

# Federal Law

## On Elections of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Adopted by State Duma  
February 14, 2014

Approved by Council of the Federation  
February 19, 2014

Amended:  
Federal law of 24.11.2014 No 355-FZ,  
13.07.2015 No 231-FZ, 14.07.2015 No 272-FZ,  
05.10.2015 No 287-FZ, 15.02.2016 No 29-FZ,  
09.03.2016 No 66-FZ, 05.04.2016 No 92-FZ

### Table of Contents

<b>CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Article 1. Basic Principles of Conducting Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly.....	4
Article 2. Legislation on Elections of Deputies.....	5
Article 3. Electoral System.....	5
Article 4. Electoral Rights of Citizens.....	5
Article 5. Announcement of Elections of Deputies .....	7
Article 6. Right to Nominate Candidates .....	8
Article 7. Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies by Election Commissions .....	8
Article 8. Transparency during the Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies.....	9
Article 9. The Right to Election Campaign .....	9
Article 10. Financing of Elections of Deputies.....	10
Article 11. Participation of Foreign Citizens, Stateless Persons, Foreign Entities, International Organizations and International Public Movements and Non-commercial Organizations Performing Functions of Foreign Agents in Elections of Deputies.....	10
<b>CHAPTER 2. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. ELECTORAL PRECINCTS. VOTER LISTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Article 12. Establishment Single-Mandate Electoral Districts.....	10
Article 13. Federal Electoral District.....	13
Article 14. Formation of Electoral Precincts.....	13
Article 15. The Order of Informing Voters of Establishment of Electoral Precincts .....	14
Article 16. The Compilation of Voter Lists.....	14
Article 17. Procedure of Entering and Excluding Citizens in/from the Voter Lists.....	16
Article 18. Familiarization of Voters with the Voter Lists.....	19
<b>CHAPTER 3. ELECTION COMMISSIONS.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Article 19. The System and Status of Election Commissions .....	19

Article 20. Procedure of Formation of the CEC, Election Commissions of a Russian Federation Subject .....	20
Article 21. The Procedure for the Formation of District Election Commissions .....	20
Article 22. Procedure of Formation of TEC .....	21
Article 23. Procedure of Formation of Precinct Election Commissions .....	22
Article 24. Procedure of Appointment and Term of Office of Advisory Members of the Election Commission.....	23
Article 25. Organization of Activities of Election Commissions. Facilitating Election Commissions in Exercising Their Powers.....	23
Article 26. Status of an Election Commission Member.....	23
Article 27. Powers of the CEC.....	24
Article 28. Powers of the Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject .....	26
Article 29. Powers of DEC.....	27
Article 30. Powers of the TEC.....	29
Article 31. Powers of the Precinct Election Commission.....	30
Article 32. Transparency of the Activities of the Election Commissions .....	31
<b>CHAPTER 4. OBSERVERS. FOREIGN (INTERNATIONAL) OBSERVERS. MASS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Article 33. Observers.....	33
Article 34. Foreign (International) Observers .....	35
Article 35. Mass Media Representatives.....	36
<b>CHAPTER 5. POLITICAL PARTIES .....</b>	<b>37</b>
Article 36. Participation of Political Parties in Elections of Deputies of the State Duma .....	37
Article 37. Title and Emblem of a Political Party .....	37
Article 38. Authorized Representatives of a Political Party and its Regional Branches .....	38
<b>CHAPTER 6. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF FEDERAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES, CANDIDATES IN SINGLE-MANDATE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.....</b>	<b>40</b>
Article 39. Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates.....	40
Article 40. Nomination of Candidates of Political Parties in Single-Mandate Electoral Districts .....	41
Article 41. Self-Nomination of a Candidate .....	42
Article 42. Submission of Federal Lists of Candidates, List of Candidates in Single-Mandate Electoral Districts and Other Documents to the CEC .....	45
Article 43. Submission of the Documents by a Candidate Nominated by a Political Party for the Single-Mandate Electoral District to the DEC.....	49
Article 44. Support of the Nomination of Federal Lists of Candidates.....	50
Article 45. The Collection of Signatures of Voters.....	51
Article 46. Submission of Electoral Documents for Registration of a Federal List of Candidates .....	53
Article 47. Submission of Electoral Documents to the DEC for Registration of a Candidate Nominated for a Single-Mandate Electoral District.....	54
Article 48. Verification of Compliance with Requirements Imposed by this Federal Law during the Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates, Nomination of Candidates for Single-Mandate Electoral Districts. Verification of Information on Candidates, Procedure of the Collection of Signatures and Signature Sheets .....	56
Article 49. Verification by the District Election Commission of Compliance with the Requirements of this Federal Law During Self-Nomination of Candidates, Submission of Documents to the District Election Commission by Candidates Nominated in Single-Mandate	

Electoral Districts. Verification of Information on Candidates, Procedures of Voter Signature Collection and Signature Sheets.....	61
Article 50. Registration of a Federal List of Candidates.....	65
Article 51. Registration of a Candidate Nominated for a Single-Mandate Electoral District.....	68
<b>CHAPTER 7. STATUS OF CANDIDATES.....</b>	<b>71</b>
Article 52. Equality of Candidates.....	71
Article 53. Restrictions Pertaining to Office or Official Position.....	72
Article 54. Guarantees for the Activity of Candidates.....	73
Article 55. Proxies of Political Parties, Proxies of Candidates.....	74
Article 56. Withdrawal of Candidates, Revocation of Federal Lists of Candidates.....	75
<b>CHAPTER 8. VOTER INFORMATION AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN.....</b>	<b>76</b>
Article 57. Informational Support of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma.....	76
Article 58. Voter Information.....	76
Article 59. Participation of Election Commissions in Informational Support of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma.....	77
Article 60. Publishing of Opinion Poll Results.....	78
Article 61. TV and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and Print Media Used for Informational Support of the Election of Deputies of the State Duma.....	78
Article 62. Electoral Campaign.....	81
Article 63. Campaign Period.....	84
Article 64. General Terms of Access of Political Parties to the Mass Media.....	84
Article 65. Election campaign on Television and Radio.....	87
Article 66. Election Campaign Through Print Media.....	91
Article 67. Election Campaign by Means of Public Events.....	94
Article 68. Production and Distribution of Printed, Audio-Visual and Other Campaign Materials.....	95
Article 69. Restrictions Imposed on Election Campaign.....	97
<b>CHAPTER 9. FINANCING OF ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE STATE DUMA.....</b>	<b>99</b>
Article 70. Financing of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma.....	99
Article 71. Electoral Funds.....	100
Article 72. Special Electoral Accounts.....	103
Article 73. Voluntary Donations to the Electoral Fund.....	105
Article 74. Accounting for Electoral Funds.....	106
Article 75. Refunds by Political Parties and Their Regional Branches, Candidates.....	108
Article 76. Funding of Election Commissions.....	109
Article 77. Control and Audit Department in Election Commissions.....	110
<b>CHAPTER 10. VOTING.....</b>	<b>110</b>
Article 78. Voting Premises.....	110
Article 79. Ballots.....	113
Article 80. Absentee Vote Certificate.....	118
Article 81. Voting Procedure.....	121
Article 82. Early Voting.....	123
Article 83. The Procedure for Voting Outside the Polling Station.....	125
<b>CHAPTER 11. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING RESULTS. DETERMINATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS OF DEPUTIES TO THE STATE DUMA.....</b>	<b>128</b>
Article 84. Protocols of a Precinct Election Commission on Voting Results.....	128
Article 85. Procedure for Counting Votes and Compilation of Protocols on Voting Results by the Precinct Election Commission.....	130

Article 86. The Establishment of Voting Results by the Territorial Election Commission .....	138
Article 87. Determination by the District Election Commission of Election results in the Single-Mandate Electoral District and Tabulation of Votes in the Federal Electoral District .....	142
Article 88. Determination of Election Results in the Federal Electoral District.....	146
Article 89. Method of Proportional Distribution of Mandates .....	150
Article 90. Establishment of the General Election Results to the State Duma .....	152
Article 91. Repeat Elections.....	153
Article 92. Registration of Deputies of the State Duma.....	153
Article 93. Publication (announcement) of Voting and Election Results to the State Duma ...	154
Article 94. Procedure of using GAS Vybory .....	155
Article 95. Storage of Electoral Documents.....	156
<b>CHAPTER 12. FILLING VACANT DEPUTY MANDATES.....</b>	<b>157</b>
Article 96. Filling Vacant Deputy Mandates in the Federal Electoral District. Exclusion of a Registered Candidate from the Federal List of Candidates Admitted to the Distribution of Mandates .....	157
Article 97. By-elections.....	158
<b>CHAPTER 13. COMPLAINTS ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON ELECTIONS.....</b>	<b>159</b>
Article 98. Appeals Against Decisions and Actions (inactions) Violating Citizens' Electoral Rights. Control by Election Commissions over the Observance of Electoral Rights of Citizens .....	159
Article 99. Grounds for the Annulment of Registration of a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate; Cancellation of the Election Commission's Decision to Register a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate, to Refuse Registration of a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate, to Exclude a Candidate from the Federal List of Candidates, to Cancel the Registration of a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate.....	159
Article 100. Cancellation of the Election Commission Decision on Voting Results, Election Results to the State Duma.....	163
Article 101. Responsibility for violation of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections of deputies to the State Duma .....	166
<b>CHAPTER 14. FINAL PROVISIONS .....</b>	<b>166</b>
Article 102. Final Provisions .....	166
Article 103. Repealed Legislative Acts (Provisions of Legislative Acts) of the Russian Federation.....	167
Article 104. The Order of Entry Into Force of This Federal Law .....	170

## **CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1. Basic Principles of Conducting Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly**

Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly (hereinafter referred to as deputies of the State Duma) shall be elected by citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of the universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. Participation of citizens in elections is

voluntary. Nobody shall compel a citizen to participate or refrain from participating in elections or shall infringe on free expression of their will.

## **Article 2. Legislation on Elections of Deputies**

1. Legislation on elections of deputies is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation and comprises the Federal Law No 67-FZ of June 12, 2002 “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation” (hereinafter referred to as Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees”), this Federal Law and other federal laws.
2. The main concepts and terms used in this Federal Law shall have the same meaning as in the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees” unless otherwise provided by this Federal Law.

## **Article 3. Electoral System**

1. In accordance with the Constitution, 450 deputies shall be elected to the State Duma.
2. 225 deputies of the State Duma shall be elected in single-mandate electoral district (one district – one member). Electoral districts are to be formed according to Article 12 of this Law.
3. 225 deputies of the State Duma shall be elected in the federal electoral district in proportion to the number of votes cast for the federal lists of candidates to the deputies (hereinafter – federal lists of candidates).
4. Number of votes cast for the federal list of candidates shall be defined as a sum of votes cast for the federal list of candidates in each subject of the Russian Federation and outside of its territory.

## **Article 4. Electoral Rights of Citizens**

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained the age of 18 as of voting day shall be entitled to elect deputies of the State Duma in the federal electoral district.
2. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained the age of 18 as of voting day and who is the resident of an electoral district shall be entitled to elect deputies of the State Duma in the corresponding electoral district. A citizen who has attained the age of 18 on the voting day and has been registered at the place of a temporary residence at the territory of electoral district not less than 3 months before the voting day and who is included in the voter list in accordance with part 11 of Article 17 of this Law also has a right to elect deputies in this district.
3. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained the age of 18 as of voting day has a right to participate in the nomination of candidates (hereinafter referred to as “candidates”), federal lists of candidates, in the election campaigning, in the monitoring of the conduct of the election and the work of election commissions, including determination of vote returns and establishment of election results, and in the performance of other

electoral actions, according to the procedure established by this Federal Law, and other federal laws.

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained the age of 21 on the voting day is eligible to be elected deputy of the State Duma.

5. A citizen of the Russian Federation who resides or stays outside the Russian Federation shall enjoy electoral rights at the elections of deputies to the State Duma equal to those of other citizens of the Russian Federation. The diplomatic representations and consular offices of the Russian Federation shall assist a citizen of the Russian Federation in exercise of their electoral rights.

6. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is recognized incapable by a court of law or imprisoned under the sentence of a court of law is not eligible to vote and stand for elections or participate in performance of other electoral actions.

7. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has a citizenship or residence permit of a foreign state as well as another document that proves his right to reside at the territory of a foreign state does not have the right to be elected to the State Duma.

8. The following citizens of the Russian Federation do not have the right to be elected:

1) convicted by a court to imprisonment for committing serious or (and) grave crime if the voting is to take place before the expiration of the period for which the abovementioned sentence has effect;

2) convicted by a court for committing serious – within 10 years from the date of removal or cancelation of conviction;

3) convicted by a court for committing grave crime – within 15 years from the date of removal or cancelation of conviction;

4) convicted by a court for committing a crime of extremists nature, prescribed by a Criminal Code if the voting is to take place before the expiration of the period for which the abovementioned sentence has effect if such a citizen of the Russian Federation are not covered by paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Part;

5) sentenced for administrative offenses provided for in Articles 20.3 and 20.29 of the Code of Administrative Offences, if the voting is to take place before the end of the period during which a person is considered to be under administrative offence;

6) in respect of whom a court decision entered into force, establishing a violation of the restrictions imposed by paragraph 1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", or the fact of committing actions referred to in subparagraph "g" of paragraph 7 and sub-paragraph "g" of paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees", if such violations or actions were committed within a period not exceeding five years prior to the voting day.

