



NEMZETI VÁLASZTÁSI IRODA

VÁLASZTÁSI FÜZETEK

221.

INFORMATION

for International Observers

**Elections to the European Parliament,
Elections of local representatives and mayors
Minority self-government Elections**

June 9, 2024

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NATIONAL ELECTION OFFICE

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Publisher:

Nemzeti Választási Iroda

3 Alkotmány street, 1054 Budapest

ISSN: 1216-5530

ISSN: 1788-411X

PREFACE

The National Election Office of Hungary focuses on the transparency of the election procedure and regards it all-important to assist the participation of international observers at the local and European elections.

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

I hope this booklet will provide you with an understanding of our election administration, as well as highlight the most important aspects of the local and European elections.

April 26, 2024, Budapest

Dr. Attila Nagy

President of the National Election Office

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1.1. Relevant Law

Act XXXVI of 2013 on the Election Procedure, which lays down the rules for the legal elements of the election procedure (electoral rolls, election bodies, proposal, nomination, voting, tallying ballots, determining results, legal remedies, etc.).

Act CXIII of 2003 on the Election of Members of the European Parliament

Act L of 2010 on the Election of Municipal Representatives and Mayors

Act CLXXIX of 2010 on the Rights of National Minorities

1.2 Suffrage

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

The right to vote is only restricted by what are referred to as the **natural grounds for disfranchisement**. Under the Fundamental Law,

1. the following shall not have the right to vote:
 - **persons who are under conservatorship and disfranchised by final court verdict,**
 - **persons who are subject to a final legal judgement forbidding them to participate in public affairs,**
2. the following shall have the right to vote, but shall not have the right to stand for election:
 - **persons who have been detained or committed to treatment in a mental institution based on a final legal judgement rendered in criminal proceedings, but in both cases are not subject to a final legal judgement forbidding them to participate in public affairs.**

1.3. The electoral roll

For municipal elections:

The National Election Office enrolls all persons of legal age (eighteen years as a rule) automatically in the central electoral roll who have a residence or a domicile in Hungary and have at least the active voting rights at elections. Therefore:

- Hungarian citizens,
- refugees,
- persons with long-term resident status,
- European Union citizens

who were not disfranchised by court are to be enrolled in the electoral roll.

For the European Parliament elections:

- Hungarian citizens
- European citizens who requested to be registered for EP-elections in Hungary.

For the minority elections:

- Hungarian citizens who have Hungarian address and requested to be registered for the minority elections.

Voters can take insight into their own data in the central electoral roll. Electoral rolls of the polling districts are open to the public.

1.4. The date of elections

With the 11th amendment to the Fundamental Law, elections to the European Parliament and local elections are now held on the same day. Under the new rules, the general election of local government representatives and mayors must be held in April, May, June, or July of the fifth year following the previous general election of local government representatives and mayors, at the same time as the election of MEPs.

The amendment also provided that in the general election of local government representatives and mayors in 2019, the term of office of the current body of representatives and mayor shall not, exceptionally, end with the election, but shall continue until 1 October 2024.

The next Elections to the European Parliament will be held between 6 and 9 June 2024. As elections are held on Sundays in Hungary, the Election to the European Parliament, the Municipal elections and the Minority elections take place on **9 June 2024**. (30/2024 (III.12.) Presidential decision).

The date of the Election to the European Parliament and the Municipal election are called by the President of the Republic, while the National Election Commission calls the date for the Minority Election on the same day as the EP and Municipal elections.

1.5. The electoral bodies

The current Hungarian electoral system dates back to the change of regime around 1990. It was then that two types of electoral bodies were established in Hungary: the office and the commission. The two bodies operate continuously, with the offices acting as secretariat for the commissions. The main tasks of the offices are to organize the administration of elections, to conduct elections and to deal with voters' electoral affairs and provide them with information. The offices keep a electoral roll of voters, from which the electoral roll is drawn up. Its members are in all cases officials.

The election commissions are responsible for supervising the election procedure, guaranteeing the fairness and legality of the election, enforcing impartiality, and registering candidates and nominating bodies. They also decide on applications for legal remedies, campaign activities and the content of the ballot paper and determine the results of the election. They operate with two different statuses, elected and delegated members, who have the same rights and obligations.

1.5.1. Election commissions

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

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

The different types of commissions operating are:

- Polling Station Commissions (PSC)
- Local Election Commissions (LEC)
- Territorial Election Commissions (TEC)
- The National Election Commission (NEC)

The National Election Commission

Composition:

Elected members:

Seven members and three substitute members on proposition by the President of the Republic elected by 2/3 of present Members of Parliament for nine years.

