President of the Supreme Administrative Court.

§ 3. The judges mentioned in § 2 shall be appointed to the National Electoral Commission by the President of the Republic of Poland by decision.

§ 4. Also a retired judge can be a member of or be appointed to the National Electoral Commission.

§ 5. The National Electoral Commission shall appoint a chairperson and two deputy chairpersons from among its members.

§ 6. Duties of the secretary of the National Electoral Commission shall be performed by the Head of the National Electoral Office who shall attend its meetings in an advisory capacity.

§ 7. The decision mentioned in § 3 shall be made known to the public and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

#### **Article 158.**

§ 1. Membership in the National Electoral Commission shall expire in the event:

1) of resigning from the membership;

2) mentioned in Article 153 § 2;

3) of death of a member of the Commission;

4) when a member of the Commission who is a retired judge has turned 70 years of age;

5) of dismissal by the President of the Republic of Poland at the reasoned request of a President who has designated a judge to be a member of the Commission.

§ 2. Composition of the National Electoral Commission shall be completed in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in provisions on its establishment. The provision of Article 157 § 7 shall apply accordingly.

#### **Article 159.**

§ 1. Members of the National Electoral Commission shall perform their duties in the Commission irrespective of their functions within performance of duties as judges.

§ 2. Members of the National Electoral Commission shall be entitled to monthly remuneration determined on the basis of the basic amount taken to determine remuneration of persons who hold state managerial posts, with the use of the multiplying factors:

- 1) for a chairperson – 3.5;
- 2) for a deputy chairperson – 3.2;
- 3) for members of the Commission – 3.0.

§ 3. The remuneration mentioned in § 2 shall be granted irrespective of emolument paid in view of performing duties of a judge or emolument to which a retired judge is entitled.

### **Article 160.**

§ 1. In matters connected with carrying out of elections the National Electoral Commission shall be in charge of:

- 1) supervising compliance with the election law;
- 2) supervision over maintenance and update of the register of voters and over drawing up of lists of voters;
- 3) setting up district and regional electoral commissions and dissolving district, regional and precinct electoral commissions after they have performed their statutory tasks;
- 4) appointing and dismissing election commissioners;
- 5) consideration of complaints about operation of district electoral commissions and election commissioners;
- 6) establishing models of official forms and election forms as well as specimens of stamps of lower-rank electoral bodies;
- 7) determining and announcing voting results and results of elections within the scope stipulated in special provisions of the code;
- 8) presenting after each election to the President of the Republic of Poland, the Marshal of the Sejm, the Marshal of the Senate and the Prime Minister information about implementation of provisions of the code and any possible proposals for amendments;
- 9) carrying out and supporting informative activities raising awareness among nationals of the election law, in particular of voting rules;
- 10) performing other tasks laid down in Acts.

§ 2. The activities mentioned in § 1 point 9 shall be implemented by the National Electoral Commission in particular through:

- 1) maintenance of an informative web portal;
- 2) preparation of informative publications;
- 3) preparation of informative programmes broadcast by Telewizja Polska and Polskie Radio Spółka Akcyjna and regional radio companies within the scope and under the conditions laid down in provisions on an election campaign in radio and television programmes.

§ 3. The National Electoral Commission within the activities mentioned in § 1 point 9 and § 2 shall cooperate with non-governmental organisations within the meaning of the Act of 24 April 2003 on charitable activities and on volunteering (OJ of 2010 No. 234, item 1536) whose statutory objects include development of democracy, civil society, raising of election activity and promotion of civil rights.

§ 4. The National Electoral Commission shall establish its rules of procedure, rules of procedure for election commissioners and rules of procedure for district, regional, territorial and precinct electoral commissions, determining in them in particular:

- 1) rules and mode of work;
- 2) way of performing tasks;
- 3) way of supervising compliance with the election law.

#### **Article 161.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission shall issue guidelines which shall be binding for election commissioners and lower-rank electoral commissions as well as explanations for government administration authorities and authorities of territorial self-government units and also for organisational units which are subordinate to them performing tasks connected with carrying out of elections as well as for election committees and radio and television broadcasters.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall annul resolutions of district and regional electoral commissions and decisions of election commissioners adopted in breach of the law or not compatible with its guidelines and shall refer the case to a competent commission for a review or shall rule on the case.

§ 3. The National Electoral Commission shall adopt resolutions within the scope of its statutory rights.

#### **Article 162.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission shall specify:

- 1) conditions and way of using electronic technology for:
- a) determination of voting results,
  - b) drawing up of protocols by precinct, territorial, regional and district electoral commissions as well as the National Electoral Commission,
  - c) verification, in terms of conformity, of arithmetic correctness of determined voting results in a precinct,
  - d) determination of election results,
- 2) the procedure of transferring data from the protocols mentioned in point 1 via a network of an electronic transfer of the data,
- 3) the procedure for a transfer by precinct electoral commissions during voting of data on the number of persons authorised to vote and the number of voters to whom ballot papers have been given, and the way of making this data known to the public if special provisions provide it
- taking into account the necessity to ensure security conditions for entering and processing of the data as well as its transfer and receipt.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall ensure software for performance of the activities mentioned in § 1.

#### **Article 163.**

The National Electoral Commission shall publish statistics containing detailed information on results of voting and elections as well as shall make results of voting and elections accessible in a form of an electronic document.

#### **Article 164.**

The National Electoral Commission shall be entitled to use the official stamp within the meaning of provisions on state stamps. The stamp's diameter shall be 35mm.

#### **Article 165.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Commission shall perform activities resulting from the supervision over maintenance and update of the register of voters as well as over drawing up of lists of voters, and in particular:

- 1) shall control correctness of maintenance and update of the register of voters and of drawing up of lists of voters;

- 2) shall examine agreement of data from the register of voters and lists of voters with data in the population register and civil status records in a commune;
- 3) shall refer ex officio to competent bodies for deletion from the register of voters or the list of voters of persons who have been entered into the register or on the list in breach of legal provisions;
- 4) shall gather and make known to the public, at least once a quarter, information on the number of voters included in the register of voters in communes;
- 5) shall make known to the public, by commune, information on the number of voters entered on the lists of voters according to data as on the date of their being drawn up for particular elections.

§ 2. The activities mentioned in § 1 shall be performed by the National Electoral Commission with the help of the National Electoral Office. A detailed way of performing these activities, in order to ensure that they shall be performed appropriately, shall be stipulated in the rules of procedure of the National Electoral Commission.

§ 3. A minister in charge of the interior shall determine, after consulting the National Electoral Commission, by way of a regulation, obligations of bodies in charge of the population register in order to ensure for the National Electoral Commission performance of its tasks connected with the supervision over maintenance and update of the register of voters as well as over drawing up of the lists of voters, including the procedure for making documents accessible and for transferring of information on the number of residents included in the population register and on the number of voters entered into the register of voters and on the lists of voters as well as rules and forms of cooperation of government administration authorities with the National Electoral Office within this scope, taking into account the necessity to ensure security for processing of personal data, its transfer and receipt.

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Election commissioner**

##### **Article 166.**

§ 1. An election commissioner shall be a plenipotentiary of the National Electoral Commission assigned to the area constituting a voivodship or part of one voivodship.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall determine a territorial competence of election commissioners and an operational competence within the scope of performing voivodship-wide activities, taking into account tasks connected with elections to the voivodship sejmik and the tasks mentioned in Article 167 § 1 points 8 and 9.

§ 3. Election commissioners shall be appointed in each voivodship, from 2 to 6, from among judges, for a period of 5 years, by the National Electoral Commission, at the request of the



Minister of Justice. One individual shall have the right to be reappointed to the position of a commissioner.

§ 4. Also a retired judge who however has not turned 70 years of age shall have the right to be an election commissioner.

§ 5. An election commissioner shall perform his/her duties irrespective of holding office of a judge of a competent court.

§ 6. Election commissioners shall be entitled to monthly remuneration in the amount of remuneration of a member of the National Electoral Commission. The provision of Article 159 § 3 shall apply accordingly.

§ 7. Duties of an election commissioner shall expire in the event:

- 1) of resigning from the position;
- 2) of death;
- 3) of cessation of service relationship of a judge;
- 4) when a commissioner being a retired judge has turned 70 years of age;
- 5) of dismissal.

§ 8. The National Electoral Commission shall dismiss an election commissioner before the end of the period for which he/she has been appointed:

- 1) in the event of the failure to perform or the improper performance of duties of an election commissioner;
- 2) at the reasoned request of a president of a competent court;
- 3) at the reasoned request of the Minister of Justice.

§ 9. In the cases mentioned in § 7 and 8 an election commissioner shall be appointed in the manner and under the conditions laid down in § 3.

§ 10. In the event of temporary inability to perform duties by an election commissioner, the National Electoral Commission shall be entitled to entrust performance of these functions, for this period, to another election commissioner or another person who shall ensure the sound performance of election activities.

#### **Article 167.**

§ 1 . An election commissioner shall be in charge of:

- 1) supervising compliance with the election law;
- 2) ensuring, in cooperation with authorities of territorial self-government units, organisation of elections to councils on the territory of a voivodship;
- 3) establishing territorial electoral commissions and dissolving territorial and precinct electoral commissions in elections of authorities of territorial self-government units after performance of their statutory tasks;
- 4) consideration of complaints about operation of territorial electoral commissions;
- 5) controlling, within the scope determined by the National Electoral Commission, correctness of drawing up of lists of voters;
- 6) making known to the public information on composition of territorial electoral commissions established on the territory of a voivodship;
- 7) providing, where necessary, territorial and precinct electoral commissions with explanations;
- 8) determining cumulative results of elections to councils and elections of commune heads carried out on the territory of a voivodship and announcing them under the procedure stipulated in the code;
- 9) submitting a report on the electoral process on the territory of a voivodship, together with results of elections, to the National Electoral Commission;
- 10) performing other activities stipulated in Acts or ordered by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 2. An election commissioner shall annul resolutions of territorial and precinct electoral commissions adopted in breach of the law or not compatible with guidelines of the National Electoral Commission and shall refer the case to a competent commission for a review or shall rule on the case.

§ 3. An election commissioner shall issue decisions within the scope of his/her statutory rights.

### **Article 168.**

§ 1. An election commissioner, based on election protocols drawn up by competent territorial electoral commissions, shall make known to the public, in the form of a notice, results of elections to councils and elections of commune heads on the territory of a voivodship.

§ 2. The notice mentioned in § 1 shall include summary information on results of voting and results of elections:

1) to councils, to which the elections have been carried out, and –separately for each council – particularly data on the number of mandates obtained by lists of candidates of particular election committees as well as family names and given names of elected councillors, with a symbol of the list from which they have been elected;

2) of commune heads – particularly family names and given names of elected commune heads, with names of the election committees which have proposed them.

§ 3. The National Electoral Commission shall determine the model of the notice mentioned in § 1.

#### **Article 169.**

The notice of an election commissioner shall be published in the voivodship Official Journal and made know to the public by distributing an appropriate excerpt from the notice on the territory of each commune. One copy of the notice shall be sent to the National Electoral Commission within the time limit and under the procedure determined by the National Electoral Commission.

### **Chapter 4**

#### **District electoral commission**

#### **Article 170.**

§ 1. A district electoral commission shall comprise from 5 to 11 judges, including ex officio, an election commissioner as its chairperson. Also a retired judge who has not turned 70 years of age shall have the right to be appointed to the commission.

§ 2. Judges to the commission shall be proposed by the Minister of Justice, whose number shall be agreed with the National Electoral Commission, not later than on the 52<sup>nd</sup> day before the date of elections.

§ 3. The National Electoral Commission shall set up district electoral commissions not later than on the 48<sup>th</sup> day before the date of elections.