9. If the period of limitation of the right to be elected as provided in paragraph 2 and 3 of part 8 of this Article shall expire during the election campaign before the election day, a

citizen of the Russian Federation, whose right to be elected was restricted, has the right according to the law to be nominated as a candidate for those elections.

10. If the crime for which a citizen has been convicted is not recognized as a grave crime in accordance with the new criminal law, the restrictions of the right to be elected, stipulated by paragraph 1-3 of part 8 of this Article shall be terminated from the day of the new law entering into force.

11. If a serious crime for which a citizen has been convicted is treated by a new criminal law as a grave one or if a grave crime for which a citizen has been convicted is treated by a new criminal law as serious, the restrictions of the right to be elected, stipulated by paragraph 2 and 3 of part 8 of this Article shall be applied within 10 years from the date of cancelation or removal of the conviction.

12. A citizen who is sentenced by a court to loss of the right to hold public office for a specific period of time, provided such sentence has come into force, shall not be registered as a candidate for the elections of deputies if the voting is to take place before the expiration of the period for which the sentence here above has effect.

13. A citizen of the Russian Federation nominated as a candidate for election to the State Duma, including as a part of the federal list, by the time of submission of documents required for his registration, registration of the federal list, shall close the accounts (deposits), terminate the storage of cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation and (or) dispose of foreign financial instruments.

## **Article 5. Announcement of Elections of Deputies**

1. The conduct of elections of deputies of the Russian Federation within the term set forth by the Constitution and this Federal Law is mandatory.

2. The elections of deputies of the State Duma of new convocation shall be announced by the President. The resolution on the announcement of elections shall be passed not earlier than 110 days and not later than 90 days prior to the voting day. The voting shall take place on third Sunday of a month in which the constitutional term for which the State Duma of the previous convocation was elected expires. The constitutional term for which the State Duma is elected shall commence from the day of its election. The day of the election of the State Duma shall be the voting day as a result of which the State Duma was elected as a competent body. The resolution on announcement of the election shall be officially published in the mass media not later than five days after it was passed. (As amended by Federal Law No 272-FZ of 14.07.2015.)

3. In the event the President should fail to announce elections of deputies of the State Duma within the term set forth by part 2 of this Article, the date of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be announced by the Central Election Commission (CEC) on the third Sunday of a month, in which the constitutional term for which the State Duma of the previous convocation was elected expires. The CEC resolution on appointment of the election shall be published not later than seven days after the expiration of the period for the official publication of the resolution on the announcement of election set forth by part 2 of this Article. (As amended by Federal Law No 272-FZ of 14.07.2015.)

4. In the event of dissolution of the State Duma in cases and under the procedure stipulated by the Constitution, the President shall simultaneously announce elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation. In this case, the last Sunday before expiration of three months after the day of dissolution of the State Duma shall be the voting day. The decision on announcement of early elections shall be officially published in the mass media not later than on the fifth day after the adoption of such resolution.

5. In the event the President should fail to announce elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation after the dissolution of the State Duma, the elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be announced by the CEC and shall be conducted on the last Sunday before the expiration of three months after the day of dissolution of the State Duma. The CEC resolution on announcement of the elections shall be officially published not later than seven days after the expiry of the period set forth by part 4 of this Article for the official publication of the announcement of the early elections.

6. In the cases dealt with in part 3 to 5 of this Article the periods for the performance of electoral actions set forth by this Federal Law shall be reduced by one fourth. The periods measured in days are multiplied by three fourths and rounded to the nearest whole number; one half decimals are rounded upwards.

7. In the event the Sunday on which the elections are to be held coincides with a day preceding a holiday, or a holiday, or a day following a holiday or in the event this Sunday has been declared a working day in the established procedure, the election shall be held the next Sunday.

#### **Article 6. Right to Nominate Candidates**

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to the right to be elected can be nominated independently or through federal list of candidates.

2. Independent nomination can be performed through self-nomination as well as nomination by political parties eligible according to the Federal Law "On Political Parties" No 95-FZ of July 11, 2001 (hereinafter – Federal Law "On Political Parties") for participation in elections, including nomination of candidates, candidate lists (hereinafter – political parties).

3. The nomination of candidates through the federal lists of candidates shall be exercised by the political parties.

4. A political party may nominate (including through the federal list of candidates) members of this political party as well as citizens who are not members of this political party nor any other political party. Political party has no right to nominate including through federal lists, members of others parties.

#### **Article 7. Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies by Election Commissions**

1. Within the scope of their powers set forth by this Federal Law and other federal laws, election commissions shall be entrusted with the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, securing adherence to and protection of electoral rights of citizens.

2. During the preparation and conduct of elections, election commissions shall be independent from any state bodies and local government within the scope of their powers set forth by this Federal Law, other federal laws. Interference in the activity of the election commissions by legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power, local government, organizations, officials, as well as citizens thereof shall not be allowed.

3. Regulations and other decisions of the CEC, other election commissions adopted within the scope of their powers set forth by this Federal Law, other federal laws shall be binding upon state bodies, bodies of local government, candidates, political parties and other public associations, organizations, officials thereof and voters.

4. During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies to the State Duma, the State Automated System of the Russian Federation 'Vybory' (hereinafter – GAS Vybory) shall be used. The rules of its use are set forth by the CEC in compliance with the Federal Law No 20-FZ of January 10, 2003 On the State Automated System of the Russian Federation 'Vybory' (hereinafter – Federal Law "On the State Automated System of the Russian Federation 'Vybory'").

#### **Article 8. Transparency during the Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies**

1. The preparation and conduct of elections of deputies shall be exercised openly and transparently. The state shall provide voter with information on the order and terms of the preparation and conduct of the elections, the course of the election campaign, of voting results and election results.

2. Regulations of the bodies of state power and local government, the acts of the CEC affecting the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and electoral rights of citizens shall be officially published according to the procedure established by legislation. Other decisions of the bodies mentioned above, resolutions of other election commissions directly related to the preparation and conduct of elections shall be published in the abovementioned periodical press or shall be brought to the public in another way. The CEC regulations affecting the preparation and conduct of the elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be published on its web site within five days of their adoption.

#### **Article 9. The Right to Election Campaign**

1. Citizens, political parties, other public associations may conduct election campaign in any form allowed by law, using lawful methods.

2. In this Federal Law election campaigning means the activities, which are carried out during an election campaign and are aimed to encourage or are encouraging voters to vote for or against a federal list of candidates (federal lists of candidates), a candidate (including candidates included in a federal list of candidates)

3. The State shall guaranty to citizens, political parties and other public associations free conduct of election campaigns in compliance with this Federal Law, other federal laws.

4. Equal conditions of access to mass media for election campaign shall be guaranteed to registered candidates, political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates.

### **Article 10. Financing of Elections of Deputies**

1. Financing of measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies shall be performed at the expense of federal budget funds.

2. A political party which nominated its federal list of candidates or nominated candidates for the single-mandate electoral district has to create its own electoral fund for financing its election campaign. In the events stipulated by this Federal Law, a regional office of a political party, candidates shall be entitled by the decision of the bodies authorized herewith by its Charter to create an electoral fund for financing an election campaign of the political party.

### **Article 11. Participation of Foreign Citizens, Stateless Persons, Foreign Entities, International Organizations and International Public Movements and Non-commercial Organizations Performing Functions of Foreign Agents in Elections of Deputies**

1. Implementation of the activities of promoting or hindering the preparation and conduct of elections, the nomination, registration of a candidate, the federal list of candidates and election of candidates for deputies of the State Duma, as well as participation in the election campaign in other forms by foreign citizens, stateless persons, foreign organizations, international organizations and international public movements, non-profit organizations that perform functions of a foreign agent, is not allowed. (As amended by Federal Law No 355-FZ of 24.11.2014.)

2. The rules of participation of foreign (international) observers in observing the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies shall be set forth by international treaties of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws.

## **CHAPTER 2. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. ELECTORAL PRECINCTS. VOTER LISTS**

### **Article 12. Establishment Single-Mandate Electoral Districts**

1. To conduct the elections of deputies to the State Duma elected by single-mandate electoral districts, 225 single-mandate electoral districts shall be established on the territory of the Russian Federation. The establishment of the single-mandate electoral districts shall be performed on the basis of information on number of voters, referendum participants registered on the territory of the Russian Federation in accordance with the requirements laid down in Article 16 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". The boundaries of the single-mandate electoral districts are determined based on the number of voters registered on the territory of the Russian Federation, as of the date closest to the day of the adoption of the CEC decision for the consideration of the State Duma, of the scheme of single-mandate electoral districts (January 1 or July1).

2. The single-mandate electoral districts are formed on the basis of a single rate of representation of voters, determined by dividing the total number of voters registered in the Russian Federation to the total number of single-mandate electoral districts (225).

3. After determining the single rate of voter representation for the single-mandate electoral districts, number of voters registered on the territory of each subject of the Russian Federation, shall be divided by a single rate of voter representation. The whole of the resulting quotient is a pre-set number of single-mandate electoral districts for the corresponding subject of the Russian Federation.

4. One single-mandate electoral district from the total number of single-mandate electoral districts shall be established in subjects of the Russian Federation, where the number of registered voters is less than a single rate of voter representation.

5. The remaining single-mandate electoral districts are distributed by one among those subjects of the Russian Federation, quotient of which determined in accordance with part 3 of this Article, is greater than one and has the largest fractional part.

6. If the distribution of single-mandate electoral districts, provided by parts 3 and 4 of this Article leads to the fact that the number of distributed single-mandate electoral districts is greater than 225, they shall be distributed according to the following rules. First of all, single-mandate electoral districts are allocated to the subjects of the Russian Federation, referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, by one. Then, the total number of voters registered on the territory of the remaining subjects of the Russian Federation, is divided by the number of unassigned single-mandate electoral districts. The resulting quotient is a secondary unified voter representation rate for single-mandate electoral district. After that, the number of voters registered on the territory of each of those subjects of the Russian Federation, shall be divided by the secondary rate of voter representation. The whole of the resulting quotient is a pre-set number of single-mandate electoral districts for the corresponding subject of the Russian Federation. Unallocated single-mandate electoral districts are distributed by one among the subjects of the Russian Federation, which quotient has the largest fractional part.

7. The single-mandate electoral districts shall be formed in accordance with the following requirements:

1) approximate equality of single-mandate electoral districts according to the number of voters registered in their territory with a permissible deviation from the average voter representation rate within a single subject of the Russian Federation for not more than 10 per cent; in difficult or remote areas - no more than 15 per cent. The average rate of voter representation is determined by dividing the total number of voters registered on the territory of the Russian Federation, the number of single-mandate electoral districts allocated to this subject of the Russian Federation. The list of difficult and remote areas is established by the law of the Russian Federation in force at the date of adoption of the CEC decision to submit for the consideration of State Duma of the scheme of single-mandate electoral districts;

2) formation of single-mandate electoral districts from territories not adjacent to each other, except in territories not adjacent to other territories in the subject of the Russian Federation is not allowed;

3) the formation of a single-mandate electoral district in the territories of two or more subjects of the Russian Federation is not allowed;

4) at least one single-mandate electoral district must be formed at the territory of each subject of the Russian Federation;

5) distribution of single-mandate electoral districts among the subjects of the Russian Federation shall ensure the maximum of the equality of representation of voters from each subject of the Russian Federation in the State Duma according to the requirements provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Part;

6) the name of the corresponding subject of the Russian Federation should be included in the name of the single-mandate electoral districts;

8. Borders of municipalities and settlements shall be taken into account during the establishment of single-mandate electoral districts in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 7 of this article.

9. Voters residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation are assigned to single-mandate electoral districts, formed on the territory of the Russian Federation. The number of voters assigned to the single-mandate electoral district shall be determined on the basis of information about the number of voters, referendum participants registered outside the territory of the Russian Federation in accordance with the requirements of Article 16 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". Number of voters in such single-mandate electoral district should be less than a single rate of voter representation. The number of voters assigned to one single-mandate electoral district shall not exceed 10 per cent of the number of voters registered on the territory of the single-mandate electoral districts.

10. The CEC develops a new scheme of single-mandate electoral districts and their graphic representation and presents it in the prescribed manner to the State Duma no later than 80 days prior to the expiration of the term for which the previous scheme of single-mandate electoral districts was approved. The scheme of single-mandate electoral districts shall contain:

1) the name of each single-mandate electoral district and its number;

2) a list of municipalities or localities in each single-mandate electoral district. If the single-mandate electoral district includes part of the territory of the municipality or town, the list should describe border of this part of the territory of the municipality or town. If the single-mandate electoral district includes the entire territory of a subject of the Russian Federation, the list of municipalities and localities of inside it shall not be included;

3) the number of voters registered in each single-mandate electoral district;

4) the number of voters assigned in accordance with Part 9 of this Article to single-mandate electoral districts, with an indication of foreign countries where the voters reside.

11. GAS Vybory can be used in the formation of single-mandate electoral districts and determination of their schemes.

12. The scheme of single-mandate electoral districts shall be approved by a federal law for a period of 10 years. This federal law shall be published no later than 20 days before the expiration of the term for which the former scheme of single-mandate electoral districts was approved. If a federal law has not been published within the specified period, the new scheme of single-mandate electoral districts shall be approved by the CEC not later than one month from the date of expiration of that period. In the event of dissolution of the State Duma, the previous scheme of single-mandate electoral districts is applied for the early elections to the State Duma.