Delegated members:

- member delegated by nominating organizations putting forward a party list for EP election
- member delegated by political parties having a group in the National Assembly

Tasks during the elections of local government representatives and mayors

- acts as a forum for legal remedy

Tasks during the elections of representatives of minority self-government

- calls for the general election of representatives of minority self-governments
- decides on the registration or rejection of the lists drawn up for the national elections of minority self-governments and the candidates on them
- draws the ordinal numbers of the national lists
- approves the content of the ballot papers for the national elections of minority self-governments
- decides on any objections that are specifically related to the national elections of minority self-governments
- establishes the results of the national elections of minority self-governments
- determines which lists have reached the % threshold of votes laid down by law
- ascertains which of the candidates on the national lists have obtained seats
- issues the credentials of the representatives who have obtained seats in the national elections for minority self-governments
- calls the by-election for the minority self-governments

Tasks during the European Parliament Elections

- registers nominating organizations
- registers lists
- acts as a forum for legal remedy
- approves the ballot paper
- determines the result
- draws the number of the lists
- supervises the counting of votes cast by post
- supervises the counting of votes cast at foreign missions
- issues the mandate letter to the representatives who have obtained a mandate
- publishes an announcement about the election results

1.5.2. Election offices

- Local Election Offices at settlement level
- Territorial Election Offices in every county and the Capital Election Office in Budapest
- The National Election Office at national level
- Foreign representation Election Offices in the Republic of Hungary's Embassies and Consulate-General Offices

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

The National Election Office is responsible for the organization, preparation and conduct of elections. The Office provides information for voters, supports the work of the National Election Commission. Furthermore, it provides the material, IT environment and technical conditions for the conduct of elections. It also organizes training programs for election officials.

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

The members of the election offices:

Public administration officials and public servants may be appointed as members of election offices. The heads of election offices appoint election office members.

1.6. Distribution of mandates

The method of highest averages

The method of highest averages is a way of allocating seats in party-list electoral systems.

The method consists of dividing the number of votes cast for each political party by a set of ordinals; the parties with the highest ordinals are given seats. The most common methods are the d'Hondt method, where the divisor is a series of positive integers (1, 2, 3, 4, ...); and the Sainte-Laguë method divides the positive odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, ...)

The d'Hondt method is used by the Hungarian electoral system to allocate seats on the national (compensatory) list in parliamentary elections, and it is also used in European Parliament elections, as well as in the capital and county lists.

The Hare quota is the largest residual-based method in party list proportional representation. In these voting systems, the quota is the minimum number of votes needed for a party or candidate to win a seat, and the Hare quota is the ratio of the total number of votes to the number of seats.

Elections to the European Parliament	D'Hondt
Elections of local government representatives and mayors	
Municipal compensation list	Sainte-Laguë
Capital list	D'Hondt
County list	D'Hondt
Territorial and national elections of minority self-government	Hare

2. ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament elections take place every five years and are the largest transnational elections in the world.

Hungarian MEPs will be elected on 9 June 2024. The President of the Republic calls the day of the elections. The number of elected representatives depends on the population of each country, some smaller countries have more seats than strict proportionality would dictate. The number of seats in the European Parliament currently varies between six (Malta, Luxembourg, Cyprus) and ninety-six (Germany). In Hungary, voters will elect twenty-one MEPs, the same number as in the 2019 elections. National parties compete in the elections.

2.1. Suffrage

All Hungarian citizens of legal age (over eighteen and those over sixteen who are married) residing in Hungary and those who are Hungarian citizens living in Hungary but do not have an address may participate in the elections.

Citizens of any other Member State of the European Union may also vote in the election of Members of the European Parliament in Hungary, provided that they are resident in Hungary and have applied in advance to be entered on the electoral roll.

Hungarian citizens who live outside the European Union, i.e. who do not have a residence in Hungary or any other EU country, or Hungarian citizens without an address can also vote. This requires prior registration.

2.2. Registration

Hungarian citizens voting in Hungary

A voter who has a Hungarian address does not need to register. The authorities will automatically enter the voter on the electoral roll.

If a voter does not have a Hungarian address, he or she can register.

Registration is possible in person, by proxy, by post or online.

EU citizen voting in Hungary

Must register in the electoral roll.

May register in person, by proxy or online.

Hungarian and EU citizen voting at Foreign Representations

A voter with a Hungarian address and wishing to vote abroad, must apply in advance to be entered on the electoral roll of the Hungarian embassy or consulate in the country where he/she stays.

A voter can register in person or by proxy or online.