§ 4. In the event of no possibility to perform functions of a chairperson of the commission by an election commissioner, the commission shall appoint a chairperson from among its members. In such a case, the Minister of Justice shall propose to the commission one judge more than it would result from the arrangements mentioned in § 2.

§ 5. The first meeting of the commission shall be organised, under the authority of the National Electoral Commission, by a director of a territorially competent regional office of the National Electoral Office.

§ 6. At the first meeting the commission shall appoint, from among its members, two deputy chairpersons of the commission. Functions of a secretary of the district electoral commission

shall be performed by a director of a territorially competent regional office of the National Electoral Office or a person indicated by him/her. The secretary shall participate in works of the commission in an advisory capacity.

§ 7. Composition of the commission shall be immediately made known to the public as is customary.

§ 8. Technical and material working conditions for a district electoral commission shall be ensured by the National Electoral Office.

#### **Article 171.**

§ 1. Membership in a district electoral commission shall expire in the event:

- 1) of resigning from the membership;
- 2) mentioned in Article 153 § 2;
- 3) of death of a member of the commission;
- 4) of dismissal.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall dismiss a member of a district electoral commission:

- 1) in the event of the failure to perform or the improper performance of duties of the member of the commission;
- 2) at the reasoned request of the Minister of Justice with regard to the member of the commission proposed by him/her.

§ 3. Composition of the commission shall be completed in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in provisions on its establishment. The provision of Article 170 § 7 shall apply accordingly.

#### **Article 172.**

§ 1. A district electoral commission shall be in charge of:

- 1) supervising compliance with the election law by, as appropriate, regional or precinct electoral commissions;
- 2) registering district lists of candidates for members of the Sejm and candidates for senators as well as lists of candidates for members of the European Parliament;

- 3) ordering that ballot papers be printed in elections to the Sejm and the Senate as well as in elections to the European Parliament;
- 4) determining and announcing results of voting and results of elections in an electoral district within the scope specified in special provisions of the code;
- 5) consideration of complaints about operation of, as appropriate, regional or precinct electoral commissions;
- 6) ensuring performance of election tasks in cooperation with a voivode and authorities of territorial self-government units;
- 7) performing other tasks provided for in the code or ordered by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 2. A district electoral commission shall adopt resolutions within the scope of its statutory rights.

#### **Article 173.**

A district electoral commission shall appoint, in the manner and under the conditions stipulated by the National Electoral Commission, plenipotentiaries for performing the tasks provided for in the code.

### **Chapter 5**

#### **Regional electoral commission**

#### **Article 174.**

§ 1. A regional electoral commission shall comprise 5 judges, including ex officio, an election commissioner as its chairperson. Also a retired judge who has not turned 70 years of age shall have the right to be appointed to the commission.

§ 2. To establishment of a regional electoral commission and expiration of membership in the commission as well as organisation of its work, Article 170 § 2–8 and Article 171 shall apply accordingly, with the reservation that the commission shall appoint one deputy chairperson.

#### **Article 175.**

§ 1. A regional electoral commission shall be in charge of:

- 1) supervising compliance with the election law;
- 2) ensuring provision of ballot papers for precinct electoral commissions;

- 3) ensuring performance of election tasks in cooperation with authorities of territorial self-government units;
- 4) consideration of complaints about operation of precinct electoral commissions;
- 5) determining and announcing results of voting and submitting them to a competent district electoral commission;
- 6) performing other tasks provided for in the code or ordered by a district electoral commission or the National Electoral Commission.

§ 2. A regional electoral commission shall adopt resolutions within the scope of its statutory rights.

#### **Article 176.**

A regional electoral commission shall have the right to appoint, in the manner and under the conditions stipulated by the National Electoral Commission, plenipotentiaries for performing the tasks provided for in the code.

#### **Article 177.**

The National Electoral Commission shall determine the area of a particular electoral district in which a district electoral commission shall also perform tasks of a regional electoral commission.

### **Chapter 6**

#### **Territorial electoral commission**

#### **Article 178.**

§ 1. Territorial electoral commissions shall be set up, not later than on the 55<sup>th</sup> day before the date of elections, by an election commissioner from among voters proposed by electoral plenipotentiaries, subject to § 6. Candidates for members of a territorial electoral commission shall be proposed not later than on the 60<sup>th</sup> day before the date of elections.

§ 2. A territorial electoral commission shall comprise from 7 to 9 persons permanently residing in the action area of a particular council.

§ 3. A territorial electoral commission shall comprise at least one voter proposed by each electoral plenipotentiary, subject to § 4 and 5.

§ 4. In the event of proposing to a territorial electoral commission the number of candidates exceeding the permissible composition of the commission, the composition of the commission shall be decided by a public draw carried out by an election commissioner.

§ 5. If the number of candidates proposed under the procedure mentioned in § 1 is smaller than the permissible minimal numerical composition of the commission, its composition shall be completed by an election commissioner within 3 days after the end of the period mentioned in § 1 – the second sentence, from among persons permanently residing in the action area of a particular council.

§ 6. A voivodship and poviats electoral commission and an electoral commission in a city with poviats rights shall comprise ex officio, as its chairperson, a judge designated by a president of a territorially competent district court.

§ 7. The first meeting of a voivodship electoral commission shall be convened by an election commissioner.

§ 8. The first meeting of a poviats or communal electoral commission shall be convened, under the authority of an election commissioner, respectively by a staroste or a commune head.

§ 9. At the first meeting a territorial electoral commission shall appoint, from among its members, a chairperson and his/her deputy, subject to § 6.

§ 10. Composition of a territorial electoral commission shall be immediately made known to the public by an election commissioner as is customary.

§ 11. The National Electoral Commission shall determine the way of proposing candidates for members of territorial electoral commissions, the model of the notification and the rules on setting up of these commissions, including the procedure for carrying out of the draw mentioned in § 4.

### **Article 179.**

§ 1. Membership in a territorial electoral commission shall expire in the event:

- 1) of resigning from the membership;
- 2) mentioned in Article 153 § 2;
- 3) of death of a member of the commission;
- 4) of loss of the right to elect;
- 5) of the failure to fulfil the condition mentioned in Article 178 § 2;
- 6) of dismissal.

§ 2. The provision of § 1 point 4 and 5 shall not apply to the member of commission mentioned in Article 178 § 6.

§ 3. An election commissioner shall dismiss a member of a territorial electoral commission:

- 1) in the event of the failure to perform or the improper performance of duties of the member of the commission;
- 2) at the reasoned request of a president of a district court with regard to a judge indicated by him/her.

§ 4. Composition of a territorial electoral commission shall be completed in the manner and under the conditions stipulated in provisions on its establishment. The provision of Article 178 § 10 shall apply accordingly.

### **Article 180.**

§ 1. A territorial electoral commission shall be in charge of:

- 1) registering candidates for councillors;
- 2) ordering that election notices be printed and making them known to the public under the procedure laid down in the code;
- 3) ordering that ballot papers be printed and delivered to precinct electoral commissions;
- 4) consideration of complaints about operation of precinct electoral commissions;
- 5) determining results of voting and results of elections to a council and announcing them under the procedure laid down in the code;
- 6) sending results of voting and results of elections to an election commissioner;
- 7) performing other activities specified in the code or ordered by an election commissioner.

§ 2. Tasks of a communal electoral commission shall also include registration of candidates for a commune head and determination of results of voting and results of elections of a commune head as well as their announcement under the procedure laid down in the code.

### **Article 181.**

Administrative management of a competent territorial electoral commission and performance of election tasks respectively on the territory of a voivodship, poviat or a commune shall be ensured by a marshal of a voivodship, staroste or commune head, as an ordered task. For this purpose, a marshal of a voivodship, staroste or commune head shall be entitled to appoint a plenipotentiary for election matters – an election official. Rules on cooperation of the election official with the



National Electoral Office shall be determined by an arrangement made respectively between a marshal, staroste or commune head and the Head of the National Electoral Office or a person authorised by him/her.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Precinct electoral commission**

#### **Article 182.**

§ 1. A precinct electoral commission shall be set up from among voters:

- 1) in elections to the Sejm and to the Senate, in elections of the President of the Republic of Poland and in elections to the European Parliament in the Republic of Poland not later than on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the date of elections – by a commune head,
- 2) in elections to regulatory authorities of territorial self-government units and in elections of commune heads not later than on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the date of elections – by a competent territorial electoral commission

– subject to provisions of Article 183.

§ 2. To a precinct electoral commission there shall be appointed:

- 1) from 6 to 8 persons from among candidates proposed by electoral plenipotentiaries or persons authorised by them;
- 2) one person designated by a commune head from among self-government workers of a commune or communal organisational units.

§ 3. To precinct electoral commissions in electoral precincts established in health care institutions, social assistance houses, penal institutions, detention centres and external departments of such institutions and detention centres there shall appointed:

- 1) from 4 to 6 persons from among candidates proposed by electoral plenipotentiaries or persons authorised by them;
- 2) one person designated by a commune head from among workers of a unit in which the precinct is established.

§ 4. Only persons included in the permanent register of voters of a particular commune shall have the right to be the candidates mentioned in § 2 point 1 and in § 3 point 1.

§ 5. An electoral plenipotentiary or a person authorised by him/her shall have the right to propose only one candidate to each precinct electoral commission on the territory of the electoral district in which there has been registered a proposed by him/her list of candidates for members

of the parliament, members to the European Parliament, councillors or there has been registered a candidate for the President of the Republic of Poland, senator or commune head. The notification in elections to the Sejm and to the Senate, in elections of the President of the Republic of Poland and in elections to the European Parliament in the Republic of Poland shall be made not later than on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day before the date of elections. The notification in elections to regulatory authorities of territorial self-government units and in elections of commune heads shall be made not later than on the 30<sup>th</sup> day before the date of elections.

§ 6. A person shall be proposed to a precinct electoral commission after obtaining consent of the person concerned.

§ 7. In the event of proposing to a precinct electoral commission the number of candidates exceeding the permissible composition of the commission, the composition of the commission shall be decided by a public draw carried out by a commune head.

§ 8. If the number of candidates proposed under the procedure mentioned in § 5 is smaller than the permissible minimal numerical composition of the commission, its composition shall be completed by a commune head from among persons included in the permanent register of voters of this commune. The provision of § 6 shall apply accordingly.

§ 9. The first meeting of a precinct electoral commission shall be convened by a commune head.

§ 10. At the first meeting a precinct electoral commission shall appoint from among its members a chairperson and his/her deputy. Composition of the commission shall be immediately made known to the public as is customary.

§ 11. The National Electoral Commission shall determine the way of proposing candidates for members of precinct electoral commissions, the model of the notification and the rules on setting up of these commissions, including the procedure for carrying out of the draw mentioned in § 7.

### **Article 183.**

§ 1. Precinct electoral commissions in electoral precincts established on Polish sea ships and abroad shall be set up from among voters respectively by captains of these ships and consuls. The provisions of Article 182 § 3–10 shall apply accordingly.

§ 2. The National Electoral Commission shall determine, in agreement accordingly with a minister in charge of marine economy and a minister in charge of foreign affairs, the procedure and deadline for setting up of the commissions mentioned in § 1.

### **Article 184.**

§ 1. Membership in a precinct electoral commission shall expire in the event:

1) of resigning from the membership;

- 2) mentioned in Article 153 § 2;
- 3) of death of a member of the commission;
- 4) of loss of the right to elect;
- 5) of the failure to fulfil the condition mentioned in Article 182 § 4;
- 6) of dismissal.

§ 2. A commune head shall dismiss a member of a precinct electoral commission in the event of the failure to perform or the improper performance of duties by the member of the commission.

§ 3. In elections of authorities of territorial self-government units, a territorially competent electoral higher-rank commission shall be a body competent to dismiss a member of a precinct electoral commission in the cases mentioned in § 2.