### **Article 13. Federal Electoral District**

The federal electoral district includes the entire territory of the Russian Federation. Voters who assigned in accordance with Part 9 of Article 12 of this Federal Law to the single-mandate electoral districts, are considered as assigned to the federal electoral district.

### **Article 14. Formation of Electoral Precincts**

1. Voting in the elections to the State Duma is carried out at the electoral precincts, formed in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". Update of the list of electoral precincts and their borders in cases stipulated by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" is carried out not later than 10 days from the day of official publication of the decision on the announcement of election.

2. If the electoral precincts are not established within the terms established by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" and paragraph 1 of this Article, they shall be formed by the TEC in consultation with the election commission of a Russian Federation subject not later than 12 days from the day of official publication of the announcement of elections.

3. Electoral precincts may be formed by a TEC in coordination with the election commission of a Russian Federation subject not later than 30 days before the voting day, and in exceptional cases, in agreement with the CEC - not later than three days before the voting day:

1) in places of a temporary stay of voters (hospitals, sanatoriums, holiday houses, railway stations, airports, prisons and detention places and other places of temporary stay), as well as in places of staying of voters without registration of permanent residence within the Russian Federation;

2) in inaccessible or remote areas, on vessels that will be at sea on the voting day, at polar stations (in agreement respectively with the head of the facility, located in a difficult or remote areas, the captain of the vessel or the vessel owner, the chief of the polar station);

3) on the territory of military units stationed in isolated areas far from inhabited localities (on the proposal of the commanders of the military units).

4. The electoral precincts for voting and the vote count of those voters, who live or stay outside the territory of the Russian Federation, shall be formed by heads of diplomatic

missions or consular institutions of the Russian Federation on the territories of voters stay at least 50 days before the voting day, and in exceptional cases - not later than five days before the voting day. At the same time, the provision of paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" in regards to the number of voters at the polling station may not be applied. Heads of diplomatic missions or consular institutions of the Russian Federation report to the CEC on formation of polling stations not later than 40 days before the voting day, and in exceptional cases, - not later than three days before the voting day.

### **Article 15. The Order of Informing Voters of Establishment of Electoral Precincts**

1. Lists of electoral precincts with indication of their numbers and borders (if a electoral precinct is established on a part of the locality) or with indication of the list of localities (if a electoral precinct is established on the territory of several localities), addresses of the polling stations, precinct election commissions and telephones thereof shall be published by the head of local administration no later than forty five days prior to the voting day.
2. Information on electoral precincts established after the deadline set forth by part 3 of Article 14 of this Federal Law shall be published (brought to the public notice) not later than two days prior to the voting day.
3. Before the publication of the information on electoral precincts specified in part 1 of this Article, provided such electoral precincts are established on the territory of military units, the text of the publication shall be coordinated with the commander of a respective military unit.
4. The publication of the information on electoral precincts specified part 1 of this Article, provided such electoral precincts are established outside the Russian Federation, shall be decided upon by the heads of respective diplomatic missions or consular offices of the Russian Federation with due respect to the local conditions. In the event the diplomatic missions, consular offices of the Russian Federation should have web sites in the Internet the above-mentioned information shall be put thereon.

### **Article 16. The Compilation of Voter Lists**

1. The voter lists shall be compiled by the election commissions for each electoral precinct individually in a form set forth by the CEC.
2. The voter lists shall be compiled by the TEC no later than 11 days prior to the voting day on the basis of information provided by the head of local administration, commander of a military unit, or head of organization in which voters temporarily stay. In the event of early voting in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 82 of this Federal Law the voter list at the appropriate electoral precinct is composed by a TEC not later than 21 days before voting day.
3. If it is revealed that a citizen of the Russian Federation is entered into the voter lists at different electoral precincts, the respective TEC shall check the voter lists and remove errors and discrepancies therein before transferring the voter lists to the precinct election commissions.

4. The voter lists at the electoral precinct established in difficult and remote areas shall be compiled by the precinct election commission no later than 10 days prior to the voting day, and in exclusive cases – no later than on the day of formation of the precinct election commission on the basis of information provided by the head of local administration of the settlement and the applications of citizens in accordance with the part 11 of Article 17 of this Federal law.. In the event of early voting in accordance with part 2 and 2 of Article 82 of this Federal Law the voter list at the appropriate electoral precinct is composed by TEC not later than 21 days before voting day.

5. At electoral precinct established on the territory of military units, voter list- of servicemen staying in the military unit, their family members and other voters, if they reside in the territory inside the military unit, shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by commander of the military unit no later than 10 days prior to the voting day, and in the exceptional cases – no later than in the day of PEC formation, on the bases of the information about voters provided by the commander of the military unit, as well as voters' applications submitted in accordance with part 11 of Article 17, of this Federal Law.

6. At the electoral precincts established in places of temporary stay of voters (hospitals, sanatoriums, rest homes, detention centres, and other places of temporary stay), on vessels that will be at sea on the voting day and at polar stations voter lists shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by chiefs of the institutions no later than on the day preceding the voting day. At the electoral precincts established in compliance with part 3 of Article 14 of this Law in places of temporary stay of voters with no residence registration in the territory of the Russian Federation, the voter lists shall be compiled on the basis of written requests of the said voters submitted in accordance with part 6 of Article 17 of this Law.

7. At the electoral precinct established outside the Russian Federation the voter lists shall be compiled by a respective precinct election commission on the basis of requests of citizens of the Russian Federation permanently residing outside the Russian Federation or making long stay foreign trips, in accordance with part 4 of Article 16 of this Law.

8. Voter data shall be collected and checked by the officials indicated in parts 2, 4 to 6 of this Article, and shall be submitted to the TEC no later than 60 days prior to the voting day, or, if the lists of voters are compiled by the precinct election commission, to respective precinct election commission immediately after establishment thereof. The collection, updating and presentation of information about voters shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the CEC.

9. The voter lists may be compiled with the help of GAS Vybory.

10. The voter lists shall be compiled in alphabetical or other order (on the basis of localities, streets, houses, or addresses of voters). The voter list shall indicate last name, first name, patronymic, year of birth (day and month of birth additionally for those of age of 18 years) and address of permanent residence of voter, in the cases provided for in paragraphs 8 and 11 of Article 17 of this Federal law, - the address of a place of temporary stay). The lists shall have fields to enter the voter's passport number (or document replacing the passport), voter's signature (confirming the receipt of the ballot), election commission member's signature (confirming the issue of the ballot) as well as fields for special marks and each page sum-ups.

11. The voter list shall be made in duplicate. One copy shall have a paper typewritten format; the second copy shall have an electronic format. In exceptional cases, the voter lists may be compiled in a handwritten format.

12. The first copy of the voter lists compiled in accordance with part 2 of this Article together with statements of the voters, submitted in accordance with Paragraph 11 of Article 17 of this Federal Law shall be left at the precinct election commission 10 days prior to the voting day. The second copy shall be filed with the TEC and be used in the procedure established by the CEC. The voter list shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the TEC with indication of the signature date and shall be sealed by the stamp of the TEC. In the case of early voting in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 82 of this Federal Law the first copy of the voter list is transferred to a precinct election commission not later than 21 days before the voting day.

13. The voter list compiled by the precinct election commission in accordance with part 4 to 7 of this Article shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the precinct election commission and shall be sealed by the stamp of the precinct election commission.

14. Having received or compiled the voter list a precinct election commission shall check and update the list on the basis of personal applications from citizens made in accordance with Article 17 and 18 of this Federal Law, relevant documents of the bodies of local government, executive territorial bodies of city of federal significance, their officials, state registries, bodies for residence and migration control of the Russian Federation, messages from the higher-level election commission which confirm the entry of voters in the voter list in some other electoral precinct. The checked and updated voter list shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of a precinct election commission and sealed by the stamp of the precinct election commission not later than 18.00 local time on the day preceding the voting day.

15. A precinct election commission has a right to divide the first copy of the voter list into separate books. Not later than on the day preceding the voting day each such book shall be paginated, covered by the title and stitched up. The stitch shall be sealed by the stamp of the respective precinct commission and signed by the chairman thereof.

16. The persons presenting voter data shall be accountable for the accuracy and completeness of the data and the timeliness of its submission.

### **Article 17. Procedure of Entering and Excluding Citizens in/from the Voter Lists**

1. All citizens of the Russian Federation, who possess the active right of suffrage, with the exception of the case stipulated by part 4 hereof, shall be entered on the voter list. A citizen of the Russian Federation may be entered on the voter list at one electoral precinct only.

2. The basis for the inclusion of a citizen in the voter list at a polling station is the fact of his residence in the territory of the polling station, established by bodies of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of a temporary stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation in accordance with federal law governing the exercise of

the rights of citizens of the Russian Federation to the freedom of movement, choice of place of residence within the Russian Federation.

3. Military servicemen residing outside the military units shall be entered on the voter list in the place of residence in a regular procedure. The grounds for entering on the voter list of military voters staying in the military units, members of their families and other voters residing within the military units shall be the fact of their residence within the military units as is fixed by the bodies for residence and migration control of the Russian Federation or by the order of the commander of the military unit on entering on the unit's manning list of the citizens drafted for the military service by conscription.

4. Citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying on long-term business-trips abroad shall be entered on the voter list of the polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation on the ground of their application letter submitted to the respective precinct polling commission on the day preceding the voting day or their application made in person on the voting day.

5. Voters staying on the day of election in hospitals, sanatoriums, holiday hotels, detention centres and other places of temporary stay shall be included in the voter lists on the ground of presenting their passport, or an equivalent identity document, and an absentee vote certificate for the election of deputies of the State Duma (hereafter "absentee vote certificate").

6. Voters at the place of temporary stay, who work at enterprises with a continuous operating cycle, where there is no option to diminish duration of working day (shift) as well as servicemen who stay outside the area where their units are stationed, if they were unable to receive an absentee vote certificate, may be included in the voters list by the decision of a precinct election commission on the basis of a personal written application submitted to a TEC or PEC not later than three days prior to the voting day. This information shall be conveyed through the TEC to the PEC where the said voters are registered at the place of residence, provided these voters reside within the same subject of the Russian Federation, or to the election commission of the entity of the Russian Federation, provided these voters reside in a different entity of the Russian Federation. In the respective line of the voter list the said election commission shall make a note 'entered on the voter list at the electoral precinct No' followed by the number of the electoral precinct and the name of the entity of the Russian Federation. Voters missing registration at the place of residence in the territory of the Russian Federation by the decision of the precinct election commission may be entered on the voter lists at the polling station established in accordance with part 3 of Article 14 of this Federal Law at the place of their stay on the basis of their written application submitted to the precinct election commission no later than on the voting day.

7. At the polling stations established in accordance with paragraph 1 of Part 3 of Article 14 of the Federal Law on the railway stations and airports, voter lists shall be compiled on the voting day. Voters staying on voting day in these locations are included in the voter lists upon presentation of absentee vote certificate.

8. Citizens of the Russian Federation acknowledged as forced migrants or registered at the federal executive body on migration as seeking the status of forced migrants shall be entered on the voter lists at the place of their temporary residence on the ground of

presenting their passport, or an equivalent identity document, as well as respective documents issued by the said bodies.

9. Citizens of the Russian Federation who possess the right to vote arriving in foreign states under private invitations, on service, business and tourist trips, shall be entered on the voter list provided that they apply to the precinct election commission and present a passport or an equivalent identity document and an absentee vote certificate. The said citizens, if failed to obtain an absentee certificate, shall be entered on the voter lists provided they turn out at the premises of the precinct election commission on the voting day.

10. Voters who are registered on the territory of the polling station after the voter list had been submitted for general familiarization, as well as voters for any other reason not entered on the voter lists shall be additionally entered by the precinct election commission on the voter lists on the basis of documents of identification and, if needed, documents confirming the place of residence (or the place of stay – provided that voters have no registration at the place of residence on the territory of the Russian Federation) on the territory of this polling station.

11. A voter registered according to his place of temporary residence on the territory of the relevant electoral precinct no later than three months before the voting day, may be included in the voter list at this polling station on the basis of personal written application submitted to the corresponding TEC within 60 - 21 days before the voting day. The address of the place of residence of the voter shall be indicated in this application. A voter who has submitted an application, shall be included in the voter lists at this electoral precinct before the transmission of the voter lists to PEC. In case on compiling the voter lists by PEC, voters shall be included in the voter list on the basis of a statement transmitted from TEC. Information about this can be transmitted with the use of GAS Vybory, to the TEC and PEC at the voter place of residence. TEC and PEC upon the receiving of this information shall make a note in the voter list: "Included in the voter list at the polling station No" indicating the number of the polling station, and if necessary, the name of the subject of the Russian Federation. If at the time of receipt of this information the voter has been excluded from the voter list at his place of residence on the basis an absentee vote certificate or on the basis of the previously submitted application for inclusion in the voters list according to another place of temporary residence, information about it in the same order shall be passed to TEC and PEC which submitted (sent) a statement of the voter on his inclusion in the voters list at the place of temporary residence. Such information is the basis for the exclusion of the voter from the voter list at his place of temporary residence.