Deadline for registration

If a Hungarian citizen does not have a Hungarian address, they must register by 15 May 2024. If an EU citizen has a Hungarian address and wishes to vote in Hungary, he/she must register by 24 May 2024.

If a voter with a Hungarian address wishes to vote abroad, he/she must register by 31 May 2024.

2.3. Place and mode of voting

2.3.1. Voting in person

Hungarian and EU citizens resident in Hungary can vote in person. They can cast their vote at the polling station of their place of residence. The address of the polling station can be found on the notice which includes all the relevant information regarding the elections.

If a voter whose mobility is restricted is unable to go to the polling station, he or she can apply for a mobile ballot box. The application must be submitted at noon on polling day at the latest.

If a voter with a Hungarian address wishes to vote at a polling station other than the designated polling station, he or she may apply for absentee voting. The deadline for submitting the request is 31 May 2024.

If the voter wishes to vote abroad, he or she can apply to be entered in the electoral roll of foreign representations. The deadline for submitting the application is 31 May 2024.

2.3.2. Postal voting

If the Hungarian citizen is resident in a country that is not an EU country and does not have a Hungarian address, he or she can vote by post.

If the Hungarian citizen lives in Hungary but has no address in Hungary, he or she can also vote by post.

Only voters who are successfully registered Hungarian citizens and do not have a Hungarian address may vote by post.

It is not possible to vote online in Hungary and voters cannot cast their vote by proxy.

If the Hungarian citizen is resident in another EU Member State and does not have a Hungarian address, he/she cannot vote on a Hungarian list.

2.4. Candidates

The parties that obtain the right number of valid nominations by 3 May 2024 are eligible to draw up a list. Hungary is a single constituency.

2.5. Distribution of mandates

The party lists that get at least five percent of the votes will be allocated Hungary's twenty-one seats in the European Parliament according to the D'Hondt method.

3. ELECTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND MAYORS

Local representatives and mayors are elected for **five** years.

3.1. Suffrage

Under the Fundamental Law of Hungary, every adult Hungarian and EU citizen residing in the territory of Hungary has the right to vote in elections for local government representatives and mayors. People with refugee status and with long-term resident status also have the right to vote in the elections.

European Union citizens residing in Hungary are eligible to stand for election as local representatives and mayors.

3.2. Place and mode of voting

In municipal elections, everyone can vote only at the polling station where he or she lives, but anyone who also has a registered place of residence established at least thirty days before the set of the election can choose at which municipality they wish to vote.

If the voter decides to vote in his/her registered place of residence, he/she can apply for absentee voting not later than 31 May 2024.

Only in person voting or voting using a mobile ballot box is possible at the municipal elections in Hungary. Voting by mail and by proxy and voting at a foreign representation office are not an option.

3.3. Electoral system

The legislator regulates the election of municipal representatives in different ways, depending on whether the population of a municipality is less than 10,000 or more.

The members of the capital assembly will be, on the one hand, representatives who have obtained a mandate from the capital list, and on the other hand, the mayor of the capital, who will be directly elected.

The members of the County Assembly will be elected by the electorate by list vote.

3.4. Election of the Mayor, Mayor of Budapest

3.4.1. Constituency

For the election of the mayor, the municipality, or the district of the capital, and for the election of the Mayor of Budapest, the capital is considered a constituency.

3.4.2. Determining of the election result

The candidate who receives the highest number of valid votes shall be elected mayor or Mayor of Budapest. In the event of a tie, a by-election shall be held.

3.5. Election of municipal representatives in settlements with 10,000 inhabitants or less

In municipalities with 10,000 inhabitants or less, elections are held in a multi-member constituency using block vote system. Voters may vote for one or more candidates, but only up to the number of representatives who can be elected.

3.5.1. Constituency

The whole of a municipality with 10,000 inhabitants or less forms a constituency, in which the number of representatives is as follows:

- a) up to 100 inhabitants two members,
- b) up to 1,000 inhabitants: four members,
- c) up to 5,000 inhabitants, six members,
- d) up to 10,000 inhabitants eight members.

3.5.2. Determining the result of the election

The candidates who receive the highest number of valid votes according to the number of representatives eligible for election shall be elected as representatives from the candidates.

In the event of a tie, a draw shall be held to determine which of the candidates who obtain an equal number of votes shall win a seat. If a candidate has also been elected mayor, he shall be removed from the list of individuals and cannot obtain a mandate.

3.6. Election of municipal representatives in settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants and in the districts of the capital

3.6.1. Constituency

In settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants and in the districts of the capital, representatives can obtain a seat in a mixed single vote (MSV)/positive vote transfer system (PVT)-in single-member constituencies and on a compensatory list.