§ 4. Composition of a precinct electoral commission shall be completed in the manner and under the conditions specified in provisions on its establishment. The provision of Article 182 § 10 – the second sentence, shall apply accordingly.

#### **Article 185.**

A precinct electoral commission shall be in charge of:

- 1) carrying out of voting in a precinct;
- 2) supervising, on the date of elections, compliance with the election law in the place and at the time of voting;
- 3) determining results of voting in a precinct and making them known to the public;
- 4) sending results of voting to a competent electoral commission.

#### **Article 186.**

§ 1. Polling stations of precinct electoral commissions adapted to needs of disabled voters shall be ensured by a commune head, with the reservation that in each commune at least 1/3 of polling stations of precinct electoral commissions should be adapted to needs of disabled voters.

§ 2. A minister in charge of construction, spatial order and housing, after consulting a minister in charge of social security and the National Electoral Commission, shall determine by way of a regulation technical conditions with which a polling station of a precinct electoral commission should comply so that it can be adapted to needs of disabled voters.

## **Chapter 8**

### **The National Electoral Office**

#### **Article 187.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Office shall provide services for the National Electoral Commission, election commissioners and other electoral bodies within the scope stipulated in the code and other Acts.

§ 2. The National Electoral Office shall be in charge of ensuring organisational and administrative as well as financial and technical conditions connected with organisation and carrying out of elections and referendums within the scope stipulated in the code and other Acts.

§ 3. The National Electoral Office shall also perform other tasks resulting from the code and other Acts.

#### **Article 188.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Office shall be managed by the Head of the National Electoral Office.

§ 2. The Head of the National Electoral Office is a manager of an office within the meaning of provisions of the Act of 16 September 1982 on workers of state offices (OJ of 2001 No. 86, item 953, with subsequent amendments).

§ 3. Organisational units of the National Electoral Office:

- 1) teams;
- 2) regional offices.

§ 4. Organisation of the National Electoral Office and the scope of operation as well as a territorial competence of the organisational units of the National Electoral Office are determined by the charter granted by the National Electoral Commission at the request of the Head of the National Electoral Office. The charter of the National Electoral Office shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

§ 5. The Head and other staff of the National Electoral Office shall not have the right to be members of political parties or carry out political activities.

§ 6. The Head of the National Electoral Office based on the charter shall determine, by way of an order, detailed internal organisation of the organisational units of the National Electoral Office as well as their operational competence.

#### **Article 189.**

§ 1. The National Electoral Office shall cooperate with competent government administration authorities and territorial self-government units in order to implement tasks connected with organisation and carrying out of elections and referendums.

§ 2. A minister in charge of public administration, after consulting the Head of the National Electoral Office, shall determine by way of a regulation the rules on cooperation of local government administration authorities with the National Electoral Office within the scope mentioned in § 1, taking into account the needs to ensure efficient organisation of elections and referendums.

§ 3. Rules on cooperation of authorities of territorial self-government units with the National Electoral Office shall be determined in provisions of Article 181 and Article 156 § 1, 2 and 4.

#### **Article 190.**

§ 1. The Head of the National Electoral Office is an executive body of the National Electoral Commission.

§ 2. The Head of the Electoral Office shall be appointed and dismissed by the National Electoral Commission at the request of its chairperson.

§ 3. The Head of the National Electoral Office shall be subject to provisions on persons holding managerial state posts. Remuneration of the Head of the National Electoral Office shall equal remuneration of a secretary of state.

#### **Article 191.**

§ 1. The Head of the National Electoral Office shall manage financial resources allocated in the national budget for the National Electoral Office.

§ 2. Expenditure connected with day-to-day operations of the National Electoral Commission, other permanent electoral bodies and the National Electoral Office as well as grants for permanent tasks connected with organisation and carrying out of elections and referendums, ordered to territorial self-government units shall be covered from the financial resources mentioned in § 1.

§ 3. The Head of the National Electoral Office shall manage, within the scope stipulated in Acts, financial resources of the special-purpose reserve of the national budget intended for expenditure connected with organisation and carrying out of elections and referendums.

§ 4. Grants for territorial self-government units for performance of tasks connected with organisation and carrying out of elections and referendums shall be given to these units by the Head of the National Electoral Office or by directors of the organisational units of the Office acting on his/her authority.

**Section 3**  
**Elections to the Sejm**

**Chapter 1**  
**General principles**

**Article 192**

Elections to the Sejm shall be universal, equal, direct and proportional and shall be conducted through a secret vote.

**Article 193**

§ 1 460 deputies are elected to the Sejm from the lists of candidates for deputies in the multi-member electoral constituencies.

§ 2 No person may stand for elections to the Sejm and the Senate simultaneously.

**Article 194**

§ 1 Elections to the Sejm are called by an order of the President of the Republic, not later than 90 days before the expiry of the 4 years from the commencement of the Sejm's term of office, setting the election day on a day free from work, which falls within the 30 days before the expiry of 4 years from the commencement of the Sejm's term of office. The order of the President of the Republic shall be made public in the Public Information Bulletin and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland at the latest 5 days from the date of ordering the election.

§ 2 In the order referred to in § 1, the President of the Republic, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission, sets days of the expiry dates for election activities provided in the Code (election calendar.)

**Article 195**

§ 1 In the case of the shortening of the term of the Sejm on its own resolution or by order of the President of the Republic, the President shall call elections, setting the date of the election no later than within 45 days from the date of entry into force of the Sejm's resolution on the shortening of its term or the date of issuance of the order of the President of the Republic on the shortening of the term of the Sejm. The order of the President of the Republic calling the election shall be made public in the Public Information Bulletin and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland at the latest 5 days from the date of its signing. The provision of Art. 194 § 2 shall apply accordingly.

§ 2 The elections referred to in § 1 shall be carried out in the manner and under the terms of the Code, subject to:

- 1) the shortened dates for conducting electoral activities, established by the Code in :
- a) Article. 13 § 2 and art. 170 § 2 – reduced to 38 days before election day,
  - b) in the art. 170 § 3, Art. 204 § 2, 4 and 6 – reduced to 35 days before election day,
  - c) in the art. 202 § 3 – reduced to 40 days before the election,

- d) in art. 210 § 3 and art. 211 § 1 – reduced to the 25th day before election day;
- 2) the time limits provided for in Article. 218 § 2 for filing and appeals shall be reduced to 2 days;
- 3) drawing of uniform random numbers for lists of election committees referred to in art. 219 § 1 and art. 220 § 1, are carried out only for lists of election committees, which did not register candidates in previous elections. Committees that participated in previous elections and registered their list in the present elections, retain the numbers assigned to them.

### **Article 196**

§ 1 In the process of distribution of seats in the constituencies only the lists of candidates for deputies of the electoral committees whose lists at least 5% of valid votes in the country, shall be taken into account.

§ 2 Lists of candidates for deputies of coalition electoral committees shall be included in the distribution of seats in constituencies where the list received at least 8% of the valid votes in the country.

### **Article 197**

§ 1 Election committees established by members of registered voter organizations of national minorities can benefit from the exemption of their list from the condition referred to in art. 196 § 1, if they submit a declaration to the National Electoral Commission on the matter no later than 5 days prior to the election. Along with the declaration referred to in the first sentence, the committee is obliged to submit a document of the appropriate management body of national minority organization attesting to the establishment of the committee by voters who are members of this organization.

§ 2 The National Electoral Commission shall immediately acknowledge receipt of the declaration referred to in § 1. The acknowledgment is considered binding.

### **Article 198**

If the condition specified in Article. 196 § 1 or 2 is not met by the list of candidates for any election committee members or any of these conditions is met by only one candidate of an election committee, the division of seats in electoral districts will include a list of candidates of election committees, which received at least 3% valid votes cast nationwide. Coalition lists of election committees will be included if they received at least 5% of the valid votes cast nationwide.

### **Article 199**

§ 1 In parliamentary elections, electoral committees must adhere to the following spending limits for election campaigning:

- 1) the spending limit is determined in the amount of 82 polish groszy per voter in the country included in the register of voters;
- 2) the spending limit for the committee calculated as follows:

$$L = (w \times k \times m) / 460,$$

where the symbols are defined as:

L - spending limit,

w - the number of voters in the country included in the register of voters

k - the amount attributable to each voter in the country included in the register of voters referred to in paragraph 1

m - total number of deputies elected in all the constituencies in which the committee has submitted a list of candidates.

§ 2 National Electoral Commission, within 14 days of ordering of the election to the Sejm, shall make an announcement in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, "Polish Monitor" and publish the information the Public Information Bulletin on the number of voters included in voter registries across the country current for the end of the quarter ending on the day before preceding the date of announcement of elections to the Sejm.

### **Article 200**

§ 1 The minister responsible for public finance, by regulation, will increase the amount referred to in art. 199 § 1 item 1, where the growth rate of prices of consumer goods and services amount to more than 5%, to the extent reflecting increase in these prices.

§ 2 The price index, referred to in § 1 shall be determined on the basis of the information provided by the President of the Central Statistical Office announced in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, "Polish Monitor," the 20th day of the first month of each quarter.

## **Chapter 2 Constituencies**

### **Article 201**

§ 1 In order to conduct elections to the Sejm multiple-mandate constituencies are established, hereinafter referred to as "constituencies" or "electoral districts"

§ 2 At least 7 members must be elected in each constituency.

§ 3 An electoral district covers the area of a province or part thereof. Electoral district boundaries shall violate the boundaries of its component counties and cities with county rights.

### **Article 202**

§ 1 The determination of the number of deputies elected in individual constituencies and regional division of constituencies shall be by way of norms on uniform standard of representation, calculated by dividing the number of inhabitants of the country by the total number of deputies selected for in constituencies, taking into account the provisions of Article. 201 and the following rules:

1) a fraction of the number of mandates of deputies elected in constituencies equal to or greater than  $1 / 2$ , which arise from the application of a uniform standard of representation, shall be rounded up to the nearest integer;



2) if the outcome of the proceedings referred to in paragraph 1, shall be that the number of deputies elected in constituencies exceeds the number provided for by art. 193, the excess mandates are subtracted from the electoral districts in which the standard representation for the constituency is the smallest. Where the number of deputies is smaller than the number provided for in art. 193 additional seats are allocated to that election district in which the standard representation calculated for the constituency is the largest.

§ 2 Division into constituencies, their numbers and boundaries and the number of deputies elected in each constituency, as well as the registered office of the constituency electoral commissions is set out in Annex 1 of the Code.

§ 3 Information about the constituency shall be communicated to the voters of the electoral in the form of an official announcement of the National Electoral Commission no later than 52 days prior to election day. Printing and posting of notices is provided by the National Election Office.

### **Article 203**

§ 1 The National Electoral Commission shall submit to the Sejm proposals to amend the boundaries of the electoral districts and the number of voting members elected in them, if necessitated by changes in the basic territorial division of the state or a change in the number of inhabitants in the constituency or in the country.

§ 2 Changes in county boundaries entailing changes in electoral boundaries is not permitted during the 12 months preceding the expiry of term of the Sejm, as well as ordering the election period in the event of shortening of the Sejm's term of office until the day of officially deeming the elections valid.

§ 3 The Sejm shall, subject to § 5, undertake the changes in the division of constituencies for the reasons stipulated in § 1, no later than 3 months before the date of expiration of the time limit for calling elections to the Sejm.

§ 4 The determination of the number of people referred to in § 1 shall be based on the data at the end of the third quarter of the year preceding the expiry of term of the Sejm, provided by the mayors in the manner specified in the regulations issued on the basis of the Article. 165 § 3

§ 5 If the term of the Sejm is shortened a division of constituencies shall not be made.

## **Chapter 3 Reporting of candidates for deputies**

### **Article 204**

§ 1 The right to nominate candidates for deputies shall be granted to:

- 1) the election committee of a political party;
- 2) coalition election committee;
- 3) voter election committee.