12. A citizen can be removed from the voters list signed by the chairman and secretary of TEC (in the case provided for by paragraph 13 of Article 16 hereof, - the chairman and secretary of PEC) and stamped by this commission, only on the basis of official documents, including the report of the higher election commission on the entering of the voter on the voter list at a different electoral precinct) or when an absentee vote certificate is issued to the voter in a procedure set forth in this Federal Law. In this case, the date when the citizen was removed from the voter list and the reasons for removal shall be indicated in the voter list. This entry shall be certified by the signature of the chairman of a precinct election commission and, when an absentee vote certificate is issued, by the signature of the member of the election commission who issued the certificate, with indication of the date the signature has been attached.

13. No alterations shall be made in the voter lists after the end of voting and commencement of vote counting.

### **Article 18. Familiarization of Voters with the Voter Lists**

1. Voter lists shall be submitted by the precinct election commission for general familiarization and further adjustment no later than 10 days prior to the voting day, and, in cases stipulated by part 4 - 16 of Article 16 of this Federal Law, after this date – immediately after the compilation of the voter lists. In the case of early voting PEC disclose voter lists to voters for familiarization and additional correction 21 days before the voting day.

2. Each citizen of the Russian Federation possessing a right to vote shall be entitled to file a complaint with the PEC for putting him/her on the voter list, as well as of any other mistake or inaccuracy in the voter list. The precinct election commission must review the complaint (application) and revise the mistake or inaccuracy, or give a written answer to the applicant indicating the reason for denying the application within 24 hours, but not later than the voting is commenced. Applicant must be provided with a copy of this decision.

3. The decision of the election commission mentioned in part 2 of this Article may be appealed in a higher election Commission or in court (at the location of PEC), which are required to adjudicate the complaint (application) within three days, or immediately if the complaint is filed, three or fewer days prior to the voting or on the voting day. In the event of a decision in favour of the applicant, the precinct election commission shall immediately make the necessary corrections in the voter list.

4. Each citizen of the Russian Federation may report to the precinct election commission on changes of voter data mentioned in part 10 of Article 16 of this Federal Law as is fixed in the voter lists at the respective polling station.

## **CHAPTER 3. ELECTION COMMISSIONS**

### **Article 19. The System and Status of Election Commissions**

1. Preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, control over adherence to and protection of voters rights shall be arranged by the following election commissions (higher ones listed first):

- 1) Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation (CEC);
- 2) election commissions of a Russian Federation subject (SEC);
- 3) district election commissions (DEC)

4) territorial (rayon, city and other) election commissions(TEC); or election commissions of municipalities, which are in accordance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" have competences of TECs.

5) precinct (polling station) election commissions (PEC).

2. The resolutions of the higher election commissions, if passed within their powers, shall be binding on the lower election commissions.

3. Any resolution of an election commission which is in breach of the law or passed by abuse of authority shall be revoked by the higher election commission or a court. In this case, the higher election commission shall be entitled to take a decision on the substance of the matter or return the documents in question for re-consideration to the election commission whose decision was revoked. In the event the lower election commission should fail to re-consider the matter the higher election commission shall be entitled to take a decision on the substance of the matter.

### **Article 20. Procedure of Formation of the CEC, Election Commissions of a Russian Federation Subject**

The CEC, election commissions of a Russian Federation subject shall be formed in accordance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

### **Article 21. The Procedure for the Formation of District Election Commissions**

1. The DEC acts in each single-mandate electoral district.

2. If only one single-mandate electoral district is established in a subject of the Russian Federation, the authority of a DEC shall be carried out by the election commission of a Russian Federation subject.

3. If several single-mandate electoral districts are established in a subject of the Russian Federation, the DEC or some of them may not be formed by the CEC decision. In this case, the CEC put the powers of DEC, which have not been formed, on the election commission of a Russian Federation subject or on the proposal of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject - to the TEC. The relevant decision of the CEC shall be published no later than 30 days before the date, when the elections of the deputies shall be appointed. In case of early elections - not later than five days from the day of official publication of decision on announcement of the elections.

4. The DEC (if its powers in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall not be assigned to any other electoral commission) shall be formed by the Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject on the territory of this single-mandate electoral district, not later than 80 days before the voting day in the composition of not less than eight and no more than voting members of election commission. Formation of DEC's shall be performed according to the general conditions of formation of election commissions and the procedure for formation of DEC's, provided by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

5. Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject no later than 25 days before the expiration date for the announcement of the elections, and in case of early elections - not

later than six days from the day of official publication of decisions on announcement of elections shall publish a notice of the call for proposals of the nominations to the DEC. The period during which these proposals are accepted is 10 days.

6. Formation of the DEC shall be based on the proposals set out in paragraph 1 of Article 22 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", as well as the proposals of the representative bodies of municipalities, assemblies of voters at the place of residence, work, service, study.

7. SEC is obliged to appoint to the DEC not less than one-half of the total number of members of election commission on the basis of proposals received from:

1) political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates admitted to the distribution of seats in the State Duma;

2) political parties that nominated lists of candidates admitted to the distribution of seats in the legislative (representative) body of the subject of the Russian Federation, as well as political parties that nominated lists of candidates which received the deputy mandates in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation stipulated in part 17 of article 35 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees".

8. If the election commission of a Russian Federation subject did not appoint to the DEC the required number of commissioners within the period specified in Paragraph 4 of this article, the appointment of the commission or a part of its composition is carried out by the CEC in compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law.

## **Article 22. Procedure of Formation of TEC**

1. The powers of TEC for the election of deputies of the State Duma shall be exercised by TEC formed in accordance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" or the election commissions of municipalities vested by the said Federal Law with the powers of TEC. Should there be no such TEC in some territory, it shall be formed in accordance with the said Federal Law not later than 35 days from the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election. Announcement about receiving proposals for the candidates for the TEC shall be published by Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject not later than three days from the day of official publication of decision to call the elections. The period during which these proposals are accepted is 30 days.

2. The election commission of a Russian Federation subject may form one or several TEC to direct the preparation and conduct of the election of deputies of the State Duma carried out by precinct election commissions formed on vessels at sea on the voting day and at polar stations. Such TEC shall be formed in accordance with the general conditions of formation of TEC set forth by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

3. The CEC may form one or several TEC to direct the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma carried out by precinct election commissions formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation. Such TEC shall have not less than five and not more than ten voting members of election commission eligible to be elected as voting members of election commission in compliance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". The CEC shall be entitled to entrust respective TEC formed during the

preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Russian Federation with the powers of such TECs.

4. The term for which the TEC indicated in parts 2 and 3 of this Article are formed shall be defined by the forming election commission.

5. The provisions of this Federal Law which regulate the activity of TEC shall pertain to the TEC indicated in parts 2 and 3 hereof, unless otherwise stipulated by this Federal Law.

### **Article 23. Procedure of Formation of Precinct Election Commissions**

1. Powers of PECs for elections of deputies of the State Duma carried out by PECs formed in accordance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". If in the relevant territory, the precinct election commission has not been formed, the precinct election commission shall be formed in the manner prescribed by the said Federal Law, no later than 45 days from the day of official publication of the decision on the announcement of the elections. The deadline for receiving proposals for the composition of a precinct election commission is within 30 days.

2. At the electoral precincts established in accordance with part 3 of Article 14 of this Federal law, precinct election commissions shall be formed from the number of crew members, the polar station workers, including non-reserve composition of precinct commissions in accordance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", no later than 15 days before the voting day, and in exceptional cases - not later than the day preceding voting day. At the electoral precincts formed on vessels at sea on the voting day and at polar stations, precinct election commissions shall be formed by the vessels' and polar station captains.

3. In an electoral precinct formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation a precinct election commission shall be formed within the period set forth by part 1 hereof by the head of a relevant diplomatic or consular mission of the Russian Federation or by the commander of a military unit stationed outside the territory of the Russian Federation no earlier than 30 but no later than 23 days before the voting day, in exceptional cases – no later than 3 days before the voting day.

4. Formation of the precinct election commission at the polling station, formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, carried out according to the following requirements:

1) limit the maximum number of members of the precinct election commission in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 27 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", does not apply if the polling station has more than 3,000 registered voters are;

2) the nominations of the PEC members, received from the political parties, federal list of candidates of which are admitted to distribution of deputy mandates in the last elections of deputies shall be mandatory taken into account only if the citizen, which has an active right to vote and whose candidacy is proposed in the composition of this Commission is a permanent resident of a foreign state.

## **Article 24. Procedure of Appointment and Term of Office of Advisory Members of the Election Commission**

The procedure of appointment and term of office of advisory members of the election commission are established by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

## **Article 25. Organization of Activities of Election Commissions. Facilitating Election Commissions in Exercising Their Powers**

1. The work of election commissions shall be organized in accordance with Article 28 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

2. State bodies and organizations, bodies of local government, companies, if the Russian Federation, a subject of the Russian Federation or a municipality holds over thirty per cent of its stock, and officials thereof shall facilitate the election commissions in execution of their powers in accordance with legislation of the Russian Federation on elections and referendums.

3. National state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial offices of state and municipal printed media shall, free of charge, provide election commissions within five day after the appropriate application with free air time to inform voters in the procedure set forth by this Federal Law, other federal laws as well as free advertisement space to publish resolutions of election commissions and other information. The expenses pertaining to the provision of free air time or free advertisement space shall accrue to the above-mentioned TV and radio broadcasters and printed media.

4. Bodies of state power and local government, political parties and other public association and organizations regardless of their legal form, including TV and radio broadcasters, printed periodicals and the officials thereof must provide the election commissions with necessary information and materials, respond to the inquiries thereof within five days, or no later than on the day preceding the voting day, if the inquiry was submitted five or fewer days before the voting day, or immediately, if the inquiry was submitted on the voting day or on the day preceding the voting day. The election commissions shall be provided with such materials free of charge.

5. Election commissions shall be entitled to solicit the law enforcement bodies to carry out an investigation and to stop a breach of this Federal Law, other federal laws in regard to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma. The law enforcement bodies shall be obliged to undertake measures set forth by the law to stop the breach of law within five days, or no later than on the day preceding the voting day, if the solicitation was submitted five or fewer days before the voting day, or immediately, if the solicitation was submitted on the voting day or on the day preceding the voting day. In the event such solicitation should require an additional investigation the above-mentioned measures should be undertaken within ten days. The law enforcement bodies shall immediately inform the election commission which solicited inquiry t on the results of the investigation and on the measures undertaken.

## **Article 26. Status of an Election Commission Member**

The status of voting and advisory members of election commissions shall be established by Article 29 of the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees”.

### **Article 27. Powers of the CEC**

During preparation and conduct of election of deputies of the State Duma, within the scope of its powers set forth by federal laws, the CEC shall:

- 1) organize the preparation and conduct of the elections; guide the activities of election commissions;
- 2) exercise control over respect of the electoral rights and provide uniform application of this Federal Law;
- 3) issue instructions and other normative acts on application of this Federal Law;
- 4) render assistance to lower election commissions on legal, methodological, technical-organizational and other matters;
- 5) advise election commissions on uniform use of GAS Vybory, its technical units, including the vote count unit;
- 6) develop and submit in the prescribed manner to the State Duma the scheme of single-mandate electoral districts, and in the case provided for by paragraph 12 of Article 12 of this Federal law, approve the scheme of single-mandate electoral districts;
- 7) decide on issue of assignment of voters residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation to the respective single-mandate electoral districts when determining the scheme of single-mandate electoral districts
- 8) hear information from officials of federal executive bodies, state bodies of the subjects of Russian Federation and bodies of local government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections;
- 9) distribute funds allocated from the federal budget for financial support of the preparation and conduct of elections, activities of election commissions and execution of their powers, for use and development of computer-based technologies, for teaching of election organizers and voters, as well as control over targeted use of the said funds;
- 10) register and certify federal lists of candidates, publish registered federal lists of candidates in accordance with part 3 of Article 42 of this Law;
- 11) register lists of candidates nominated by political parties in single-mandate electoral district;
- 12) register proxies and agents of political parties, including authorized agents of political parties on financial issues;
- 13) certify lists of authorized agents of regional branches of political parties on financial issues;

- 14) issue certificates to the candidates registered on federal electoral district and proxies of political parties nominated federal lists of candidates;
- 15) control over adherence to the rules of informing of voters and the conduct of election campaign on the territory of the Russian Federation;
- 16) establish unified numeration of electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation;
- 17) approve the form of documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections, set security requirements for ballots, absentee vote certificate and, on an as needed basis, voter lists and other documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections, decide on issues of producing of the above-mentioned documents;
- 18) set the forms of documents in electronic form, how to fill them, including usage of the "Internet", the procedure for the production of paper documents on the basis of the documents in electronic form, and also take measures aimed at assisting political parties, citizens in nominating as candidates in the preparation of documents in electronic form;
- 19) approve the form of the ballot for voting in federal electoral district and in single-mandate electoral districts;
- 20) approve the text of the ballot in Russian language for voting in federal electoral district;
- 21) approve samples of seals of election commissions;
- 22) approve the procedure for shipment of electoral documents to the election commissions, and, in agreement with the federal executive bodies on document safekeeping, approve the procedure for document safekeeping, archiving and disposal upon the expiry of their safekeeping periods;
- 23) develop technical standards of the equipment (polling booths and boxes) required for the work of precinct election commissions, approve these standards and exercise control over compliance therewith;
- 24) consider the matters connected with the logistical support of the election;
- 25) inform voters about the time and procedure for the performance of electoral actions, the election campaign, about the political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates and candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, political parties which have registered federal lists of candidates, candidates, registered candidates;
- 26) determine persons elected deputies of the State Duma in a federal electoral district and issue certificates of election to them;
- 27) establish and officially publish the election results;
- 28) compile lists of persons elected as deputies of the State Duma and transfer these lists and necessary documents to the State Duma;