The number of single-member constituencies and the number of seats on the compensatory list is adjusted to the population of the municipalities as follows:

- up to 25,000 inhabitants eight single mandate constituencies and three compensatory list seats (eleven members),
- up to 50,000 inhabitants, ten single mandate constituency seats and four compensatory list seats (fourteen members),
- up to 75,000 inhabitants, twelve single mandate constituency seats and five compensatory list seats (17 members),
- up to 100,000 inhabitants, fourteen single mandate constituency seats and six compensatory list seats (twenty members).

For every additional 10,000 inhabitants, the number of representatives elected in the single mandate constituency increases by one, and for every additional 25,000 inhabitants, the number of representatives elected on the compensation list increases by one.

3.6.2. Determining the election result

The candidate with the highest number of valid votes in the single mandate constituency will be elected (first-past-the-post). In the event of a tie, a by-election shall be held. The compensatory lists shall receive mandates in proportion to the total number of compensatory votes in the single mandate constituencies. The valid votes cast for candidates who do not have a mandate in the single mandate constituencies shall be considered as compensatory votes.

The compensation list of the nominating organization shall not receive a mandate, and therefore may not participate in the allocation of mandates, if the compensatory votes of the nominating organization that nominates it have not achieved five percent of the total compensation votes at the municipal level, and the joint

compensation list, if the joint compensatory votes of the nominating organizations that nominate a joint list have not achieved ten percent of the total compensation votes at the municipal level, or fifteen percent in the case of a joint compensation list nominated by more than two nominating organizations. These rules shall not apply to the minority compensation list.

Distribution of the mandates between the lists is done based on the Sainte-Lague method. The candidates on the compensation list are elected in the order of their position on the list.

If a candidate has been elected mayor or representative in a single mandate constituency, he or she must be removed from the compensation list after the results of the mayoral and single mandate constituency elections have been declared final and before the results of the compensation list have been established.

3.7. Election of the members of the capital assembly

3.7.1. Constituency

Members of the capital assembly can obtain a seat by list election. The electorate elects 32 members to the Capital Assembly. In this case, Budapest Capital City forms one constituency. In addition, the directly elected Mayor of Budapest is a member of the assembly.

3.7.2. Determining the election result

The list for the capital city will receive a mandate in proportion to the total votes cast. Candidates on the list will be elected in the order of their position on the list. If a candidate is elected Mayor of Budapest, he/she shall be removed from the list and replaced by the next candidate in line. If a candidate would obtain a seat from both the capital district compensation list and the capital list, he/she must declare within three days after the seats on the list become final which one, he/she will resign from.

3.8. Election of members of the county assembly

3.8.1. Constituency

County representatives are elected by voters on a county list. For the purposes of the election, each county shall form a constituency, of which the city with county status shall not be a part. The number of members of the county assembly shall be determined based on the population of the county, in this case including the cities with county rights, so that.

- One representative for every 20,000 inhabitants up to 400,000 inhabitants, but at least fifteen,
- twenty representatives for up to 700,000 inhabitants and one representative for every additional 30,000 inhabitants over 400,000,
- thirty representatives for every 700,000 inhabitants or more and one representative for every 40,000 inhabitants or more may be elected.

3.8.2. Determining the election result

County lists are allocated seats in proportion to the votes cast. A mandate may not be allocated:

- to the list of the county of the nominating organization if it has not obtained five percent of the valid votes cast for the county lists, or
- to a joint county list if it has not obtained ten percent of the valid votes cast on the county lists or, in the case of a joint county list drawn up by more than two nominating organizations, fifteen percent of the valid votes cast on the county lists.

3.9. Information on registration of nominating organizations, nominating candidates and drawing up lists

In local elections, candidates for mayor (mayor-general), or municipal representative may stand as independent candidates or as candidates of a nominating organization. County, capital, and compensatory lists may be drawn up only by nominating organizations.

3.9.1. Registration of the nominating organization

An organization may put forward candidates and lists in the elections only if it has been finally registered as a nominating organization by the National Election Commission or Territorial Election Commission. Nominating organizations that nominate a joint candidate or list must register separately. The following organizations may apply to be registered as nominating organizations:

- party,
- association, and
- an association that is a national minority organization.

The registration of political parties and associations is also subject to the condition that they must be entered in the court register of NGOs, where they must be registered with final effect. An important condition is that the final registration must already exist when the election is called.