§ 2 The election committee of a political party is obliged to notify the National Election Commission about its establishment within the period commencing from the day of calling of the elections until 50 days before election day.

§ 3 The notification referred to in § 2, shall be accompanied by:

- 1) The statement of the legal representative and financial representative, accepting in full the power of attorney and in the case of the financial representative – a declaration on the meeting of all requirements referred to in art. 127 § 2 and 3;
- 2) a certified copy from the register of political parties;
- 3) extract from the Statutes of the political party indicating which authority is to represent it externally.

§ 4 A coalition election committee may be formed during the period commencing from the announcement of the order calling elections until 50 days before election day. The legal representative shall notify the National Electoral Commission if the establishment of a election commission up to and until 50 days before election day.

§ 5 The following should be attached to the notification referred to in § 4:

- 1) the agreement on the electoral coalition, with the following data: names, surname, home addresses and Social Security numbers (PESEL) of staff comprising the election committee;
- 2) The statement of the legal representative and financial representative, accepting in full the power of attorney and in the case of the financial representative – a declaration on the meeting of all requirements referred to in art. 127 § 2 and 3;
- 3) a certified copy from the register of political parties;
- 4) extract from the Statutes of the political party indicating which authority is to represent it externally

§ 6 After collecting at least 1,000 signatures of citizens having the right to elect candidates to the Sejm, supporting the creation of the electoral committee of voters, the legal representative shall notify the National Electoral Commission of the establishment of the committee. Notification can be made up to an until 50 days before election day.

§ 7 The following shall be attached to the notification referred to in § 6:

- 1) statement on the establishment of the election committee;
- 2) The statement of the legal representative and financial representative, accepting in full the power of attorney and in the case of the financial representative – a declaration on the meeting of all requirements referred to in art. 127 § 2 and 3;
- 3) a list of at least 1000 people referred to in § 6, containing their names, surnames, addresses and Social Security identification numbers (PESEL) and personally deposited signatures

## **Article 205**

§ 1 The legal representative has the right to complain to the Supreme Court against the decision of the National Electoral Commission to refuse to accept a notice of establishment of the electoral committee. The complaint must be lodged within 2 days of service of the decision on the legal representative of the refusal to accept a notice of establishment of the electoral committee.

§ 2 The Supreme Court shall hear the application in the composition of three judges, in non-litigious proceedings, and issue its ruling on the complaint within 3 days. The decision of the Supreme Court is not subject to a remedy. The judgment shall be delivered to the legal representative and the National Election Commission. If the Supreme Court finds in favour of the application of the legal representative the National Electoral Commission immediately takes notice of the establishment of the election committee.

### **Article 206**

At the request of the authorities of the election committee, the committee shall be issued with a decision on the allocation of a REGON and NIP, at the latest by the end of the second business day following the date of granting the application number.

### **Article 207**

The National Electoral Commission shall publish information on the establishment of electoral committees in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, "Polish Monitor" and the Public Information Bulletin.

### **Article 208**

§ 1 The Election Committee may put forward a list of candidates for the seat of an MP in each constituency.

§ 2 A person may stand for election in one constituency and only on one list of candidates.

§ 3 Political parties which are part of an electoral coalition may not submit lists of candidates themselves.

### **Article 209**

§ 1 A voter may provide written support for more than one list of candidates. Withdrawal of support provided does not bear legal consequences.

§ 2 Providing support for a voter list of candidates shall be affirmed by signature next to a the legibly written name and surname, address and Social Security identification number (PESEL).

§ 3 The list must contain the signatures on each page the name of the electoral committee of the applicant list, the number of constituency in which the list is declared, and the following:

"I support the list of candidates for deputies submitted by ..... (Name of electoral committees here) in the constituency ..... (Circuit number) in the elections to the Sejm elections ordered on ..... (Day, month, year). "

### **Article 210**

§ 1 The list of candidates should be supported in the manner referred to in art. 209 § 2 and 3, by at least 5,000 signatures of voters permanently residing in the constituency.

§ 2 The election committee which, subject to the requirements specified in § 1 registered lists of candidates in at least half of the constituencies, is entitled to submit subsequent lists without the support confirmed with voter's signatures.

§ 3 The notification letter submitted by the election committees of candidates satisfying the condition referred to in § 2, is based on the certificate issued by the National Electoral Commission at the request of the electoral committee, up to 40 days before election day.

## Article 211

§ 1 The list of candidates shall be submitted to the district election commission no later than 24.00 hours, 40 days prior to election day.

§ 2 The number of candidates on the list may not be less than the number of deputies elected in the constituency and more than twice the number of deputies elected in the constituency.

§ 3 On the list of candidates:

1) the number of candidates who are women can not be less than 35% of all candidates on the list;

2) the number of candidates who are men can not be less than 35% of all candidates on the list.

§ 4 A notification for entry onto the list of candidates shall be made personally, in writing, by the legal representative of the candidate or a person authorized by him or her hereinafter referred to as the “person submitting the list”. In the event of a submission of the list by a person authorized by the legal representative, the power of attorney and its scope as well as the personal details of the person; name, surname, address and Social Security identification number (PESEL) must be attached to the notification.

## Article 212

§ 1 Notification of the list of candidates should include surname, name (s), occupation and address of each candidate. The names of the candidates are placed on the list in the order as determined by the election committee.

§ 2 Each candidate is designated with the name or abbreviation of the political party of which he or she is a member (no more than 45 characters, including spaces).

§ 3 The person presenting the list may request the designation of a candidate who does not belong to any political party, with only one name or abbreviation of the party supporting the candidates; the provisions of § 2 shall apply accordingly. The fact of support of the candidate should be confirmed in writing by the competent statutory authority of the party. The application along with confirmation is submitted with the list.

§ 4 The persons submitting the list shall indicate the manner in which the list shall be demarcated on official announcements and the ballot paper. The sign can be the name or abbreviation of the election committee, referred to in art. 86 § 3 paragraph 1, Art. 87 § 6 paragraph 1 and art. 89 § 5 point 1 Designation may consist of no more than 45 characters, including spaces.

§ 5 The declaration of each list should include:

1) a statement of the number of signatures of voters supporting the list together with a list of signatures of voters supporting or certificates list the National Electoral Commission, wherein the provided for in Article. 210 § 3;

2) the written consent of the candidate to stand for elections on the given list of candidates. The written consent should include: name (s), surname, maiden name, parents' names, date and place of birth, address, nationality and social security identification number (PESEL) of the candidate, and an indication of his or her membership of a political party; and a the personal signature of the candidate and the date;

3) for each candidate born before 1 August 1972 a statement connection referred to in art. Paragraph 7. 1 of the Act of 18 October 2006 on revealing information on documents of state

security bodies from the years 1944-1990 and the contents of these documents or information referred to in art. Paragraph 7. 3a of this Act;

4) a written statement about having the right to be elected.

§ 6 Following submission of the list of names of candidates supplementing or changing the names of the candidates, as well as changing the order of appearance on the list or the designated symbol referred to in § 3, are unacceptable.

### **Article 213**

§ 1 The constituency electoral commission, receiving a notification of the list of candidates, shall examine, in the presence of the person submitting the list, whether it fulfills the requirements referred to in art. 211 § 2 and 3 and art. 212, and requesting the person submitting the list for written confirmation of acceptance. A template of the confirmation shall be established by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 2 Sheets with the numbered list of signatures in numbered and stamped by the official seal of of the commission.

§ 3 After verifying the accuracy of the data contained in the list of signatures accepted the sheets of signatures are stored in sealed commission packages. Providing access to or opening the packages may only take place for the purposes of court proceedings or prosecutorial proceedings and may only occur in the presence of a member of the constituency election commission, the date of which must be communicated immediately to the person submitting the list.

### **Article 214**

Immediately after acceptance of the list of candidates the constituency elections commission requests the Minister of Justice for information from the National Criminal Register of about candidates on the list.

### **Article 215**

§ 1 The constituency electoral commission records the list of candidates presented pursuant to the provisions of the Code, by making the protocol of registration. A copy of the protocol shall be served on the candidates on the list and sent to the National Electoral Commission with statements of the candidates for deputies, or information referred to in art. 212 § 5, paragraph 3

§ 2 The National Electoral Commission shall immediately submit a statement or information which, referred to in Article. 212 § 5 point 3, to the Vetting Office of the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation.

§ 3 If the application contains no defect, other than lack of the required number of signatures of voters duly submitted, the committee requests the person notifying the list to remove the defects within 3 days. In the case defects are not removed within the specified time the commission refuses registration the list in total or with reference to particular candidates. In the case of refusal in respect of certain candidates on the list, subject to the provision of art. 211 § 2, the list is registered in relation to the remainder of the candidate who were not refused registration.

§ 4 The district election commission shall decides to refuse to register a candidate if the candidate does not have a right to be elected; provision of § 3, third sentence, shall apply.

§ 5 If the defect lies in failure to fulfill the notification requirement mentioned in art. 211 § 3, the commission shall request the person notifying the list to remove it within 3 days; provision of art. 212 § 6 does not apply. In the case of defects not removed within the specified time, the commission decides to refuse to register the list in its entirety.

#### **Article 216**

§ 1 If the number of correctly submitted the signatures of voters supporting a candidates application is less than required by the Code, the district election commission shall invite the person submitting the list to supplement the list of signatures, if the time limit referred to in art. 211 § 1 has not been exceeded. Is it possible to supplement the list until the passing of the time limit Article. 211 § 1

§ 2 If the supplement is not made within the period referred to in art. 211 § 1, or the term has expired, the district electoral commission shall refuse to register the list of candidates.

#### **Article 217**

§ 1 In case of reasonable doubt as to the veracity of the data contained in the list of signatures or the authenticity of signatures the district electoral commission shall, within 3 days check the reliability of data or signatures based on available official documents, including records and official registers voters and official lists of persons domiciled in a particular areas, and where needed, seek an explanation from voters in the electorate. The initiation of such investigation shall be immediately notified to the person submitting the list.

§ 2 If the result of the proceedings establishes that the notified list is not backed by the required number of signatures of voters, the district committee shall decides to refuse to register the list of candidates.

#### **Article 218**

§ 1 The decision of the constituency electoral commission referred to in art. 215 § 3-5, Art. 216 § 2 and art. 217 § 2, and the justification thereof shall be served immediately on the person submitting the list.

§ 2 The person submitting the list has the right to appeal the decision made on the basis of the provisions referred to in § 1. The appeal shall be made to the National Electoral Commission within 3 days from the date of service of the decision. A decision of the National Electoral Commission is not entitled to further remedy. If the Electoral Commission considers the appeal to be justified, the District Election Commission shall immediately register the list of candidates in the scope indicated in the decision of the National Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 219**

§ 1 The National Electoral Commission allocates uniform numbers to the lists of the same election committee. The allocation of number is done on the basis of protocols of registration of lists of candidates and awarded by way of lottery, no later than 30 days before election day. A single number for the same election committee registered in more than one electoral district is

provided. The date of drawing the lottery shall be notified to the legal representative, however, in the case of his or her absence at the lottery will take place in any case.

§ 2 The first numbers in the lottery are drawn for those election committee that have registered their lists in all constituencies. The subsequently numbers are drawn for the lists of other electoral committees.

§ 3 The National Electoral Commission shall immediately notify the district election commissions and legal representatives, of the numbers drawn for the lists of candidates.

### **Article 220**

§ 1 Upon receipt of the notice referred to in art. 219 § 3, the district electoral commission, having regard to the sequence numbers for the lists of candidates determined in accordance with the procedure stipulated in art. 219, shall conduct a lottery, no later than 25 days prior to the election, for the lists of candidates submitted by the elections commissions, within a given constituency. The date of drawing the lottery shall be notified to the legal representative, however, in the case of his or her absence at the lottery will take place in any case.