29) appoint and organize and by-elections and repeated elections of deputies of the State Duma;

30) consider complaints (statements) about decisions and actions (inaction) of election commissions of a Russian Federation subject and their officials, appeals against decisions of the DEC on refusal of registration of candidates and decide on complaints (statements);

31) carry out other powers in compliance with this the Federal Law and the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

### **Article 28. Powers of the Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject**

During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma the election commission of a Russian Federation subject shall:

- 1) coordinate activities of lower election commissions of a Russian Federation subject, renders assistance to them on methodological, technical, organizational and other matters;
- 2) provide for interaction of the CEC with bodies of state power in the subject of the Russian Federation;
- 3) exercise control over respect of electoral rights on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
- 4) distribute the monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election, and exercise control over targeted use of these resources on the territory of a subject of the Russian Federation, including between DEC and TECs.
- 5) control over donations to the electoral funds of respective regional chapters of political parties and their expenditures;
- 6) register authorized agents of regional chapters of political parties on financial issues;
- 7) hear information of officials of executive bodies of the subject of the Russian Federation and bodies of local government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections;
- 8) provide for uniform use of GAS Vybory on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation in the procedure set forth by the CEC;
- 9) provide for adherence to the technical standards of the equipment (polling booths and boxes) required for the work of precinct election commissions, approved by the CEC as well as observance of rules for safekeeping, archiving and disposal upon the expiration of their safekeeping periods of documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections;

- 10) control over the provision of DECs, TECs and PECs with premises, transportation vehicles and communication equipment as well as control over the execution of the decisions made by the said election commissions on other logistical matters;
- 11) control over and provide for compliance with the uniform procedure for the vote count, determination of vote returns and election results on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation and publication thereof;
- 12) ensure the timely and accurate compilation of voter lists;
- 13) control over adherence to the rules voter information and the conduct of election campaign on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
- 14) undertake measures to distribute free air time and printing space among political parties registered their federal list of candidates and among candidates registered in single-mandate electoral district.
- 15) provide voter information on the time and procedure for the performance of electoral actions, on election campaign, political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates, and about candidates.
- 16) in the events and in the procedure provided for by this Federal Law certify the text of the ballot in the state language of the republics of the Russian Federation and in languages of peoples of the Russian Federation on the territory of their compact residence;
- 17) provide for printing of ballots on federal electoral district and single-mandate electoral districts in a respective subject of the Russian Federation and their transfer to the TEC in line with the decisions of the CEC;
- 18) provide for the transfer to lower election commissions of absentee vote certificates and other documents pertaining to the elections;
- 19) adjudicate complaints (applications) about resolutions and actions (inactions) of TEC in this subject of the Russian Federation and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;
- 20) carry out other powers in accordance with this Federal Law and Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

## **Article 29. Powers of DEC**

1. DEC is entitled to:

- 1) control over the implementation of the Federal Law on the territory of single-mandate electoral district;
- 2) coordinate the activities of TECs and PECs in a single-mandate electoral districts, consider complaints on decisions and actions (inactions) of TEC and their officials, adopt reasoned decisions on them;

- 3) provide voter information on the data submitted by the candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral district, publish information about registered candidates;
- 4) register candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral district and their proxies, issues them certificates of the established forms, register authorized representatives of candidates for financial matters;
- 5) ensure compliance of rules of election campaigning with this Federal Law, other federal laws in the territory of single-mandate electoral district by all political parties, candidates;
- 6) ensure uniform use of GAS Vybory in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district in accordance with the procedure established by the CEC;
- 7) hear reports of representatives of the executive bodies of the subject of the Russian Federation and local government bodies in matters relating to the preparation and conduct of elections;
- 8) control on electoral process and election campaigning rules on the territory of a single-mandate electoral district;
- 9) control over the targeted use of funds allocated for financing of the preparation and conduct of elections, as well as the financing flows to the election funds of candidates and the expenditure of these funds;
- 10) approve the text of ballot in Russian language for voting in single-mandate electoral district, provides the printing of ballots for voting in single-mandate electoral district as it set by CEC instruction;
- 11) in cases stipulated by this Federal law, provide the transfer of ballots for voting in the federal electoral district and single-mandate electoral district to lower election commissions in the order prescribed by the CEC;
- 12) transfer absentee vote certificates and other election documents to the lower election commission in the manner prescribed by the CEC;
- 13) monitor compliance with uniform procedure for the vote count, determination of voting results and election results in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district;
- 14) determine the election results in the single-mandate electoral district and the voting results in the federal electoral district in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district, send data about the election results in single-mandate electoral district and on the voting results in the federal electoral district in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district to the CEC;
- 15) issue a certificate of election to the registered candidate, elected deputy of the State Duma in single-mandate electoral district;
- 16) control over ensuring TECs and PECs with premises, means of transport, means of communication and fulfilment of election commission decisions on other issues of material and technical support of elections on the territory of the single-mandate electoral district;

17) ensure compliance with standards of technological equipment (the voting booths, ballot boxes) for precinct election commissions approved by the CEC, as well as the order of storage, transfer of archives and destruction at the end of the safekeeping period of documents related to the preparation and conduct of elections in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district;

18) inform voters about the periods and procedure for the performance of electoral actions, the election campaign, the candidates;

19) conducts repeated elections and by-elections to the State Duma;

20) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law.

2. The term of office of the DEC shall expire in two months after the official publication of the election results of deputies of the State Duma, if the higher election commission has not received complaints (applications) on actions (inaction) of this commission, as a result of which the procedure of the vote count was violated or if there are no trials on these matters. In case of appeal of the election results in single-mandate electoral district or the voting results on the federal electoral district in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district the term of office of this election Commission are terminated from the day following the day of execution by the DEC of a decision of a higher level election commission or after execution of the court decision that entered into force.

### **Article 30. Powers of the TEC**

1. During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of State Duma the TEC shall:

1) exercise control over the preparation and conduct of elections, over respect of the electoral rights on the respective territory, inform voters on the address and telephone numbers of TECs and PECs;

2) form precinct election commissions, in cases stipulated by this law, and appoint their heads;

3) coordinate the activities of precinct election commissions, adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions (inactions) of these commissions and adopt reasonable decisions on these complaints (applications);

4) compile a voter list for each election precinct in the form set forth by the CEC with an exception of the event stipulated in part 4 to 7 of Article 16 of this Federal Law, clarify the information about voters;

5) hear information of officials of local government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of election;

6) dispose of monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election, including distribution of these resources among precinct election commissions, exercise control over targeted use thereof;

- 7) transfer to TEC ballots and other documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections in the procedure prescribed by the CEC;
- 8) issue absentee vote certificates to voters;
- 9) render assistance to precinct election commissions on methodological, organizational, technical and other matters of voting at polling stations;
- 10) exercise control over adherence to the rules of the voter information and election campaign on the respective territory;
- 11) provide for the use of GAS Vybory on the respective territory in the procedure set forth by the CEC;
- 12) control over and provide for adherence to the procedure of the vote count and determination of voting results on the respective territory;
- 13) provide for adherence to the technical standards of the equipment (polling booths and boxes) required for the work of precinct election commissions, approved by the CEC;
- 14) determine the voting results on the respective territory, convey them to the mass media, transfer results protocols to the district election commission;
- 15) provide for the transfer of documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections to the higher-level election commission or archive institution of the subject of the Russian Federation in the procedure set forth by the CEC or disposes these documents upon expiry of the period of their safekeeping;
- 16) inform voters about the time and procedure for the performance of electoral actions and the election campaign;
- 17) carry out other powers in compliance with this Federal Law and Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

2. TEC formed in compliance with part 2 of Article 22 of this Federal Law carry out their powers listed in part 1 of this Federal law with an exception of powers listed in paragraphs 4, 5, 8 and 16 of part 1 of this Article. TEC formed in compliance with part 3 of Article 22 of this Federal Law carry out powers listed in part 1 of this Article with an exception of powers listed in par. 2, 4, 5, 8 and 16 of part 1 of this Article.

### **Article 31. Powers of the Precinct Election Commission**

1. During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma the precinct election commission shall:

- 1) inform voters about address and telephone numbers of the precinct election commission, its working hours, as well as of the day, time and place of voting;

- 2) update the voter lists for the respective election precinct and, in the events stipulated in parts 4 to 7 of Article 16 of this Federal Law, compile and update the said list;
- 3) familiarize voters with the voter list, deal with applications on errors and inaccuracies in the list, and update the list accordingly;
- 4) issue absentee vote certificates to voters;
- 5) control over the rules for placement of campaign materials on the territory of the election precinct;
- 6) provide for the preparation and equipping of the voting premises;
- 7) provide voters with the informing on registered federal lists of candidates, registered candidates on the basis of the data received from the higher election commission;
- 8) organize polling at the polling station on the day of election as well as early voting;
- 9) vote count, determine voting results at the polling station as well as complete the protocol on voting results and submit it to the higher election commission;
- 10) adjudicate complaints (applications) about the breaches of this Federal Law and adopt reasoned decisions thereon;
- 11) ensure the safekeeping and transfer to the respective higher election commission of the documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections;
- 12) provide for the use of the automated vote-counting devices on the territory of the polling station in the procedure set forth by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";
- 13) carry out other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

### **Article 32. Transparency of the Activities of the Election Commissions**

1. Members and workers of higher election commissions, the candidate registered by this or the higher election commission or its authorized representative on financial matters, or a proxy, the authorized representative or a proxy of the political party which registered a federal list of candidates or a candidate from the said list shall be entitled to attend all meetings of any election commission, and shall be entitled to be present during the vote count and during the implementation by the relevant precinct and territorial election commission of its work with the voter lists, ballots, absentee vote certificates, protocols and summary tables on the voting results.

The candidate or his authorized representative on financial matters shall be entitled to attend the meeting of the district election commission, during which the registration of the candidate will be considered. The authorized representative of the political party which nominated the federal list of candidates shall have the right to attend the meeting of the Central election commission of Russian Federation, during which the registration of federal list of candidates will be considered. The above listed persons do not require additional permit from the election commission in order to attend the meetings of the

election commission and to be present during implementation of commission's work with abovementioned documents.

1.1. The mass media representatives shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the election commission and be present during the implementation by the relevant commission of its work with the documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, except for the case provided for in subsection 1.2 of this Article.

1.2. The mass media representatives working in the mass media editorial offices on the basis of employment contract or an onerous civil law contract not less than two months before the date of the official announcement (publication) of the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma, accredited in accordance with part 3 of Article 35 of this Federal law shall be entitled to be present during the election commission meetings and during determination of voting result, election and referendum results, as well as the vote counting, referendum participants vote counting.

2. The election commission provides information about the time and place of the election commission meetings to the immediate higher election commission, authorized representative of each political party which registered a federal list of candidates, candidate registered in the corresponding single-mandate electoral district, and also provides free access to the relevant meeting to the persons referred to in subsections 1, 1.1 and 1.2 of this Article, and to the persons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 1.2 of this Article – also free access to the premises, where the vote count and the work with the documents stipulated in part 1 of this Article are carried out.

3. Applicants as well as representatives of the parties concerned may be present at the meetings of election commissions when the commission considers complaints (applications) and may give explanations and submit evidence on the substance of the matter being considered.

4. Election commissions shall inform voters about the results of the registration of the federal lists of candidates; about biographical and other data of registered candidates which was received by the election commission in accordance with this Federal Law; about vote returns for each registered federal list of candidates and each registered candidate.

5. On the voting day and on the days of early voting, from the time a precinct election commission begins its work and until it is notified by the higher election commission about acceptance of the protocols of vote returns and also when votes are recounted, the persons listed in parts 1 and 1.2 of this Article as well as observers, including foreign (international) observers, may be present at polling stations. Observers, including foreign (international) observers may be present in other election commissions when these commissions are determining the voting results, election results, working on voting results protocols, election results protocols and when votes are being recounted.

6. All members of an election commission, the persons indicated in parts 1 and 1.2 of this Article, observers shall be given access to the premises of a precinct election commission of any electoral precinct formed on the territory of a military unit, in a closed administrative-territorial unit, at a hospital, sanatorium, holiday hotel, detention centers or in other places of a temporary stay of voters as well as to the voting premises and premises where votes are counted.

7. Members of election commissions with advisory vote, observers, mass media representatives specified in paragraph 1.2 of this Article, if present during the voting or vote counting may have badges specifying their status, surname, first name and patronymic, the political party which has nominated the advisory members or observer and (for the mass media representatives specified in part 1.2 of this Article) the title of the organization they represent, provided this badge bears no signs of electoral campaign. Forms of breastplate of advisory member of election commission and those for observer shall be approved by the CEC.

8. In the events when this Federal Law provides for the issue to the persons listed in part 5 of this Article of the certified copies of the protocols of voting results, election results and other documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections, such copies shall be certified by the respective election commission chair, deputy chair or secretary. The person who certifies the copy shall write "accurate" or "the copy is accurate", shall sign it, indicate his/her surname and initials, date and time of certification and shall stamp a seal of a respective election commission.