Based on the above, if

- a party has applied for registration, registration covers the EP and municipal elections,
- an association has applied for registration, registration covers municipal elections,
- an association that is a national minority organization has applied for registration, then registration covers the municipal and minority elections.

3.9.2. Conditions for the drawing up of candidates and lists

3.9.2.1. Conditions for individual candidacy

- In settlements with 10,000 inhabitants or less a candidate for municipal representatives recommended by at least one percent of the voters of the municipality.
- In settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants and in the districts of the capital, a candidate for an individual constituency will be the candidate recommended by at least one percent of the voters of the given constituency.

3.9.2.2. Conditions for the Mayor of Budapest candidacy

A candidate for mayor has been recommended as a candidate by

- at least three percent of the electorate of a municipality with 10,000 inhabitants or less,
- at least 300 voters in municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants but less than or equal to 100,000 inhabitants,
- for municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, at least by 500 voters.

The candidate for Mayor of Budapest is the candidate recommended by at least 5,000 voters in the capital.

The number of recommendations required for nomination shall be determined by the head of the LEO on the 6th day before the election, based on the electoral roll data of the 67th day before the election.

3.9.2.3. Conditions for drawing up the list

Compensatory lists may be drawn up by nominating organizations which have nominated candidates in at least two thirds of the single mandate constituencies of the settlement. Nominating organizations which have nominated a joint individual candidate in at least two thirds of the single mandate constituencies may draw up a joint compensation list. A joint candidate may only constitute the basis for the establishment of a joint list; a joint candidate may not be taken into consideration for the establishment of an independent list.

All minority candidates standing in any individual constituency shall be included on a separate minority compensation list for each minority, except for those nominated by a minority organization that has nominated a separate or joint compensation list.

The nominating organization that has nominated either a candidate for Mayor of Budapest or at least three candidates for mayor in the districts of the capital may nominate a list for the capital.

In a county constituency, a list may be drawn up by the nominating organization which has collected the recommendations of half percent of the voters in the constituency. Nominating organizations which have collected the joint recommendations of one percent of the voters of the municipalities in the county constituency, but at least 2,000 voters, may draw up a joint county list.

4. MINORITY SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The general election of the representatives of minority self-governments shall be called by the National Election Commission for the day of the general election of local government representatives and mayors. Minority self-governments shall be elected for a term of five years. It is possible to vote for municipal, territorial (county, capital) and national minority self-governments.

The ballot papers are produced in two languages, Hungarian and the language of the minority concerned. An exception is the Armenian and Roma ballot papers, which are printed only in Hungarian.

4.1. Minorities in Hungary

The thirteen officially recognized minorities are: Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Armenian, Polish, Romanian, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Slovenian and Ukrainian.

4.2. Calling the election

The election of the representatives of the municipal minority self-government shall be called if:

- the number of persons belonging to a given minority in the municipality, according to the aggregated data of the last census, is twenty-five persons or more,
- a municipal self-government of the given minority has been established in the municipality after the previous general election of the representatives of the minority self-government and the number of persons belonging to the given minority, according to the aggregated data of the last census, reaches twenty persons: or
- the municipality had a minority public education institution, a minority vocational training institution or a public education institution providing minority education on 1 December of the year preceding the year of the general election.

The election of representatives of territorial minority self-government of a given minority shall be called if the number of municipal minority elections called in the territory of the capital or the county is at least ten.

National elections of minority self-governments shall be called for all minorities.

4.3. Suffrage

A minority voter can be a Hungarian citizen who has the right to vote in local elections and has applied for registration as a minority voter.

The application for registration as a minority voter must include:

- an indication of the minority,
- a statement by the voter declaring his or her minority.

4.4. Voting

The voter:

- at the election of representatives of the minority self-government of the municipality
 - a) if the number of voters entered in the register of voters of the minority in the municipality on the day of the calling of the election is less than one hundred, the voter can vote for maximum three candidates
 - b) if the number of voters in the electoral roll of voters of the minority in the municipality on the day of the calling of the election is at least one hundred, the voter can vote for maximum five candidates
- for one list in the case of the election of representatives of territorial minority self-government, and
- one list for the national election of minority self-government representatives.

4.5. Number of members of minority self-governments

Number of representatives of minority self-governments of municipality:

- three persons, if the number of voters entered in the electoral roll of voters of the minority in the settlement on the day of the calling of the election is less than a hundred persons in the settlement,
- five persons, if the number of voters entered in the electoral roll of voters of the minority in the settlement on the day of the calling of the election is at least one hundred.

The number of representatives of the **territorial** minority self-government is seven.