§ 2 The District Election Commission shall immediately notify the person submitting the list and the National Electoral Commission of the drawn number for the list of candidates referred to in § 1

### **Art 221**

§ 1 The District Election Commission shall draft an official announcement regarding the registered lists of candidates, which announcement shall include the numbers allocated, the names and abbreviations of the election committees as well as information about the candidates contained in the notification of candidacy, including, the contents of the statement required by Article. Paragraph 7. 1 of the Act of 18 October 2006 on revealing information on documents of state security bodies from the years 1944-1990 and the contents of these documents, to the extent specified in Article. 13 of the Act.

§ 2 The notice referred to in § 1 shall be sent to the Director of the relevant territorial office of the National Electoral Office, which provides for the printing and posting of the announcement in the electoral district no later than 10 days before election day. One copy of the announcement must be sent immediately to the National Electoral Commission.

### **Article 222**

§ 1 The District Election Commission shall delete from the registered candidate list, any candidates for the post of MP who has died or lost the right to be elected or has submitted a declaration on withdrawal of consent to be a candidate.

§ 2 If the deletion of a candidate from the list of candidates was due to the death of a candidate thus resulting in the list containing less than the number of deputies elected in the constituency, the commission shall notify the person submitting the list about the possibility of submitting a new candidate. Any supplement to the list shall be made at the latest 15 days before election day, in which case the provisions of Article. 210 § 1 shall not apply.

§ 3 If a candidate from the list is deleted for any reason other than death, or if the list has not been supplemented within the time limit referred to in § 2, and the list of candidates remains less

than the number of deputies in the constituency, the commission shall cancel registration of the list. No remedy is available from the decision of the commission.

§ 4 In the event of a termination of the election committee in the manner referred to in art. 101 § 1 and 3, the electoral commission cancels the registration of the list put forward by that committee. The provision of § 3, second sentence shall apply accordingly.

§ 5 The deletion of the candidate and the decision referred to in § 2-4, shall be immediately communicated by the district election commission to the legal representative, the National Electoral Commission and the voters, in the form of an announcement.

## **Chapter 4 Ballots**

### **Article 223**

Following the registration of lists of candidates, the constituency electoral commission shall print ballots and ensure the transfer of such to regional electoral commissions in the manner prescribed by the National Electoral Commission.

### **Article 224**

The ballot paper shall be marked with the list of registered voters and district, containing a number and the name or abbreviation of the election committee, in order of increasing numbers of lists. Under the designation of each list the names and surnames of all candidates registered on the list shall be provided.

### **Article 225**

§ 1 If the election commission removes a candidate from the list in for the reasons referred to in art. 222 § 1, following printing of the ballot papers, the name of the candidate shall nevertheless remain on the printed ballot. However, information about the removal of the candidate from the list and the conditions on which valid vote may be cast on such a list shall be provided by way of announcement, displayed on posters at the polling stations on election day.

§ 2 The provision of § 1 shall apply accordingly if the commission invalidates the registration of a list of candidates for the reasons referred to in Article. 222 § 3 or 4

### **Article 226**

The method of preparation and transfer of ballot papers for the electoral circuits established on Polish maritime vessels and abroad, shall be determined by the National Electoral Commission after consultation, as appropriate, with the minister responsible for maritime affairs and minister responsible for foreign affairs.



**Chapter 5**  
**The method of voting and the conditions of validity of the voting**

**Article 227**

§ 1 The voter shall vote for only one list of candidates, putting an "x" (two crossing lines within the grid) on the ballot paper, in the box on the left side next to the names of one of the candidates from this list, which indicates this candidates priority in obtaining the mandate .

§ 2 The vote is considered invalid if the ballot has been marked with an "x" in the box on the left side next to the names of two or more candidates from different lists of candidates or no marke has been placed at all in the box on the left side next to the name of any candidate from any of the lists , subject to § 4

§ 3 The vote is considered invalid if the ballot an "x" is marked in the box on the left side beside the name of only the candidate on the list of candidates, whose registration has been canceled.

§ 4 If on the ballot an "x" is marked in the box on the left side next to the names of only the candidate from only one list of candidates and the candidate's name was deleted from this list, the vote is considered valid and cast for that list.

§ 5 If on the ballot an "x" is marked in the box on the left side next to the names of two or more candidates from the same list of candidates, the vote is considered a valid vote cast for that list of candidates with priority for receipt of mandate given to the candidate who is first on the list.

**Chapter 6**  
**Determination of voting results and election results in a constituency**

**Article 228**

§ 1 In determining the results of voting in the circuit, the regional electoral commission calculates the number of:

- 1) voters entitled to vote;
- 2) voters who have been issued ballots;
- 3) voters voting by proxy;
- 4) ballot papers removed from the ballot box, including:
  - a) invalid ballots,
  - b) valid ballots;
- 5) invalid votes cast;
- 6) valid votes cast on all the lists of candidates;
- 7) valid votes cast for each list of candidates;
- 8) valid votes cast for individual candidates from those lists.

§ 2 The figures referred to in § 1 are mentioned in the protocol of voting for that circuit.

**Article 229**

Immediately after receipt of the protocol of voting in the circuit, the district electoral commission verifies the accuracy of determination of the result of voting in the circuit. In the event of any inaccuracies in determination of the results, the district commission requests a repeated

determination of results and informs the National Electoral Commission. The provisions of Article. 69 § 3, Art. 71, Art. 73 and art. 228 shall apply accordingly.

### **Article 230**

§ 1 The constituency electoral commission based on the protocols referred to in Article. 78 § 1, shall determine the results of voting for individual candidates and draw up a list, in two copies, of the protocol of voting results in the constituency.

§ 2 If the competent district electoral commission does not obtain the results of the vote from the electoral circuits abroad or on Polish maritime vessels within 24 hours after the end of voting referred to in art. 39 § 6, the vote in those districts considered null and void. This fact is recorded in the protocol of the results of the vote in the constituency, with an annotation as to the possible reasons of not receiving the results of voting from those circuits.

§ 3 The protocol lists the sum of the numbers referred to in art. 228 § 1

§ 4 Minutes signed by all persons included in the committee present during its drafting. The protocol shall bear the seal of the committee.

§ 5 In determining voting results and drafting the protocol the person notifying the list may be present and has the right to make comments to the minutes with a stipulation of reservations.

§ 6 The head of the constituency electoral commission shall immediately forward the data from the protocol summaries relating to the number of valid votes and valid votes cast for each list of candidates and the number of valid votes cast for individual candidates from each of those lists to the National Electoral Commission, in the manner prescribed by it, by means of electronic transfer of data.

§ 7 The protocol of voting results shall be sent by the head of the district committee, in a sealed envelope to the National Electoral Commission in the established procedure.

§ 8 A template of protocol results of the vote in the constituency will be determined by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 9 Upon receipt of the protocols referred to in § 7, the National Electoral Commission shall verify the correctness of the determination of the election results in constituencies.

§ 10 In the event of irregularities in determining the election results, the National Electoral Commission shall ensure the confirmation of these results.

### **Article 231**

§ 1 The National Electoral Commission based on data from the protocols of voting results in the constituency, received via electronic transmission and, having regard to the provision of Article. 197 § 1, shall determine the number of valid votes and valid votes cast for a list of candidates of each election committee in the country and the lists that meet the conditions for entitlement to participate in the distribution of seats in the constituencies. Information on this is given to the public in the Public Information Bulletin.

§ 2 Upon receipt of protocols of voting results in constituencies the National Electoral Commission established by protocol on voting results summary list of candidates across the country and states, having regard to the provision of Article. 197 § 1, which satisfy the conditions of entitlement to participate in the distribution of seats in the constituencies, and shall notify in writing the district election commissions. The public shall be informed in the Public Information Bulletin.

## **Article 232**

§ 1 Upon receipt of the notice referred to in art. 231 § 2, the district electoral commission shall divide the seats between the eligible list of candidates in the following manner:

1) the number of valid votes cast for each of these lists in the constituency is divided by the numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4 and so forth until all the numbers from the resulting quotients can be enough to rank the largest sequence of numbers, that amounts to the number of seats to be allocated between the lists in a constituency;

2) each list shall receive the number of mandates , based on the above established process of ranking the largest sequence of numbers, which is equivalent to the number of the highest sequence of numbers.

§ 2 If several lists obtained quotients equal to the last figure of the numbers ranked in the specified manner, and there are more lists than seats to be allocated, priority is given to lists in the order of the total number of votes cast on them. If two or more list were given an equal number of votes, the priority shall be decided based on the number of electoral circuits in where a given list received most votes.

## **Art 233**

§ 1 Mandates obtained by a list of candidates are assigned in order of the number of votes received.

§ 2 If two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes entitling each of them to obtain a mandate from the list, priority is given to the candidate who received a greater number of votes in circuits, and if the number of these circuits were to be equal, priority shall be resolved by conducting a lottery draw by the chairperson of the district electoral commission, in the presence of committee members and the legal representative; the absence of the legal representatives does not hinder the draw being conducted. The result of the lottery shall be recorded in the protocol of the election results.

§ 3 The procedures for conducting the lottery referred to in § 2, shall be determined by the National Electoral Commission.

## **Article 234**

§ 1 After determining the results of the election in the constituency, the district electoral commission shall compile the voting protocol for each chosen deputy in a circuit, in two copies.

§ 2 The protocol lists the number of deputies elected in the district, a list of lists of candidates submitted for the registered lists and the number of mandates available in the district, the sum of the figures referred to in art. 228 § 1, the number of seats per every list of candidates and the names and the surnames of elected members from each list of candidates.

§ 3 The protocol shall be signed by all commission members present during its drafting. The protocol shall be stamped with the seal of the commission.

§ 4 In determining the election results and during the drafting of the protocol the person submitting the list may be present and has the right to make annotations in the protocol raising any objections, which shall be included therein.

§ 5 The template for protocols shall be determined by the National Electoral Commission.

### **Article 235**

The District Election Commission shall immediately make public the results of voting and election results in constituencies, including the data referred to in art. 234 § 2

### **Article 236**

§ 1 The head of the constituency electoral commission shall transmit the data from the protocol to the election to the National Electoral Commission in the manner determined by it, by means of electronic data transfer.

§ 2 The Protocol referred to in Article. 230 § 1, shall be forwarded immediately by the head of the committee in a sealed envelope to the National Electoral Commission in the manner determined by it.

§ 3 Other documents from the elections are held by the director of the relevant branch of the National Electoral Commission, appropriate for the registered office of the commission.

### **Article 237**

§ 1 Upon receipt of the Protocols referred to in art. 234, § 1, the National Electoral Commission shall verify the accuracy of determination of the results of elections in the districts.

§ 2 In the event of irregularities in determining the election results, the National Electoral Commission manages their repeated determination. The provisions of Article. 232-236 shall apply accordingly.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Announcement of results of elections to the Sejm**

#### **Art 238**

The National Electoral Commission shall publish in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Polish in the form of an official announcement, and make public the results of elections to the Sejm. The notice shall contain basic information contained in the records of the election of deputies in constituencies.

#### **Art 239**

National Electoral Commission provides each deputy with a certificate on his or her election.

### **Article 240**

The National Electoral Commission shall send the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the Sejm and the Supreme Court a report on the election no later than 14 days after the announcement referred to in art. 238

## **Chapter 8 Validity of elections**

### **Art 241**

§ 1 A complaint against the validity of elections to the Sejm shall be submitted in writing to the Supreme Court within 7 days from the announcement of election results by the National Electoral Commission in the Official Gazette of the Polish Republic. Submitting a complaint within this time limit through the public post is the equivalent to submitting it to the Supreme Court.