#### **CHAPTER 4. OBSERVERS. FOREIGN (INTERNATIONAL) OBSERVERS. MASS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.**

##### **Article 33. Observers**

1. Each political party which has registered its federal lists of candidates as well as each candidate registered in a single-mandate electoral district shall be entitled to delegate observers.

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation who possesses an active electoral right shall be entitled to be an observer. Persons holding elected public offices, deputies, top officials of the subject of the Russian Federation (heads of top state executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation), heads of local administration, their immediate subordinates, judges, prosecutors and voting members of election commissions shall not be observers, except for members of election commissions, whose powers have been suspended in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 29 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". (As amended by Federal Law No 29-FZ of 15.02.2016.)

3. The status of the observer shall be certified in written form in credentials issued by a political party registered the federal list of candidates, candidate registered in a respective single-mandate electoral district or her/his proxy. The credentials shall contain the observer's surname, first name and patronymic, residence address, the polling station number, title of the election commission to which she/he is delegated, as well as declaration of non-applicability of the restrictions imposed by part 2 of this Article. No additional information about the observer shall be required. The credentials shall be deemed valid provided a passport or an equivalent identity document is presented. (As amended by Federal Law No 29-FZ of 15.02.2016.)

3.1. A political party, registered candidate, which appointed observers to the precinct commissions no later than three days before the voting day (day of early voting), shall

present a list of the designated observers to the corresponding TEC. This list shall indicate the surname, name and patronymic of each observer, the address of his place of residence, the polling station number, name of the election commission. (Introduced by Federal Law No 29-FZ of 15.02.2016.)

4. The credentials referred to in part 3 of this Article may be presented to a precinct election commission in the day before the voting day (day of early voting) or on the voting day (early voting day). Credential can be presented to the precinct election commission only by an observer, indicated in the list provided for by paragraph 3.1 of this article. (As amended by Federal Law No 29-FZ of 15.02.2016.)

5. A political party registered a federal list of candidates; candidate registered on the respective single-mandate electoral district shall be entitled to delegate no more than 2 observers with a right to observe in turns to each precinct election commission. The same person can be appointed as an observer only to one election commission. Establishing other restrictions than those specified in the present Federal law on the presence of observers in the premises of the election commission, the polling station, observation of voting, counting of votes, drawing up protocols on the voting results, as well as the issuance of copies of these protocols is not allowed. (As amended by Federal Law No 29-FZ of 15.02.2016.)

6. An observer shall be entitled to:

1) familiarize oneself with the voter list, register of issuance of absentee vote certificates, absentee vote certificates lodged with the election commission, register of applications (requests) for mobile voting;

2) be present at the polling premises of a respective polling station on the voting day, on day of early voting at any time during the period specified in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law;

3) observe the issuance of ballots to voters;

4) be present during the mobile voting;

5) observe the calculation of voters entered to the voter list, of ballots issued to voters, of cancelled ballots and cancelled absentee vote certificates;

6) observe the vote count at the distance and under conditions which enable him/her to see the voter marks made on the ballots;

7) look at any completed or uncompleted ballot during the vote count as well as observe the completion of the vote returns protocol and other documents during the period specified in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law;

8) address proposals and remarks on matters of voting organization to the precinct election commission chair or, in the event of his/her absence, to a person acting as his/her deputy;

9) familiarize oneself with the protocols of voting results, of election results, with the attached documents, receive copies thereof certified by respective election commissions,

provided such protocols are completed by the commission to which the observer is delegated or by immediate lower-level commissions;

10) appeal decisions and actions (inactions) of an election commission to which he/she is delegated in the immediate higher-level election commission or a court;

11) be present during the vote recount in respective election commissions.

12) carry out in the polling station (from the place, which is defined by the chair of the Precinct Election Commission) photo and (or) video recording, preliminary notifying the chair, deputy chair or secretary of the precinct election commission.

7. An observer shall not:

1) issue ballots to voters;

2) sign on behalf of a voter, even at his/her request, for the receipt of a ballot;

3) complete a ballot on behalf of a voter, even at his/her request;

4) act in a way that violates the secrecy of the vote;

5) be immediately involved in the ballot counting performed by the voting members of election commission;

6) interfere with the work of an election commission;

7) campaign among voters;

8) participate in the decision-making process of election commission.

### **Article 34. Foreign (International) Observers**

1. Foreign (international) observers shall obtain permit of entry to the Russian Federation in the procedure set forth by the federal law and, if they hold an invitation letter specified in part 3 of this Article, shall be accredited with the CEC.

2. The activities of the foreign (international) observers shall be regulated by international treaties of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws.

3. Invitation letters may be forwarded by the President of the Russian Federation, by Houses of the Federal Council (Parliament) of the Russian Federation, by the Government of the Russian Federation, by the CEC after the official publication of announcement of elections of deputies to the State Duma. Proposals on invitees may be sent in by the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Russian Federation, international and domestic governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as by individuals whose authority in the field of human rights protection is widely acknowledged. The CEC shall forward invitation letters to the election bodies of foreign states and to international organizations dealing with elections, electoral legislation and rights of voters.

4. The CEC shall issue certificates of a fixed form on the basis of the documents presented an application for foreign (international) observer accreditation, a copy of the invitation letter forwarded to them by any of the bodies listed in part 3 of this Article and an identity document). The certificate shall entitle a foreign (international) observer to perform corresponding activities during the period specified in part 5 of this Article.
5. The tenure of a foreign (international) observer shall commence on the day of his/her accreditation with the CEC and terminate on the day when the election results of deputies of the State Duma are officially published.
6. Election commissions, state bodies, bodies of local government, officials thereof shall render the necessary assistance to foreign (international) observers within the scope of their authority.
7. A foreign (international) observer shall act independently and at his/her own discretion. The expenses incurred by a foreign (international) observer shall be paid for by the delegating organization or by the observer him/herself.
8. Foreign (international) observers shall be entitled to meet with candidates, representatives of political parties and of other public organizations, with observers.
9. Foreign (international) observers shall make public statements on the electoral legislation of the Russian Federation, on the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, to hold press conferences and appeal to the mass media only after the termination of the voting throughout the entire territory of the Russian Federation.
10. Foreign (international) observers shall not use their status to perform activities not relating to observation of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.
11. The CEC shall be entitled to revoke the accreditation of a foreign (international) observer in the event he/she violates the generally accepted principles and norms of international law, this Federal Law, other federal laws.

### **Article 35. Mass Media Representatives**

1. Mass media representatives, when informing on the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, are entitled to:
  - 1) get acquainted with the protocols of precinct election commissions on the voting results, as well as with other protocols of election commissions on the voting results, election results, including those compiled repeatedly;
  - 2) receive from the election commission copies referred to in paragraph 1 of this part of the protocol;
  - 3) be present at the election campaign activities in order to cover inform on their conduct.

2. Mass media representatives specified in paragraph 1.2 of Article 32 of this Federal law, shall be entitled to be present in the voting premises on voting day, during early voting, and conduct photo and videotaping, upon preliminary notifying the chairman, deputy chairman or secretary of the relevant election commission.

3. Mass media representatives shall be accredited in the manner prescribed by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation or on behalf of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject in order to exercise the powers referred to in paragraphs 1.2, 5 and 6 of Article 32 of this Federal law, part 2 of this Article. Applications for such accreditation shall be submitted to the commission by editorial offices of mass media not later than three days before the voting day (early voting).

4. The mass media representative accredited in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article is considered to be notified about the conduct of election commission activities, if the requirements stipulated by the law on the publication (announcement) of relevant information were fulfilled.

## **CHAPTER 5. POLITICAL PARTIES**

### **Article 36. Participation of Political Parties in Elections of Deputies of the State Duma**

1. Political parties shall participate in elections of deputies of the State Duma, including nomination of federal lists of candidates, in compliance with this Federal Law and Federal Law On Political Parties. Political party can nominate one federal list of candidates and nominate candidates in single-mandate electoral districts by one list.

2. A federal executive body empowered to register political parties shall compile a list of political parties entitled in compliance with this Federal Law and Law On Political Parties to participate in elections of deputies of the State Duma, including nomination of federal lists of candidates, and candidates in single-mandate electoral districts and, within three days after such publication, shall publish the list mentioned here above in the national periodical press, places it on its Website, and forward it and excerpts from Charters of these political parties describing their emblems as valid on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma to the CEC.

### **Article 37. Title and Emblem of a Political Party**

1. A political party, which nominated its federal lists of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts shall present to the CEC information of its title.

2. The title of a political party shall be the title mentioned in its Charter specified in the document on state registration of a political party, issued by the federal executive body authorized to exercise the functions in the field of registration of public associations.

3. A political party shall be entitled to present to the CEC its emblem, as described in its Charter, simultaneously with the presentation for certification of its federal list of candidates.

4. The full title of the political party shall be used in its documents, if this title consists of no more than seven words. If the full title of the political party consists of more than seven words, the abbreviated title of no more than seven words shall be used in its documents. If both full and short title of the political party consists of more than seven words, political parties agreed with the CEC on a short title (consisting of not more than seven words), which is used in election documents. Short title of the political party formed in compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Federal Law "On political parties", and only from the words that make up the title of the political party indicated in its Charter. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, also agreed with the CEC emblem, which is used for election documents.

5. Amendments of the title and emblem of a political party after presentation thereof to the CEC shall not be allowed.

### **Article 38. Authorized Representatives of a Political Party and its Regional Branches**

1. A political party which has nominated its federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts shall be entitled to nominate no more than 500 representatives authorized in compliance with this Federal Law to represent the political party on all matters related to its participation in elections of deputies of the State Duma including agents on financial matters (hereinafter – authorized representatives of a political party, authorized representatives of a political party on financial matters).

2. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, on the proposal of its regional branch shall appoint authorized representatives for financial matters, empowered to manage the electoral fund of the regional offices and other related powers (hereinafter - the authorized representatives of the regional branch of the political party on financial matters).

3. Authorized representatives referred to in part 1 and 2 of this Article shall be appointed by the resolution of the Convention of a political party or by the resolution of a body empowered thereto by the Convention. The resolution shall indicate the surname, first name and patronymic of each authorized representative, his/her passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document, place of employment or service, the position occupied (in the lack thereof, occupation), residence address and the scope of their powers. The resolution on authorized representatives on financial matters shall also indicate that they are entitled to sign the payment (accounting) documents.

4. Lists of authorized representatives mentioned in parts 1 and 2 of this Article shall be submitted to the CEC in a paper and an electronic format. The list shall contain information about authorized representatives indicated in part 3 of this Article, their contact telephone numbers and, additionally for authorized representatives on financial matters and regional authorized representatives on financial matters, the declaration that they are authorized representatives on financial matters, the scope of their powers. The declarations of acceptance of office of authorized representatives shall be attached to the list. The list shall be accompanied by a written statement of each individual in this list to

consent to be an authorized representative. From June 1, 2015 the lists of authorized representatives referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, and the text of the statement of the authorized representative's consent to carry out this activity shall be made using the software on the basis of a document in machine-readable form, composed in the form approved by the CEC.

5. Authorized representatives of a political party shall act under the resolution provided for in part 3 of this Article, and authorized representatives on financial matters and regional authorized representatives on financial matters shall act under the power of attorney duly executed and authenticated by Notary in the procedure set forth by the law. The power of attorney shall indicate the surname, first name and patronymic of the representative, his/her date and place of birth, residence address, passport number or number of an equivalent identity document, its date of issue and the passport agency code, the scope of powers and a sample seal of the stamp for financial documents of the political party or its regional branch.

6. Authorized representatives of a political party on financial matters shall register with the CEC. The registration shall be done on the grounds of the resolution and power of attorney specified in parts 3 and 5 of this Article, provided the authorized representative presents a passport or an equivalent identity document.

7. The list of authorized representatives of regional branches of political parties on financial matters shall be certified by the CEC and, after the certification of the federal list of candidates nominated by the political party, shall be presented to the election commissions of a Russian Federation subject for registration of authorized representatives of regional branch of political parties on financial matters. The registration shall be done on the grounds of the resolution and power of attorney specified in part 5 of this Article, provided the authorized representative presents a passport or an equivalent identity document.

8. A political party at the decision of an authorized body shall be entitled to terminate the tenure of office of a representative appointed thereby by notifying him/her in writing and by sending a copy of the decision to the CEC and the election commission of a Russian Federation subject. A copy of the decision to terminate the powers of the authorized representative of the political party for financial matters, the authorized representative of the regional branch of the political party for financial matters shall also be forwarded to the branch of the public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia", and in the case provided for by paragraph 11 of Article 58 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees", - to the branch of other credit institution (hereinafter - the branch of the public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution), in which political party (the appropriate regional branch of the political party) opened special electoral account in order to form their electoral fund.

9. Authorized representatives specified in parts 1 and 2 of this Article shall not abuse powers vested in them by their status.

10. The tenure of office of authorized representatives of a political party shall commence on the day of their appointment and terminate on the day when all candidates on the federal list of candidates nominated by the political party, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts are deprived of their status but not later than on the day of official publication of general election results of deputies of the State Duma. The tenure of office

of authorized representatives on financial matters shall terminate in 90 days from the voting day and, in the event they participate in the court investigation on the part of the political party that appointed them, on the day succeeding the day when the court decision comes into legal force.

11. An authorized representative of a political party which has registered its federal list of candidates shall be entitled to receive in the election commission of a Russian Federation subject the list of electoral precincts with indication of their borders, addresses and telephone of TECs and PECs, addresses of polling premises.