The number of national minority self-government representatives is:

- fifteen persons, if the number of voters in the minority electoral roll on the day of the calling of the election is not more than five thousand,
- twenty-three persons, if the number of voters on the minority electoral roll on the day of the calling of the election is more than five thousand,
- thirty-one, if the number of voters on the minority electoral roll on the day of the calling of the election is more than ten thousand,
- thirty-nine persons, if the number of voters on the minority electoral roll on the day of the calling of the election is more than twenty-five thousand,
- forty-seven persons, if the number of voters on the minority electoral roll on the day of the calling of the election is more than fifty thousand.

4.6. Constituencies

In the election of representatives of minority self-governments of settlements, the settlement forms one constituency.

In the election of representatives of the minority self-government of the capital, the capital shall form one constituency.

In the election of the representatives of the minority self-government of the county, the county forms one constituency.

In the national election of representatives of minority self-governments, the territory of the country forms one constituency.

4.7. Candidates

The nomination of a representative of a settlement minority self-government requires the recommendation of five percent of the voters on the minority electoral roll on the day of the calling of the election, but at least five voters. The number of valid recommendations required to become a candidate in each settlement is specified in the annex to the decision of the National Election Commission on the calling of elections.

Only a minority organization that has been legally registered as a nominating organization by the National Election Commission or Territorial Election Commission may nominate candidates.

Two or more nominating organizations may nominate a joint candidate. A person may only accept nomination in one municipality.

Only a person entered in the relevant minority electoral roll may be a candidate if:

- eligible for election of members of local government and mayors, and
- were no candidate of another minority in the two preceding general elections of representatives of minority self-governments and in the subsequent by-elections.

A person intending to stand as a candidate must declare on the form for the application for the recommendation form that he/she is willing to represent the minority and that he/she speaks the language, knows the culture and traditions of the minority community.

In the election of **territorial** minority self-government representatives, a minority organization may put forward a list if it has put forward candidates in at least ten percent of the elections of municipal minority self-government representatives in the territory of the capital or the county and has collected the recommendations of at least two percent of the minority voters.

In the national election of representatives of minority self-government, a list may be put forward by a minority organization which has put forward candidates in at least ten percent of the elections of representatives of municipal minority self-governments and which has collected the recommendations of at least two percent of the minority voters.

Two or more minority organizations may draw up a joint list based on joint candidates - with the participation of the same organizations. A person may only accept one municipal, one regional and one national candidature.

4.8. Determining the result

The election of the representatives of the municipal minority self-government is successful if at least as many candidates receive votes as the number of representatives to be elected.

The candidates who receive the highest number of votes according to the number of representatives who can be elected shall be elected as representatives.

In the event of a tie, the candidates who obtain the same number of votes shall be drawn by lot to determine which of them will obtain a seat.

The territorial and national minority lists receive mandate in proportion to the votes. No list may obtain a mandate if it has not obtained at least five percent of the valid votes cast in the constituency - at least ten percent in the case of a joint list, or at least fifteen percent in the case of a joint list composed of more than two minority organizations.

Distribution of the mandates between the lists is done based on the Hare-quota. The mandates obtained by the list are acquired by the candidates in the order of their positions on the list.

If the number of candidates on the list is less than the number of seats obtained by the list, the unallocated seat shall remain vacant. The election shall be inconclusive if the number of seats allocated is less than half of the number of seats specified in the above points.

5. REMEDIES

Types of remedies

The three types of remedies are **objections, appeals and applications for judicial review**. In addition, an extraordinary remedy is the possibility to lodge a **constitutional complaint** to the Constitutional Court in the event of a violation of the rights enshrined in the Fundamental Law.

- A **complaint** may be submitted to the election commission on the grounds of violation of the legislation governing the election or of the principles of the election and the election procedure.
- **Appeals** against the first instance decision of the election commission may be filed to a higher-level election commission.
- An application for **judicial review** may be submitted against the decision of the election commission at the second instance and against the decision of the National Election Commission.

Time limits for appeals are calculated in calendar days. In any case, the time limit set out in the law shall be time-barred, and no excuse for delay or justification may be made. The deadline shall expire at 4 p.m. on the last day of the deadline, and the deadline for the election commission shall expire at midnight. The time limit for the submission of applications for legal remedies and for their examination is three days from the date of the infringement or the decision of the contested election commission, except for special legal remedies and some specific cases.

6. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD

According to the Act XXXVI of 2013 on Electoral Procedure, the campaign period runs from the 50th day before the day of voting until the end of voting, i.e. until 7 pm on the day of voting.

Campaign activity is defined as:

- the use of campaign tools during the campaign period, and
- any other activity during the campaign period that is intended or attempted to influence the will of the electorate.