§ 2 With regard to the voters residing abroad or in on Polish maritime vessels the requirements listed in § 1 shall be deemed satisfied if the complaint is made to the competent consular officer or the captain of the ship. The voter is required to ensure that the complaint provides the notice of the establishment of his or her power of attorney (representative) resident in the country or agent for service resident in the country, otherwise the complaint shall be deemed null and void.

§ 3 The applicant must formulate arguments in the complaint and indicate the evidence upon which the complaint is based.

### **Article 242**

§ 1 The Supreme Court shall consider a complaint in the composition of three judges in non-litigious proceedings, and issue an opinion on the complaint in the form of a decision.

§ 2 The opinion referred to in § 1 shall include a determination of the validity of the allegations made in the complaint and in case of confirmation of the validity of allegations – shall determine whether a crime against elections or breach of the Code took place and had influence on the outcome of elections.

§ 3 Participants in the proceedings are; the person filing the complaint, the chairman of the committee responsible or his deputy and the Prosecutor General.

### **Article 243**

§ 1 The Supreme Court shall not act upon a complaint filed by a person not entitled to do so based on the conditions laid down in Article. 241. The time limit for lodging a complaint may not be reverted.

§ 2 The Supreme Court shall not act upon a complaint on a matter, on which the Code foresees the possibility of filing a complaint before the polling day, to the court or to the National Electoral Commission.

§ 3 If the complaint concerns the committing of a crime against the elections, the Supreme Court shall immediately notify the Prosecutor General.

### **Art 244**

§ 1 The Supreme Court in the composition of the entire Chamber of Labour, Social Security and Public Affairs, on the basis of reports submitted by the election of the National Electoral Commission and the opinions issued on the complaints filed, shall take a decision as to the validity of elections and the validity of the election for Members against whom the protest filed.

The provisions of the Act of 23 November 2002, the Supreme Court (Journal of Laws No. 240, item. 2052, as amended.) shall be applicable to the proceedings.

§ 2 The decision referred to in § 1, shall be issued by the Supreme Court, in the form of a resolution, not later than 90 days after the election, at hearing attended by the Prosecutor General and the President of the National Electoral Commission.

§ 3 The Supreme Court, taking up a resolution to make void the election or decides on the invalidity of the results for deputies or decides upon the necessity to repeat the elections or any other electoral activity, should indicate the activity which needs to be repeated.

§ 4 The resolution of the Supreme Court shall be immediately notified to the President of the Republic and the Speaker of the Sejm, and sent to the National Electoral Commission.

§ 5 The resolution of the Supreme Court shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Polish Republic.

§ 6 Termination of seats referred to in § 3, shall occur on the date of the announcement of the resolution of the Supreme Court.

### **Article 245**

§ 1 In the event that the Supreme Court's resolution on the annulment of elections in the district or non-validity of the election for deputies the repetition of the said electoral activities are carried out exclusively in the territory of the country, under rules and procedures provided for in the Code.

§ 2 The order of the President of the Republic on repeat elections or repetition of certain electoral activities is published in the Information Bulletin of the Republic and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Polish at latest 5 days from the date of announcement of the resolution of the Supreme Court referred to in art. 244 § 3. The provisions of Article. 195 shall apply accordingly.

§ 3 Election results or the results of the repeated election activities shall be officially announced by the National Electoral Commission. The notice also lists the persons who as a result of repeat election or repeat electoral activities have lost their mandate, indicating the number of constituency, and in case of expiry of the mandate of the deputy the number and the name list of candidates.

§ 4 The notice referred to in § 3, shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland and to made public through the Public Information Bulletin, and shall be submitted to the Speaker of the Sejm.

### **Article 246**

In the event that a resolution by the Supreme Court annuls the election and following its publication in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, the repeat elections to the exten of the revocation of the previous election, shall be carried out under the rules and procedures provided for in the Code. The provision of Art. 245 § 2 shall apply accordingly.

## **Chapter 9**

### **The expiration of the mandate of a deputy and consolidation of the composition of the Sejm**

#### **Article 247**

§ 1 The expiration of the mandate of a deputy shall in the case of:

- 1) death;
- 2) loss of right to stand for elections or lack thereof on election day;
- 3) renegeing of the mandate by a final decision of the Tribunal of State;
- 4) resignation;
- 5) acceptance on election day position or function, which according to the provisions of the Polish Constitution or laws, can not be combined with the office of a deputy, subject to the provisions of § 3;
- 6) during the term of office, appointment to a post, or entrusting with a functions that pursuant to the provisions of the Polish Constitution or laws can not be combined with the function of a deputy;
- 7) during the term of office, selection to become as Member of the European Parliament.

§ 2 A refusal to take the oath means the renunciation of the parliamentary mandate.

§ 3 Termination of office of a deputy shall occur if a function or post referred to in § 1, paragraph 5, taken on election day shall not be refused, by way of notice to the Speaker of Sejm, within 14 days from the date of announcement by the National Electoral Commission in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Polish Sejm of the election results.

§ 4 The provision of § 3 shall apply accordingly in relation to the deputy who from the day the election until the beginning of the Sejm's term of office takes a position or function, which according to the provisions of the Polish Constitution or laws can not be combined with the office of a deputy and to the deputy who received a mandate in during the term of the Sejm.

§ 5 Termination of appointment of a deputy appointed or elected during the term of the position or function referred to in § 1 point 6 and 7, shall occur on the date of appointment or election.

#### **Article 248**

§ 1 The National Electoral Commission, after publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Polish the election result to the Sejm election results, shall immediately transfer to the Minister of Justice information containing a given name (s), surname, maiden name, parents' names, date and place of birth, address, nationality and Social Security identification number (PESEL) of all deputies.

§ 2 The Minister of Justice on the basis of data collected in the National Criminal Records Database, shall submit to the Speaker of the Sejm, within 14 days of receipt of the data referred to in § 1, what follows:

- 1) information about any final judgment issued against deputies sentenced to imprisonment for an indictable offense or intentional tax crime, and about the deputies deprived of public rights by a final court decision or;
- 2) information, confirming that none of the deputies have been convicted to imprisonment for indictable offense indictable or for and intentional tax crime or of them having been deprived of public rights by a final decision of the court.

§ 3 If after the information referred to in § 2, the Minister of Justice obtains from the National Criminal Record information about a final judgment deputies sentenced to imprisonment for an indictable offense or for an intentional tax crime or that deputies have been deprived of public rights by a final court decision, he or she shall immediately forward it to the Speaker of the Sejm.

#### **Article 249**

§ 1 The termination of the mandate of the deputy shall be immediately ordered by the Speaker of the Sejm.

§ 2 The order referred to in § 1 shall be published in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, "Polish Monitor", subject to Art. 250

§ 3 The order referred to in § 1 shall be served on the National Electoral Commission immediately, subject to Art. 250

#### **Article 250**

§ 1 The order of the Marshal of the Sejm on the expiry of the mandate of a deputy on the grounds referred to in Article. 247 § 1 point 2-7 and the reasons shall be served immediately on the deputy. The order may be appealed by the deputy to the Supreme Court within 3 days of the service of the notice of the order. The appeal must be filed through the Speaker of the Sejm.

§ 2 The Supreme Court - Chamber of Labour, Social Security and Public Affairs shall consider the appeals referred to in § 1, and decide the matter within 7 days in non-litigious proceedings. A copy of the order of the Supreme Court shall be served on the deputy, who has made the appeal, Speaker of the Sejm and the National Electoral Commission. In case of failure of the appeal provisions of Article. 249 § 2 and 3 shall apply.

#### **Article 251**

§ 1 The Speaker of Sejm shall, based on the information provided by the National Electoral Commission, inform the next candidate on the from the same list of candidates who received the next highest amount of votes in the election, of the pre-emptive right to the mandate of deputy in the case of:

- 1) death of a deputy;
- 2) passing of the time limit for filing an appeal against the order of the Speaker of Sejm concerning mandate expiry;
- 3) failure of an appeal to the Supreme Court against the order of the Speaker of Sejm on expiry of the mandate,

§ 2 If the pre-emptive right to receive the mandate is possessed by more than one candidate Article 233 shall apply accordingly.

§ 3 The statement of acceptance of the mandate should be submitted within 7 days of the notice served. Failure to submit a statement within the period referred to in the previous sentence shall be tantamount to a waiver of the pre-emptive right to fill the mandate.

§ 4 The candidate may waive the pre-emptive right to fill the mandate for the candidate from the same list, which received the largest number of votes. A declaration of waiving the pre-emptive right shall be made to the Speaker of Sejm within 7 days of receipt of the notice referred to in § 1



§ 5 The Speaker of Sejm makes a decision on the filling of the mandate. The provisions of Article. 249 § 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly.

§ 6 If the filling of a mandate is the manner described in § 1-3 is impossible due to lack of candidates, which can be assigned mandate, the Speaker of the Sejm, by way of ordinance, deems the mandate as vacant.

## **Chapter 10** **The election campaign in public programs, radio and television broadcasters**

### **Article 252**

§ 1 An election committee has the right to free broadcasting of electoral programs through public radio and television broadcasters:

- 1) nationwide - if they register their lists of candidates in at least half of the constituencies;
- 2) regional - if the registered list of candidates in at least one electoral district.

§ 2 Total time broadcasting of election shall be:

- 1) in the national programs - 15 hours in Polish TV, including 3 hours of TV Polonia, and 30 hours of programs, in Polish Radio S.A, and affiliates, hereinafter referred to as "Polish Radio", including up to 5 hours in a program intended for the foreign distribution;
- 2) in the regional programs - 10 hours in Polish TV and 15 hours on the Polish Radio.

§ 3 (Deleted)

### **Article 253**

§ 1 Time devoted to the dissemination of election programs, referred to in art. 252 § 2 point 1 shall be divided equally between the eligible electoral committees on the basis of the information provided by the National Electoral Commission on electoral committees, which registered its list of candidates in at least half of the constituencies.

§ 2 Time devoted to the dissemination of election programs, referred to in art. 252 § 2 item 2, is divided between eligible electoral committees in proportion to the number of registered lists of candidates, on the basis of the information about the lists, provided by the district electoral commission appropriate to the area covered by the regional program.

### **Article 254**

§ 1 The order of distribution of the elections material on each day, is decided upon by the director of the relevant national television programs, including TV Polonia, and regional programs and radio programs through random selection in the presence of persons submitting the list at least 18 days before election day.

§ 2 The sharing arrangements for air time, referred to in Article. 253, may be appealed by the person submitting the list to the the National Electoral Commission. The complaint must be filed within a time period of 2 days of the determination of the sharing arrangement. The National Electoral Commission shall consider the matter immediately and issue a decision. The decision of the National Electoral Commission is not entitled to the remedy.

**Section IV**  
**Elections to the Senate**

**Chapter 1**  
**General principles**

**Article 255**

Elections to the Senate shall be universal, direct and shall be by secret ballot.

**Article 256**

100 senators are elected to the senate based on the majority rule.

**Article 257**

The decree by the President of the Republic of elections to the Sejm, is synonymous with managed-tion of elections to the Senate.

**Article 258**

In matters not covered in this chapter, the provisions of Chapter III of the Code shall apply.

**Article 259**

§ 1 In the elections for the Senate election committees can spend funds on election campaigning only in a manner subject to the following limitations:

1) the allowance is determined in the amount of 18 groszy per voter in the country included in the register of voters;

2) spending limit for the committee is calculated as follows:

$$L = (w \times k \times s) / 100,$$

where the symbols are defined as:

L - spending limit,

w - the number of voters in the country included in the register of voters

k - the amount attributable to each voter in the country included in the register of voters referred to in paragraph 1

s - the number of constituencies where Election Committees registered candidates for the Senate.

§ 2 The provisions of Article. 199 § 2 and art. 200 shall apply accordingly.

**Chapter 2**  
**Constituencies**

**Article 260**

§ 1 In order to conduct elections to the Senate created single mandate constituencies are established.