## **CHAPTER 6. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF FEDERAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES, CANDIDATES IN SINGLE-MANDATE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS**

### **Article 39. Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates**

1. A decision to nominate a federal list of candidates from a political party shall be taken by secret voting at a congress of the political party according to the Law “On Political Parties”.

2. The procedure of placing candidates on the federal list of candidates and of secret voting mentioned in part 1 of this Article shall be defined in the Charter of a political party.

3. The nomination of a federal list of candidates at a congress of a political party shall be carried out in 25 days after the official publication of announcement of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

4. The decision of the congress of a political party on the nomination of a federal list of candidates shall be in form of a protocol, which must indicate:

(1) the number of registered participants in the congress;

(2) the number of participants which is required for adoption of the decision under the Charter of the political party;

(3) the decision on the nomination of candidates and the voting results on this decision (the federal list of candidates shall be attached);

(4) the decision on the appointment of authorized representatives of the political party, its authorized agents on financial matters as well as authorized representatives of regional branches of the political party, its authorized representatives on financial matters (in the case of the nomination thereof);

(5) the date of the resolution.

5. A political party shall be entitled to nominate candidates on its federal list of candidates who are not members of the given political party. The said persons shall comprise no more than fifty per cent of the total number of candidates on the federal list of candidates. The federal list of candidates cannot include citizens who are members of other political parties.

6. The federal list of candidates nominated by a political party shall be signed by the leader of the political party and certified with the party's seal.

7. The persons on a federal list of candidates and their order thereon shall be determined by a political party in compliance with the requirements imposed by part 5, 8-11 of this Article.

8. A federal list of candidates can be split into federal and regional parts. The regional part consists of regional groups of candidates corresponding to the group of the bordering subjects of the Russian Federation, a group consisting of the bordering subjects of the Russian Federation and the subject of the Russian Federation, non-bordering with other subjects of the Russian Federation, a group of two subjects of the Russian Federation, one of which is not bordering with other subjects of the Russian Federation, the subject of the Russian Federation or part of the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, which includes the territory of single-mandate electoral district or territory of two or more bordering single-mandate electoral districts. The group of subjects of the Russian Federation (including names of subjects of the Russian Federation), subject of the Russian Federation, single-mandate electoral district or districts (including their names and numbers) which corresponds to regional part of federal list of candidates shall be indicated, as well as a number of each regional group of candidates. In the event of absence of federal part in a federal list of candidates, the entire list shall be divided into regional groups in accordance with requirements of this Article.

9. The total number of candidates in the federal list of candidates shall not be less than 200 and not exceed 400 candidates, and shall include not less than 35 regional groups of candidates. No less than 10 candidates may be included in the federal part of a federal list of candidates. Regional part of the federal list of candidates shall cover the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

10. Federal list of candidates may include candidates nominated by political parties in single-mandate electoral districts.

11. A candidate may be mentioned in a federal list of candidates only once.

#### **Article 40. Nomination of Candidates of Political Parties in Single-Mandate Electoral Districts**

1. The decision of a political party to nominate candidates in single-mandate electoral districts shall be taken by secret voting during a political party congress in accordance with the Federal Law "On Political Parties". The nominated candidates are included in the list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts.

2. In a single-mandate electoral district political party may nominate only one candidate.

3. The decision of a political party on the nomination of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts on repeated elections or by-elections of deputies of the State Duma may be taken by permanent governing body of the political party, if it is stipulated by its Charter, after the official publication of the decision on the appointment of repeated or by-elections.

4. Nomination of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts during the political party Congress is carried out within 25 days after the day of official publication of the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma.

5. The decision of the political party congress to nominate candidates in single-mandate electoral districts shall be made in form of a protocol, which shall include:

1) the number of registered participants to the Congress;

2) the number of participants required for a decision to be taken in accordance with the Charter of the political party;

3) decision on the nomination of candidates in single-mandate constituencies and the voting results for this decision (with a list of candidates attached);

4) a decision on the appointment of authorized representatives of a political party;

5) the date of the decision.

6. The list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts shall contain the name and number of the electoral district in which each candidate shall stand. This list shall be signed by the person authorized by the charter of a political party, or by the decision of the authorized body of the political party and the seal of the political party.

7. A political party with an agreement with candidate by the decision of an authorized body of the political party as defined by its charter or the congress of the political party, no later than 55 days before the voting day, is entitled to change the single-mandate electoral district in which the candidate was originally nominated by submitting a written notification to the CEC. During the same period a political party by the decision of stipulated body of political party with the consent of candidate also has the right to nominate this candidate to any single-mandate electoral district, by submitting a written notification to this effect to the CEC. If this decision is presented to the CEC after the registration of the list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, the CEC shall take a decision on amendments of registered list of candidates and issues relevant certified extract from the said list.

8. Citizens who are not members of this or another political party can be included in the list of candidates nominated by a political party for single-mandate electoral districts, along with the members of this political party. Citizens who are members of other political parties may not be included in this list.

#### **Article 41. Self-Nomination of a Candidate**

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has a right to vote is entitled to be self-nominated candidate in a single-mandate electoral districts in the elections to the State Duma.

2. Candidate can be self-nominated only in one single-mandate electoral district. A self-nominated candidate cannot be nominated by a political party. In the case of non-

compliance with these requirements, the valid nomination is a nomination about which the DEC was notified in accordance with this Article or with Article 43 of this Federal Law earlier, if within a day after receiving candidate will not submit to the DEC notification on withdrawal of his/her first nomination.

3. Self-nomination of a candidate in single-mandate electoral district shall be made within 25 days after the day of official publication of the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma.

4. A citizen of the Russian who is self-nominated candidate in single-mandate electoral district, shall submit to the corresponding DEC a written application of self-nomination, where he/she indicates a last name, first name and patronymic, date of birth and address of residence.

5. Along with the notification referred in part 4 of this Article the following documents shall be submitted to the corresponding DEC:

1) a statement of the candidate on his consent to stand in single-mandate electoral district with the obligation, if elected, to discontinue activities incompatible with the status of the deputy of the State Duma. The statement shall indicate the surname, first name and patronymic, date and place of birth, place of residence, series, number and date of issue of the passport or the document replacing the passport, the name or code of the body which issued the passport or the document replacing the passport, taxpayer identification number ( if applicable), citizenship, information on vocational training (if any) with the organization engaged in educational activities, the year of its completion, and details of the document on education and qualification, main place of work or service, position (if there is no main place of work or service - occupation) of the candidate; if the candidate is a deputy and exercises his powers on a temporary basis - the information about it with the name of the relevant representative body. If the candidate has had or has a criminal record, the statement shall contain information about the candidate's criminal record, and if the conviction is removed or cancelled, also information about the date of removal or cancellation of conviction. Statement shall be submitted on paper. From June 1, 2015 text of the statement can be made using the software on the basis of a document in machine-readable form, drawn up in the form prescribed by the CEC;

2) information on the amount and sources of income of the candidate, as well as on the property belonging to the candidate on the property right (including joint ownership), including information on bank deposits, securities. This information shall be submitted on paper in compliance with Appendix 1 to this Federal law and in machine-readable form in the form prescribed by the CEC. From June 1, 2015 a paper document containing the abovementioned information shall be made on the basis of a document in machine-readable form;

3) information about belongings of the candidate, his/her spouse and minor children of immovable property situated outside the territory of the Russian Federation, on the sources of obtaining funds with which the said property was acquired, on property obligations outside the territory of the Russian Federation of the candidate, as well as information about such obligations of his spouse and minor children. This information shall be submitted on the form provided by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation;

4) information on their expenses, as well as on the expenses of their spouse and minor children for each transaction for the acquisition of land, other real estate, vehicle, securities, shares (participation interests, units in the charter (share) capital of organizations), conducted over the past three years, if the transaction amount exceeds the total income of the candidate and his wife for the last three years preceding the transaction, and information on the sources for obtaining funds with which the transaction was performed. This information shall be submitted on the form provided by the decree of the President of Russian Federation.

6. Candidate has a right to indicate in application his/her affiliation with a political party or no more than one public association, registered in accordance with the law not later than one year before the election day, and his/her position in this political party, public association on condition of submitting a confirming document signed by the authorized person of this political party, public association or respective regional branch of political party, public association. In this case, the full title of the political party, public association, if it consists of not more than seven words shall be used in the electoral documents. If the full title of the political party, public association is composed of more than seven words, and the abbreviated title consists of not more than seven words - abbreviated title of political party, public association shall be used in the electoral documents. If both full and short title of the political party (except the political party which nominated federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts), of a public association is composed of more than seven words, the candidate shall agree with one of the bodies of a political party, other public association and the district election commission on short title (consisting of not more than seven words) which must be used in electoral documents. Additionally, short title of the political party, public association is formed in compliance with the requirements provided for by Article 6 of the Federal law "On Political Parties", by provisions of the Federal Law of May 19, 1995 No 82-FZ "On Public Associations", and only from the words that compose the title of a political party, public association, stipulated in its statute.

7. A candidate shall submit a notification on self-nomination together with accompanying documents to the DEC personally and in terms stipulated by part 3 of this Article. Notification on self-nomination and accompanying documents can be submitted on a request by other persons if a candidate is ill or is detained in the detention centre. In this case, the authenticity of the signature of the candidate on the application must be certified by a notary or administration of the inpatient medical facility in which the candidate is being treated, the administration of the institution in which he is detained as a suspect or accused.

8. Notice of self-nomination and the accompanying documents are accepted by the DEC upon presentation of the candidate's passport or the document replacing the passport, a copy of which is produced in the DEC in the presence of the candidate and shall be signed by the person who received the notification and the accompanying documents. If the notification and the accompanying documents shall be submitted at the request of the candidate by another person to the DEC is submitted notarized copy of the passport of the candidate or the document replacing the passport. A candidate (other person) is also presenting copies of documents confirming the information about education, main place of work or service, on the position (occupation), and that the candidate is a deputy presented in the declaration of consent of the candidate to stand. If the applicant changed his last name, or first name or patronymic, the candidate (other person) must also present a copy of the corresponding documents.

9. The DEC shall immediately after the delivery of documents (copies) specified in part 8 of this Article, give to a candidate (to any other person who submitted the documents in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 43 of this Federal law) a document confirming their reception, followed by the indication of date and time of the start and the end of reception.

10. If at the time of filing of the notice of self-nomination of the candidate and the accompanying documents the formation of DEC has not been completed, said notice and the documents shall be submitted to the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, which until the formation of DEC carries out its mandate to work with the documents submitted by candidates. After the formation of the DEC and the appointment of its chairman the election commission of a Russian Federation subject sends these documents to the DEC.

11. The DEC or the Election Commission a Russian Federation subject places in the "Internet" (in "read only" mode) information on self-nominated candidates for the single-mandate electoral district, and information on changes of such information to the extent established by the CEC.

#### **Article 42. Submission of Federal Lists of Candidates, List of Candidates in Single-Mandate Electoral Districts and Other Documents to the CEC**

1. A federal list of candidates, list of candidates in a single-mandate electoral district in paper and an electronic form set forth by the CEC shall be submitted by an authorized agent of a political party to the CEC not later than in 25 days after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

2. The federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts in electronic format shall indicate the surname, first name and patronymic, place and date of birth, residence address, number and date of issue of the passport or the document replacing the passport, the name or code of the body which issued the passport or the document replacing the passport, taxpayer identification number (if applicable), citizenship, position occupied (in the lack thereof, occupation) of each candidate; for part-time elected deputies – the information thereon and the title of a respective representative body. If the candidate had or has a criminal record, the list shall contain information on the candidate's conviction. At the motion of the candidate his affiliation with political parties or other public associations registered not later than a year prior to the elections as well as his/ her status therein may be indicated in a federal list of candidates, provided he/she submits a document to authenticate the said information certified by the authorised executive body of the political party, public association. The list of candidates in single-member electoral districts shall include the name and number of the single-mandate constituency, in which each candidate shall stand.

3. The federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral district, submitted on paper form shall include surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth of each candidate, the candidate belonging to the political party that nominated him and his status in the political party indicated in accordance with part 2 of this Article. If the candidate had or has a criminal record, the list shall contain information on the candidate's conviction. The list of candidates in single-member electoral districts shall

include the name and number of the single-mandate constituency, in which each candidate shall stand. From June 1, 2015 the federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral district on paper form are manufactured using the software after the preparation of the lists in computer-readable form.

4. Simultaneously with the federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts an authorized agent of the political party shall submit:

1) a copy of a document certifying the fact that the record of the political party was entered into the state register of legal entities. This copy shall be authenticated by a notary;

2) a resolution of the party congress (convention) on the nomination of a federal list of candidates or list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, drawn up in accordance with Part 4 of Article 39 and Paragraph 5 of Article 40 of this Federal law;

3) lists of authorized agents of a political party, authorized agents of political parties on financial matters as well as authorized agents of regional branches of a political party, authorized agents of political parties on financial matters (if appointed) drafted in accordance with the requirements set forth in part 3 and 4 of Article 38 of this Federal Law;

4) signed and stamped by the authorized person of the political party list of citizens included it in the federal list of candidates and the members of this political party, on paper and in machine-readable format in the form prescribed by the CEC.