The state and local governments, as well as their organs, as the embodiment of public authority, may not participate in the election campaign, therefore, in order to ensure equal opportunities for candidates and candidate organizations during the campaign period, state and local government organs must refrain from interfering in the free competition between candidates/candidate organizations.

A campaign tool is any device that can influence or attempting to influence the will of the voters, in particular:

- the poster,
- the election rally,
- political advertising,
- political commercials, and
- direct political campaigning (direct approach by a nominating organization or candidate).

7. SUPPORT FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

To exercise the right to vote, persons with disabilities may request the following assistance:

- Notification sent in Braille.
- Easy-to-understand information material.
- Using a Braille ballot template at the polling station or while using a mobile ballot box.
- Use of an accessible polling station.
- Using a mobile ballot box.

A voter can request a mobile ballot box at a polling station if he or she is registered to vote but cannot vote there in person because:

- the voter has a disability that limits his/her mobility,
- a medical condition prevents the voter from attending at a polling station,
- the person is in detention (on remand, in custody or serving a sentence of imprisonment, or under house arrest).

IT support for the Municipal Elections, Elections to the European Parliament, Minority self-government elections.

8.1. National Election System (NVR)

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

- reception and adjudging of requests for enrolment by voters with no Hungarian address,
- group of tasks associated with compiling electoral rolls (setting up districts, compiling the initial electoral roll and notification pool, keeping electoral rolls up to date, closing electoral rolls and generating copies of polling district electoral rolls thereof, managing foreign representation electoral rolls),
- group of tasks associated with preparations for the upcoming elections (entry of parties, candidates, lists in the electoral roll, validation of candidate proposals, transfer of information necessary for producing ballot papers and carrying out logistics tasks, managing polling districts' information),
- production and printing of ballot papers,
- tasks to be completed on election day until voting is finished (monitoring turnout rates and extraordinary incidents),
- operative management for ballot counting by means of a management information system,
- automated determination of preliminary vote tallying and of the preliminary results,
- providing support for determining the final official (legal) results of the election and publishing these on a web-based information interface.

8.2. Internet Information System

The information put to the official website (www.valasztas.hu) by the National Election Office contains non-biased, non-party information exclusively. The Information System is available in Hungarian and, with limited content, in foreign languages (in English, in French in German and in Spanish).

The Internet Information System consists of four parts: Municipal Elections 2024, Elections to the European Parliament 2024, Minority Elections 2024, and General election information. The Information System ensures the provision of information to the public at large, election specialist corps, parties, and the media during the preparation and conducting of the Municipal Elections, Elections to the European Parliament and the Minority Elections.

8.3. Election Administration System (VÁKIR)

The Election Administration System is an information system which carries out and organizes administrative tasks associated with the elections. The foremost objective of this system is to operate a closed, secure IT communications channel among national, territorial, as well as municipal election bodies. This channel offers electronic messaging capability, as well as a forum to those who are registered, which allows for requesting and providing assistance by topic.

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

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

8.4. Finance and Logistics System (VPIR - VLOG)

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

It supports the following things based on special budgetary (legal) regulations that regulate how election tasks are conducted:

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

8.5. Electronic decision making

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

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

The advantage of submitting an application after identification:

- a) safe (no application may be made on behalf of another person)
- b) personalized (the applicant sees his/her current election status, he/she may only submit an application for which he/she is eligible)
- c) simple (the applicant only needs to provide key information appropriate to the type of application)
- d) voters not residing in Hungary (registration matters) and applications for a mobile ballot box may continue to be submitted by post and electronically without electronic identification

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

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

Automatic Decision-making can be made:

by decision on applications concerning the central electoral roll and on ex-officio removal from the central electoral roll and electoral roll of electoral districts,

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

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

9.1. National Election Commission

Elected members:

Dr. Róbert László Sasvári (president)
Dr. Zoltán Zsolt Lehel (vice-president)
Dr. Csaba Cservák
Dr. Zselyke Borbála Kicsi
Dr. Zoltán Attila Réthelyi
Dr. László Levente Szabó
Dr. Tamás Károly Szalay

Delegated members:

Dr. Dezső Avarkeszi – Demokratikus Koalíció
Dr. Krisztián Csonka – LMP-Magyarország Zöld Pártja
Dr. Tamás Fazekas – Párbeszéd Magyarországért Párt
Dr. Gergely Gönczi – Momentum Mozgalom
Dr. Árpád Sala – Mi hazánk Mozgalom
Dr. András Litresits – Magyar Szocialista Párt
Dr. András Lovas – Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt
Dr. Edina Ormándi – Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom
Dr. Zoltán Sárhegyi – Fidesz Magyar Polgári Szövetség