§ 2 A constituency covers part of the region. Constituency boundaries can not violate boundaries of the constituencies created for elections to the Sejm.

§ 3 A city with county rights of more than 500,000 inhabitants can be divided into two or more constituencies.

## **Article 261**

§ 1 The division of constituencies shall be at a uniform standard of representation, calculated by dividing the country's population by 100, taking into account the provisions of Article. 260 and the following rules:

1) if the quotient resulting from dividing the population of the district represented by a uniform standard is equal to or greater than 2 - to reduce the area (to change the border) of the constituency;

2) if the quotient resulting from dividing the population of the district represented by the uniform norm is less than 0.5 - increase the area (to change the borders) of the constituency.

§ 2 In the region (“*vovoidship*”) senators are elected in the number of not less than the number of total (excluding the fraction), which is the quotient of the number of inhabitants and a uniform standard of representation and not greater than said integer plus one.

§ 3 The boundaries and numbers of the various constituencies as well as the registered office of district election commissions are specified in Annex 2 to the Code.

§ 4 Information about the constituency shall be communicated to the voters of the district in the form provided by the National Electoral Commission no later than 52 days prior to Election Day, subject to § 4a. Printing and posting of notices is provided by the National Election Office.

§ 4a. In the case of conducting the elections referred to in art. 195 § 1, information about the constituency shall be communicated to voters no later than 40 days prior to election day.

§ 5 The provision of Art. 203 shall apply.

## **Chapter 3 Specific tasks of the election commissions**

### **Art 262**

§ 1 Elections to the Senate are carried out by:

- 1) The National Electoral Commission;
- 2) The district electoral commissions appointed for elections to the Sejm;
- 3) district electoral commissions appointed for the elections to the Sejm.

§ 2 Functions of the district election commission, referred to in § 1 paragraph 2 for the constituency for the Senate District election commission, established for elections to the Sejm, shall be carried out by the regional elections commission.

§ 3 In the case of elections referred to in art. 283, a district electoral commission and circuit electoral commissions in the manner and in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

## **Chapter 4 Submitting of candidates for senators Art 263**

§ 1 A political party that is part of the electoral coalition formed to jointly nominate candidates for deputies and senators or candidates only in order to jointly nominate candidates for senators, can not submit candidates to the Senate itself separately.

§ 2 The name and abbreviation of the voters of the election committee created only in order to nominate candidates for senators must be different from the names and abbreviations of the electoral committees set up to nominate candidates for deputies and senators.

#### **Article 264**

§ 1 The election committee may report to only one constituency candidate for Senator.

§ 2 A person may only stand in one constituency, for the post of a Senator

#### **Article 265**

§ 1 The submission for a candidate for senator should be supported by signatures of at least 2,000 voters.

§ 2 A voter may support more than one candidate for Senator.

§ 3 Voter support for the application of the candidate for Senator, shall be signed next to a legible inscription of name and the surname, address and social security identification number (PESEL).

§ 4 The list of signatures must include on each of its pages, the name of the election committee supporting the candidate, the number of constituency where the candidate's candidature is being submitted, and the words:

"I support the candidate for Senator ..... (Surname, first name - names) submitted by ..... (Name of the election committee) in the constituency ..... (Circuit number) in the elections to the Polish Senate ordered on ..... (Day, month, year).. "

§ 5 The declaration of support for a candidate for senator can only be provided by a voter with permanent domicile in the given constituency.

### **Chapter 5 Ballots**

#### **Art 266**

The constituency electoral commission after the registration of candidates for senator shall ensure the printing of ballots and ensure their transfer to district electoral commissions in the manner set by the National Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 267**

The ballot paper shall bear the names and registered candidates for the mandate of senator in alphabetical order with the appropriate abbreviations of the elections committee provided.

**Chapter 6**  
**The method of voting and the conditions of validity of the voting**

**Article 268**

§ 1 The voter votes for a particular candidate, putting on the ballot an "x" (two crossing lines within the grid) to the left next to his (or her) name.

§ 2 If only one candidate is registered, the voter votes for that candidate by placing an "x" in the box marked with the word "YES" on the left side next to the names of the candidate. Putting the "x" in the box marked with the word "NO" on the left side next to the name of the candidate indicates that this is an valid vote against the choice given to the candidate.

**Article 269**

§ 1 If the ballot paper has not been marked with an "x" in the box on the left side next to the name of any of the candidates, then this ballot is considered valid with the vote considered invalid.

§ 2 If the ballot paper has been marked with an "x" in the box on the left side next to the names of two or more candidates, then this ballot is considered valid with the vote considered invalid

§ 3 If the ballot paper has been marked with an "x" in the box on the left side next to the name of the candidate, whose name has been deleted, then this ballot is considered valid with an ivalid vote

§ 4 If in a situation where only one candidate is registered and there is no "x" marked in any grid or "x" has been marked in both boxes, then this card is considered a valid ballot with an invalid vote.

**Chapter 7**  
**Determination of voting results and election results in the constituency**

**Art 270**

§ 1 In determining the results of voting in the circuit the circuit electoral commission calculates the number of:

- 1) voters entitled to vote;
- 2) voters who have been issued ballots;
- 3) voters voting by proxy;
- 4) ballot papers from the ballot box, including:
  - a) the invalid ballots,
  - b) the valid ballots;
- 5) invalid votes;
- 6) valid votes cast for all candidates;
- 7) of valid votes cast for individual candidates for Senator.

§ 2 The figures referred to in § 1 are mentioned in the protocol of the vote in the circuit.

### **Article 271**

Immediately after receipt of the vote in the circuit, the district electoral commission shall verify the accuracy of determination of voting results in the circuit. If inaccuracies are found the district commission requests their repeat determination and notifies the the National Electoral Commission.

### **Article 272**

§ 1 The constituency electoral commission shall determine the results of the votes based on the protocols referred to in Article. 270 § 2, and produce two copies of a protocol of result on the district and in the circuit.

§ 2 If the competent district electoral commission does not obtain the results of the vote in the electoral circuits abroad or on Polish maritime vessels ships within 24 hours after the vote referred to in art. 39 § 6, the vote in those districts considered is considered as null and void. This fact shall be recorded in the protocol of the results of the vote in the constituency, with an explanation of possible reasons for the inability to receive such results of voting.

§ 3 The protocol lists the sum of the numbers referred to in art. 270 § 1, and the name and the name chosen senator, with the name or abbreviation of the election committee.

§ 4 The Protocol is signed by all persons included in the constituency electoral commission present at the drafting thereof. The Protocol shall bear the seal of the committee.

§ 5 In the process of determination of voting results and drafting of the protocol person submitting the list may be present and has the right to make annotations in the protocol with a specification of any objections thereto.

### **Article 273**

§ 1 The elected senator in a given constituency shall be the candidate who received the most valid votes.

§ 2 If two or more candidates received a number of votes entitling them to obtain a mandate, priority shall be determined based on the results of the number of circuits gained, and if the number of these circuits would be equal, it shall be decided by way of letter conducted by the constituency electoral commission chairman in the presence of members of electoral committees and legal representatives, the absence of the legal representative shall not obstruct the lottery taking place. The result of the draw shall be recorded in the protocol referred to in art. 272 § 1

§ 3 Procedures for conducting lottery, referred to in § 2, shall be determined by the National Electoral Commission.

§ 4 If only one candidate is registered, that candidate shall be deemed to be chosen if more than half of the votes cast were valid.

### **Article 274**

The District Election Commission shall immediately make public the results of voting and election results in the constituency, including the data referred to in art. 272 § 3

## **Article 275**

§ 1 The protocol of voting results and election results in constituency shall be sent by the head of the district electoral commission in a sealed envelope to the National Electoral Commission in the manner determined by it. Other documents from the elections shall be held by the director of the branch of the National Electoral Office responsible for the registered office of the electoral commission.

§ 2 Upon receipt of the protocols referred to in § 1, the National Electoral Commission shall verify the correctness of the determination of the election results in constituencies.

§ 3 In the event of irregularities in determining the election results, the National Electoral Commission manages the re-establishment of these results.

## **Chapter 8 Announcement of election results to the Senate**

### **Article 276**

National Electoral Commission shall publish the result of the elections to the Senate by means of official announcement in the Official Gazette of the Polish Republic, and make public the results of the election to the Senate. The notice shall contain, according to the constituencies, the basic information contained in the protocols of district election commissions and the names and the surnames of elected senators.

### **Article 277**

National Electoral Commission issues certificates of receiving the mandate of senator.

### **Article 278**

National Electoral Commission shall send the President of the Republic, Speaker of the Senate and the Supreme Court a report on the election no later than 14 days after the announcement referred to in art. 276th

## **Chapter 9 The expiration of the mandate of a Senator and complete the composition of the Senate**

### **Article 279**

§ 1 The expiration of the mandate of senator shall occur in the following cases:

- 1) the death of a senator;
- 2) loss of eligibility to stand for elections or lack thereof it on election day;
- 3) loss of mandate based on a final decision of the Tribunal of State;
- 4) resignation;
- 5) acceptance on election day a position or function, which, pursuant to the provisions of the Polish Constitution or laws, can not be combined with the office of senator, subject to the provisions of § 3;

6) appointment, during term of office, to s post, or entrusting with a function which, pursuant to the provisions of the Polish Constitution or laws, can not be combined with the mandate of senator;

7) selection during the term of office for deputy of Sejm.

§ 2 Refusal to take the oath means the renunciation of the senatorial mandate.

§ 3 The expiration of the mandate as a result of acceptance by a senator on election day, a position or function, referred to in § 1, paragraph 5, shall take place, unless the senator submits to the Speaker of the Senate, within 14 days of announcement by the National Electoral Commission in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Polish of the election results Senate, a statement of submission of resignation from his position or function.

§ 4 The provision of § 3 shall apply accordingly in relation to the senator, who from the day the election until the beginning of term of office of the Senate took a position or function, which according to the provisions of the Polish Constitution or laws can not be combined with the office of Senator and in relation to a Senator who has been given a mandate during the term of the Senate.

§ 5 The expiration of the mandate of a Senator appointed or elected during the term of the position or function referred to in § 1 point 6 and 7, shall occur on the date of appointment or election.

#### **Article 280**

§ 1 The National Electoral Commission, after publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Polish election results to the Senate, shall immediately forward to the Minister of Justice, the data on the Senators including name (s), surname, maiden name, parents' names, date and place of birth, address, nationality and Social Security identification number (PESEL).

§ 2 Minister of Justice on the basis of data collected in the National Criminal Records Database forward the Speaker of the Senate within 14 days of receipt of the data referred to in § 1:

1) information about senators convicted by a final court judgment of imprisonment for intentional crime prosecuted by indictment or for an intentional tax crime and of senators deprived of public rights by a final court ruling or;

2) information about the fact that none of the senators were convicted to imprisonment for an intentional crime prosecuted by indictment or intentional tax crime or deprivation of public rights by final court decision.

§ 3 If after the information referred to in § 2, the Minister of Justice obtained from the National Criminal Record information about the senators convicted by a final sentence to imprisonment for an indictable offense or for an intentional tax offense, or of a senator stripped of public rights by final court decision, he/she shall immediately forward it to the Speaker of the Senate.

#### **Article 281**

§ 1 The expiration of the mandate of a Senator immediately ordered by the Speaker of the Senate.

§ 2 The order referred to in § 1 shall be published in the Official Journal of the Polish Republic, "Polish Monitor", subject to Art. 282

§ 3 The order referred to in § 1 immediately delivered to the President of the Republic and the National Electoral Commission, subject to Art. 282



## **Article 282**

§ 1 Order of the Speaker of the Senate to terminate the mandate of a Senator for the reasons set out in Article. 279 § 1 point 2-7 , together with the justification shall be served immediately on the senator. The order may be appealed by the Senator to the Supreme Court within 3 days from the date of service of the order. The appeal must be filed through the Speaker of the Senate.