Substitute members:

Dr. István Szabó
Dr. Norbert Tóth
Dr. Balázs Szabolcs Gerencsér

9.2. National Election Office

President:

Dr. Attila Nagy

Deputies:

Dr. Gergely Sóskuti-Varga (vice-president, general management)
Dr. Péter Minda (vice-president, financial management)
Dr. Márton Kiss (vice-president, IT and Legal Affairs)

9.3. Contacts of Territorial Election Offices

County	Address	Telephone	Fax	E-mail
Bács-Kiskun	6000 Kecskemét, Deák Ferenc tér 3.	76/513-830	76/513-801	jegyzo@bacskiskun.hu
Baranya	7621 Pécs, Széchenyi tér 9.	72/500-402	72/500-469	valasztas@baranya.hu
Békés	5600 Békéscsaba, Árpád sor 18.	66/441-141	66/441-122	tvb@bekesmegye.hu
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	3525 Miskolc, Városház tér 1.	46/517-724	46/352-525	tvi@hivatal.baz.hu
Budapest	1052 Budapest, Városház utca 9-11.	1-327-1177	3-188-188	ugyfelszolgalat@budapest.hu
Csongrád–Csanád	6722 Szeged, Tisza Lajos Krt. 2-4.	62/886-840	62/425-435	valasztas@csongradcsanad.hu
Fejér	8000 Székesfehérvár, Szent István tér 9.	22/312-144	22/312-144	fejer@fejer.hu
Győr–Moson–Sopron	9021 Győr, Városház tér 3.	96/522-201	96/522-224	valasztas@gyms.hu
Hajdú-Bihar	4024 Debrecen, Piac u. 54.	52/507-524	52/507-514	valasztas@hbmo.hu
Heves	3300 Eger, Kossuth L. utca 9.	36/521-355	36/521-406	tvi@hevesmegye.hu
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	5001 Szolnok, Kossuth L. út 2.	56/795-785	56/505-999	fojegyzo@jnszm.hu
Komárom-Esztergom	2800 Tatabánya, Fő tér 4.	34/517-122	34/311-690	veres.zoltan@kemoh.hu
Nógrád	3100 Salgótarján, Rákóczi út 36.	32/522-520	32/620-151 32/620-152	valasztas@nograd.hu
Pest	1052 Budapest, Városház u. 7.	1/233-6812	1/233-6890	valasztas@pestmegye.hu
Somogy	7400 Kaposvár, Fő utca 10.	82/898-246	82/510-181	tvi@somogy.hu
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	4400 Nyíregyháza, Hősök tere 5. A ép. 1.	42/599-529	42/599-514	jegyzo@szszbmo.hu
Tolna	7100 Szekszárd, Szent István tér 11-13.	74/505-606	74/505-611	fojegyzo@tolnamegye.hu
Vas	9700 Szombathely, Berzsenyi tér 1.	94/515-700	94/515-702	drstankovits@vasmegye.hu
Veszprém	8200 Veszprém, Megyeház tér 1.	88/545-021 88/545-083	88/545-012 88/545-087	jegyzo@vpmegye.hu
Zala	8900 Zalaegerszeg, Kosztolányi D. u. 10.	92/500-711		mester.laszlo@zalamegye.hu

9.4. Legal provisions on international observation

Act XXXVI of 2013 (excerpt)

Section 4

- (1) An observer registered by the National Election Office of another state, intergovernmental organization, international non-governmental organization, or association for the purpose of observing the elections
 - a) may observe the entire electoral process, may be present at the work of electoral bodies,
 - b) may inspect the documents of the election commissions, may request copies thereof, not containing personal data,
 - c) put questions to members of electoral bodies and draw their attention to anomalies which he/she has observed,
 - d) not interfere with or influence the electoral process and the activities of electoral bodies,
 - e) shall wear the registration card provided by the National Election Office in a clearly visible place and manner during the performance of his/her activities,
 - f) must carry out his/her activities impartially.
- (2) The National Election Office shall keep an electoral roll of international observers. The electoral roll shall contain the name, place and date of birth of the international observer and the name of the person who commissioned the observer. The name of the international observer and the name of the organization shall be published by the National Election Office on the official website of the elections.
- (3) The President of the National Election Office shall decide on the registration of the international observer and on his/her removal from the electoral roll, and there shall be no legal remedy against the decision.
- (4) The international observer shall be registered with the National Election Office by the ninth day prior to the voting.