§ 2 The Supreme Court - Chamber of Labour, Social Security and Public Affairs consider appeals referred to in § 1, and decides the matter within 7 days in non-litigious proceedings. A copy of the decision of the Supreme Court is served on the senator, who has made appeal, President of the Republic, Speaker of the Senate and the National Elections Commission In case of failure of the appeal provisions of Article. 281 § 2 and 3 shall apply.

## **Article 283**

§ 1 The President of the Republic manages supplementary elections to the Senate in case of:

- 1) the death of a senator;
- 2) the time limit for filing an appeal against the order of the Speaker of the Senate to mandate expires;
- 3) failure of an appeal against the order of Speaker of the Senate of the expiry of the mandate by the Supreme Court.

§ 2 By-elections are managed and carried out within 3 months of determination of expiry of the mandate of the senator. Elections are not carried out within 6 months before the closing date for ordering the elections to the Sejm.

§ 3 In matters concerning the management of the election referred to in § 1, the provisions of Article. 194, shall apply, except that the order of the President of the Republic for by-elections must be published by the The National Electoral Commission without delay, in the form of and announcement in the constituency, where elections are to be carried out. Printing and posting of the notice is provided by the National Election Office.

§ 4 Voting in the re-election is carried out only within the country, and only those person with permanent domicile in the constituency have the right to vote.

§ 5 In the re-election the election commission shall be composed of 5 to 7 people, and the composition of the supplementary members referred to in art. 182 § 8, is made in the case of notification of less than 4 candidates.

## **Chapter 10**

### **The election campaign in public programs, radio and television broadcasters**

## **Article 284**

§ 1 The election Committee, who registered a candidate for Senator is entitled to the dissemination of free election broadcasts on public programs, radio and television broadcasters:

- 1) nationwide - if the registered candidates to the Senate at least half of the constituencies;
- 2) regional - if registered at least one candidate for Senator.

§ 2 Total time broadcasting of election is:

- 1) in the national programs - 5 hours in the Polish TV and 10 hours in the Polish Radio;

2) in the appropriate regional program - 3 hours in Polish TV and 6 hours in Polish Radio.

§ 3 The time of election broadcasting of programs nationwide is divided among all eligible election committees.

§ 4 The time broadcasting of election in the appropriate regional program is shared between the eligible election committees in proportion to the number of registered candidates to the Senate by the constituencies within the coverage of the program.

§ 5 The National Broadcasting Council, after consultation with the National Electoral Commission shall, by regulation, establish the rules and manner of campaigning in radio and television programs by the electoral committees authorized to disseminate election programs in the elections to the Sejm and the Senate.

#### **Article 285**

§ 1 In the case of re-elections, the provision of Article. 284 § 1 item 1 shall not apply and the total time distribution of free election broadcasts in appropriate programs of regional authorities is 2 hours in Polish Television, and 4 hours at Polish Radio.

§ 2 The time referred to in § 1, in each regional program is divided equally among all legitimate election committees.

#### **Chapter 11**

#### **Special rules for financing the election campaign for the Senate**

#### **Article 286**

§ 1 Election Committee, which has registered the candidate or candidates to the Senate, is entitled to a subsidy from the state budget on the principles set out in Article. 150

§ 2 In the case of a re-election the amount of the subsidy granted to the election committee of the candidate who has obtained a mandate, is calculated in such a way that the total amount of subsidies accrued by all election committees in the recently held elections to the Sejm and the Senate is divided by 560 and multiplied by the average rate of increase in prices of goods and services. This indicator is calculate by the Central Statistical Office for the period from the month during which the elections to the Sejm and the Senate were held, or for the month in which re-elections were held.

(...)

#### **Section IX** **Penal provisions**

#### **Article 494**

§ 1 Whomever conducts election campaigns:

- 1) in government offices or local government administration or the courts,
- 2) at the workplace in a manner and form that disturbs its normal functioning,

3) in military units or other organizational units subordinate to the ministry of Defense, or civil defense units or other barrack-like units subordinated to the minister competent for internal affairs,

4) at the polling station or within the building where the premises are located

- is subject to a fine.

§ 2 The same penalty shall be applicable anyone who conducts election campaigning in schools to students.

### **Article 495**

§ 1 Whomever, in connection with the elections:

1) places election posters and slogans on the walls of buildings, public transport stops, apartments, tables and columns boards, fences, lampposts, power equipment, telecommunications and others without the consent of the owner or manager of real estate, facility or equipment,

2) in the process of setting up their own announcement posts for the purpose of electoral campaigning violates the applicable provisions of law enforcement,

3) places election posters and slogans so that they can not be removed without damage,

4) places election posters and slogans with a surface area greater than 2m<sup>2</sup>,

5) distributes electoral advertisements in public programs or by way of non-public radio or television broadcasters;

- is subject to a fine.

§ 2 The same penalty shall apply:

1) The legal representatives, who within 30 days after the election do not remove the posters and election slogans and equipment arranged to conduct the election campaign;

2) A person who is an editor, as defined by Law of 26 January 1984 – Media Law, and allows for the a failure to provide information, in communication, electoral announcements, and slogans, advertised in newspapers printed at the expense of electoral committees, indicating by whom they are paid and from whom they originate.

### **Article 496**

Whomever, in connection with elections, does not include in electoral materials a clear indication of the electoral committee from which the material originates

- is subject to a fine.

### **Article 497**

§ 1 Whomever, in connection with the elections, collects signatures of support for the application to the list of candidates or a candidate, using any form of pressure aimed at obtaining such signatures

- is subject to a fine in the amount of 1,000 to 10,000 zlotys.

§ 2 The same penalty shall apply to persons who collect signatures in support of the application to the lists of candidates or a candidate in military units or other organizational units under the authority of the Minister of Defense, or civil defense units, or units subordinated to the minister for internal affairs.

§ 3 Whomever gives or receives financial or personal benefit in exchange for collecting or signing the declaration a list of candidates or candidate  
- is subject to a fine from 10,000 to 50,000 zlotys.

#### **Article 498**

Whomever, campaigns in the period following conclusion of the election campaign and until end of voting  
- is subject to a fine.

#### **Article 499**

Whomever, undertakes campaigning, without the written consent of the legal representative  
- is subject to a fine or jail.

#### **Article 500**

Whomever, in connection with the elections in the period commencing the end of the campaign until the end of voting, make public the results of pre-election surveys (polls) public opinion polls on the envisaged electoral behavior or anticipated results of the election, or election polls conducted on voting day  
- is subject to a fine of 500,000 to one million zlotys.

#### **Article 501**

Whomever, in connection with the elections, undertakes campaigning on behalf of elections committees of the candidates or candidate, by way of organizing a raffle or other games of chance or competitions, in which the winnings are cash prizes or items with a value higher than the value of items commonly used for advertising or promotion  
- is subject to a fine of 5,000 to 50,000 zlotys.

#### **Article 502**

Whomever, in connection with elections, gives or provides, in the course of electioneering, free alcohol or for a price that is equivalent to the net sales price obtainable, or at the level of purchase price or production cost  
- is subject to a fine of 5,000 to 50,000 zlotys.

#### **Article 503**

Whomever, in connection with elections provide funds or in-kind benefits of one election committee to another election committee  
- is subject to a fine of 1,000 to 10,000 zlotys.

#### **Article 504**

Whomever, in connection with the election organizes a public collection for the purpose of the election campaign

- is subject to a fine of 1,000 to 100,000, respectively.

#### **Article 505**

§ 1 The financial representative of the election committee, who fails to collect funds connected with the election on a bank account

- is subject to a fine.

§ 2 The same penalty shall be applied to does not submit a condition to the bank agreement concluded by him on behalf of the election committee, stating the manner of making payments in accordance with the law as well as the legal sources from which such payments may originate.

#### **Article 506**

Whomever, in connection with the elections:

1) obtains money or in kind benefits for the election committee or expends funds the election committee for purposes other than those related to elections,

2) obtains money or in kind benefits for the election committee or expends funds prior to the day on which such disbursement is permitted by law,

3) obtains money or in kind benefits for the election committee after the election,

4) spends money on the election committee on the date of the financial statements,

5) expends funds in violation of the electoral committee set spending limits for election committees,

6) transfers to the election committee or receives on behalf of the committee funds or in kind benefits from a source other than a Polish national with permanent domicile in on the territory of the Polish Republic,

7) transfer to the committee of the political party or coalition committee or receives on behalf of the committee funds or in kind benefits from a source other than the electoral fund of a political party forming the election committee of a political party or the election funds of political parties forming the coalition election committee ,

8) is not a Polish citizen having permanent domicile on the territory of the Polish Republic, undertakes actions to reduce the obligations of the election committee

- is subject to a fine of 1,000 to 100,000, respectively.

#### **Article 507**

Whomever, in connection with the election, or election committee receives in-kind benefits other than the unpaid services consisting in distributing posters and leaflets by individuals

- is subject to a fine of 1,000 to 100,000.

#### **Article 508**

§ 1 The financial representative of the election committee, who in connection with elections, fails to fulfill, in a timely manner the obligation of the election committee surplus funds for the benefit of a public organization

- shall be subject to a penalty of restriction of liberty or imprisonment up to 2 years

§ 2 The same penalty shall be applicable to anyone who prevents or hinders the implementation of the obligation by the elections committee to pay the surplus referred to in § 1 for the benefit of a public organization

§ 3 If the person referred to in § 2 acts unintentionally

-is subject to a fine.

### **Article 509**

§ 1 The financial Representative of the election committee, who in connection with the election fails to prepare and submit, the electoral commissioner or the National Electoral Commission input on the sources of the funds and the funds expended or provide false statements in the financial report

- shall be subject to a penalty of restriction of liberty or imprisonment up to 2 years

§ 2 The same penalty shall be applicable to anyone who prevents or hinders the implementation of the obligation to complement the preparation and submission to the electoral commissioner or the National Electoral Commission financial statements referred to in § 1

§ 3 If the person referred to in § 2 acts unintentionally

- is subject to a fine.

### **Article 510**

§ 1 Whomever, in connection with elections, obstructs or hinders the completion by the auditor his or her responsibilities in the preparation of an opinion or report on the financial statements

- is subject to a penalty of restriction of liberty or imprisonment up to 2 years

§ 2 If the person referred to in § 1 acts unintentionally

- is subject to a fine.

### **Article 511**

Whomever receives financial benefit from a power of attorney to vote for another person

- is subject to a fine.

### **Article 512**

Whomever gives power of attorney to vote in exchange for any material or personal benefit

- is punishable by jail or a fine.

### **Article 513**

A voter who votes more than once in the same election

- is subject to a fine.

#### **Article 514**

Whomever makes campaign expenses conducted in form and based on the principles applicable to advertising in an amount exceeding the limit laid down in Article. 136

- is subject to a fine.

#### **Article 515**

§ 1 In the case of conviction for the offence referred to in Article. 495 § 1, the court shall order the forfeiture of items which served or were designed for committing the offense, or compensatory items up to 1,500 zlotys.

§ 2 In the case of convictions for offenses specified in Article. 501, Art. 504, Art. And Article 506. 508 § 1 the court shall order the forfeiture of objects forming the subject of crime or misconduct.

§ 3 Forfeiture of items referred to in § 1 and 2, are seized, even if these items were not owned by the perpetrator.

§ 4 If the decision of the forfeiture of items referred to in § 2, it is not possible, the court decides on payment of a monetary amount representing the equivalent.

#### **Article 516**

The proceedings in cases referred to in Article. 494-496, Art. 498, Art. 499, Art. 503, Art. 505, Art. 511-513, shall be conducted based on the criminal procedure.

(...)