5. Simultaneously with the documents indicated in parts 1 and 4 of this Article an authorized agent of a political party shall submit:

1) a statement from each candidate included in the federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral district, about his consent to stand in elections in the federal list of candidates or a single-mandate electoral district with the obligation, if elected, to discontinue activities incompatible with the status of the deputy of the State Duma. The statement must include the last name, first name and patronymic, date and place of birth, place of residence, series, number and date of issue of the passport or the document replacing the passport, the title or code of the issuer, taxpayer identification number (if available), citizenship, information on vocational training (if any) with the name of organization conducting educational activities, the graduation year, and details of document that has information on education and qualification, main place of work or service, position (or, in the lack thereof, - occupation); if the candidate is a deputy and exercises his powers on a temporary basis - the information about it with the title of the relevant representative body. If the candidate has or had a criminal record, the statement shall contain information about the candidate's criminal record, and if the conviction is removed or cancelled, the information about the date of removal or cancellation of conviction. A candidate may specify in his statement that he belongs to the political party that nominated him, or to not more than one other public associations registered no later than one year before the voting day in the manner prescribed by law. The candidate shall indicate his status in this political party, this public association provided that he submits the documents confirming the information and that are signed by the authorized person of the political party, public association or by an authorized person of the corresponding regional branch of political party, public association. If candidate indicated that he belongs

to other public association, the title of this public association is used in electoral documents during the elections to the State Duma in accordance with Article 41 of part 6 of this Federal law. Envisaged agreement on the title of a public association is carried out by the candidate or the political party which nominated the candidate directly with one of the bodies of the public association and the Central election commission of the Russian Federation. From June 1, 2015 the text of the statement is made by means of software on the basis of the document in a machine-readable form, drawn up in accordance with the form prescribed by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation.;

2) information on the amount and sources of income of each candidate as well as on the property owned (or jointly owned) by them, including information on bank deposits, securities. This information shall be submitted on paper in compliance with Appendix 1 of this Federal law and in machine-readable form in the form prescribed by the CEC. From June 1, 2015 a paper document containing the above information, shall be made on the basis of a document in machine-readable form;

3) information about belongings of the candidate, his spouse and minor children, information about immovable property situated outside the territory of the Russian Federation, information on the sources of obtaining funds with which the said property was acquired, on property obligations outside the territory of the Russian Federation of the candidate, as well as information about such obligations of his spouse and minor children. This information shall be submitted on the form provided by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation;

4) information on their spending, as well as those of their spouse and minor children, of each transaction for the acquisition of land, other real estate, vehicle, securities, shares (participation interests, units in the charter (share) capital of organizations), for the past three years, if the transaction amount exceeds the total income of the candidate and his spouse for the last three years preceding the transaction, and on the sources of obtaining funds with which the transaction was conducted. This information shall be submitted in the form provided by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation.

6. In the case of the nomination of a person who is disabled a candidate and therefore who is having the opportunity to write his own statement of consent, fill, or assure other documents stipulated by the present Federal law, this candidate shall be entitled to use a help of another person. At the same time the powers of the person providing assistance in completing or certification of the documents referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article shall be notarized.

7. A candidate may be only on one federal list of candidates and only in one list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts.

8. The federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral district and accompanying documents are received by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation, together with copies of the passport (individual passport pages, defined by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation) or the document replacing the passport of the candidate certified by an authorized representative of a political party. In relation to the candidate included in the federal list of candidates - also documents confirming information about education, main place of work or service, position (occupation), and the fact that the candidate is a deputy, specified in his statement of consent to stand in elections", shall be supplemented with a new third sentence and shall

be read as follows: "The federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral district and accompanying documents are received by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation, together with copies of the passport (individual passport pages, defined by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation) or the document replacing the passport of the candidate certified by an authorized representative of a political party. In relation to the candidate included in the federal list of candidates - also documents confirming information about education, main place of work or service, position (occupation), and the fact that the candidate is a deputy, specified in his statement of consent to stand in elections. Certified copies of these documents shall be submitted for each candidate, included in the federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-member electoral districts respectively. When reporting to the CEC, federal list of candidates and the documents attached thereto authorized representative of a political party also makes a power of attorney to the authorized representatives of political parties on financial issues and on the authorized representatives of regional branches of political parties on financial issues (in the case of the appointment of such), formalised in accordance with the requirements of part 5 of Article 38 of this Federal law. Copies of these powers of attorney made by the CEC in the presence of an authorized representative of a political party, certified by the signature of the person who accepted the documents and attached to these documents. Upon receipt of the documents referred to in this Part, CEC immediately issues to an authorized representative of a political party document confirming their reception, with the date and time of the beginning and the of reception.

9. The CEC shall within seven days check the documents, indicated in part 8 of this Article, and issue the authorized agent of a political party a certified copy of a federal list of candidates, list of candidates for single-mandate electoral districts or grounded refusal of issuance thereof.

10. The grounds for refusal of issuance of a certified copy of a federal list of candidates shall be the lack of all or some documents specified in parts 1 - 4 of this Article, a violation of a procedure under Articles 39 and 40 of this Federal Law about the nomination of a federal list of candidates, lists of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts. Failure to comply with the requirements stipulated by part 5 or 7 of this Article shall entail the exclusion of the candidate from the relevant federal list of candidates, lists of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts before the corresponding list will be registered.

11. The refusal of registration may be appealed by the political party or candidate in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which shall examine the complaint within 10 days. The abovementioned period cannot be restored.

12. After the federal list of candidates was submitted to the CEC it shall not be altered or amended with an exception of amendments caused by the stepping down of a candidate documented by his personal application, or by the revocation of a candidate by a political party, or by the removal of a candidate from the federal list of candidates by the resolution of the CEC or change of constituency according to part 7 of Article 40 of this law or death of candidate.

13. The CEC shall publish online information (in "read-only" mode) on certified federal lists of candidates, lists of candidates for single-mandate electoral districts and information of amendments of the lists in the Internet.

14. The CEC shall send copies of the certified list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts (certified extracts from the list, copies of the candidates statement of consent to stand in elections that are included in the said list) to the respective DEC not later than three days from the day of registration of the lists, in the case provided for by paragraph 7 of Article 40 of this Federal law - no later than three days after amending the registered list.

#### **Article 43. Submission of the Documents by a Candidate Nominated by a Political Party for the Single-Mandate Electoral District to the DEC**

1. A candidate nominated by a political party for the single-mandate electoral district and included in the list of candidates in single-member electoral districts registered by CEC , no later than 35 days after the day of official publication of announcement of the election of deputies of the State Duma, shall submit to the appropriate DEC:

1) excluded.

2) information on the amount and sources of income of the candidate, as well as on the property belonging to the candidate on the property right (including joint ownership), including information on bank deposits, securities. This information shall be submitted on paper in compliance with Appendix 1 of this Federal law and in machine-readable form in the form prescribed by CEC. From June 1, 2015 a paper document containing the information above shall be made on the basis of a document in machine-readable form;

3) information about immovable property belonging to the candidate, his spouse and minor children situated outside the territory of the Russian Federation, on the sources of obtaining funds with which the said property was acquired, on property obligations outside the territory of the Russian Federation of the candidate, as well as such information about his spouse and minor children. This information shall be submitted on the form provided by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation;

4) information on spending, as well as on the spending of their spouse and minor children, of each transaction for the acquisition of land, other real estate, vehicle, securities, shares (participation interests, units in the charter (share) capital of organizations), for the past three years, if the transaction amount exceeds the total income of the candidate and his spouse for the last three years, and on the sources of obtaining funds with which the transaction was conducted. This information shall be submitted on the form provided by the decree of the Russian President.

2. A candidate has the right to submit to the DEC a copy of the list of candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral districts certified by the CEC.

3. The documents referred to in part 1 of this Article, a candidate shall submit to the DEC personally. Documents can be submitted at the request of the candidate by other persons in the case, if the candidate is sick or is contained in the detention center. In this case, the authenticity of the signature of the candidate on the application must be certified by a notary or administration of the inpatient medical facility in which the candidate is being treated, the administration of the institution in which he is detained as a suspect or accused.

4. The documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be received by the DEC upon presentation of the candidate's passport or the document replacing the passport, a copy of which is produced in the DEC in the presence of the candidate and shall be signed by the person who accepted the documents. If the documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted at the request of a candidate by another person, the notarized copy of the passport of the candidate or the document replacing the passport shall be submitted to the DEC. A candidate (a person) also presents copies of documents referred to in the declaration of consent of the candidate to stand for election on information about education, main place of work or service, on the position (occupation), and that the candidate is a deputy. If the candidate changed his last name, or the first name or patronymic, the candidate (a person) must also present a copy of the relevant documents.

5. Submission of the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 4 of this Article to the DEC shall be deemed a notice of nomination of a candidate in single-mandate electoral district. DEC shall immediately after the submission of the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 4 of this article, give a candidate (another person) a document confirming their reception, with the date and time of the beginning and the end of reception.

6. If at the time of submission of the documents the formation of DEC has not been completed, the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 4 of this Article shall be submitted to the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, which until the formation of DEC carries out its mandate to work with the documents submitted by candidates. After the formation of the DEC and the appointment of its chairman, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject sends these documents to the DEC.

7. The DEC or the Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject publishes on the "Internet" (in "read only" mode) information on candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral district, and information on changes in these particulars to the extent prescribed by CEC.

#### **Article 44. Support of the Nomination of Federal Lists of Candidates**

1. A necessary condition for registration of a federal list of candidates, a candidate is a support of the nomination by their voters, which can be determined by the recent election results to the State Duma, deputies of legislative (representative) state bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation or confirmed by the required number of voter signatures collected in support of the nomination.

2. The nomination by a political party of a federal list of candidates, candidate in single-mandate electoral district is considered to be supported by the voters on the basis of the recent election results to the State Duma, deputies of legislative (representative) state bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation and does not require the collection of signatures of voters in any of the following cases:

1) a federal list of candidates nominated by a political party, which according to the recent election results to the State Duma was admitted to distribution of deputy mandates or received not less than 3 per cent of votes from those who took part in the voting in the federal electoral district;

2) the list of candidates nominated by a political party, was admitted to the distribution of seats in the legislative (representative) state body at least in one subject of the Russian Federation convocation, acting on the day of official publication (announcement) of the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma;

3) list of candidates nominated by a political party in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation provided by paragraph 17 of Article 35 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", the deputy mandate was submitted to the legislative (representative) state body at least of one subject of the Russian Federation as of convocation on the day of official announcement of the decision to call the election of deputies of the state Duma.

3. In support of the nomination of the federal list of candidates by the political party, which is not covered by part 2 of this Article, it shall be collected at least 200 thousand signatures of voters, while no more than 7000 signatures of voters registered in the subject of the Russian Federation shall be for one subject of the Russian Federation.

4. Nomination of a candidate in single-mandate electoral district by political party referred to in part 3 of this Article and registered a federal list of candidates, considered to be supported by voters and does not require the collection of signatures.

5. Nomination of candidates, who are not covered by parts 2 and 4 of this Article or self-nomination of a candidates shall be supported by collected signatures of voters in the amount of at least 3 percent from the total number of voters registered at the territory of the relevant district indicated in the federal law on the approval of the scheme of single-mandate electoral districts, and if the electoral district consist of less than 100 thousand voters - at least 3 thousand signatures of voters.

6. The CEC not later than 10 days from the day of official announcement of the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma on the basis of the data contained in the GAS Vybory, shall compile the list of political parties, which are subjects to part 2 of this Articles. This list is published on a national state print media and posted on the official website of the CEC in the Internet.

#### **Article 45. The Collection of Signatures of Voters**

1. The signatures collected in support of the nomination of a federal list of candidates, nomination (self-nomination) of the candidate, shall be entered in the signature sheets, which are manufactured in compliance with Appendix 2, 3 and 4 of this Federal law.

2. Payment of production of the signature lists is carried out only from the relevant electoral fund. A political party, a candidate is entitled to start collecting signatures of voters from the date of payment for signature sheets.

3. If the candidate for single-mandate electoral district is a deputy and exercises his powers on a temporary basis, additional information shall be specified in the signature list that the candidate is a deputy on a temporary basis, and the name of the relevant representative body.

4. In case if the candidate had or has a criminal record, the signature sheet shall contain information on the candidate's conviction.
5. If a candidate indicated his affiliation with a political party or other public association and its membership in the political party or this public association, information about that are specified in the signature sheet, in accordance with Part 6 of Article 41, paragraph 1 of Part 5 of Article 42 of the Federal Law.
6. In support of the nomination (self-nomination) of the candidate it shall be allowed to collect signatures only those voters whose place of residence is located in the territory of a single-mandate electoral district in which the candidate was nominated.
7. The right to collect signatures belongs to legally capable citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 18 years at the time of collecting the signatures. A political party, a candidate may conclude the agreement on the collection of signatures with a person involved in the collection of signatures. Payment of this work is carried out only from the relevant electoral fund.
8. Political parties, candidates are required to compile a list of persons to collect voters' signatures on paper and in machine-readable form in the form prescribed by the CEC. The list shall contain information on each person: surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth, place of residence, series, number and date of issue of the passport or the document replacing the passport, the name or code of the issuer, as well as put signature of the signature collector. Information about the persons who collect voters' signatures, and signatures of the persons shall be in the list drawn up on paper, certified by a notary.
9. The collection of signatures is carried out at the place of residence and other places where election campaigning and collecting signatures are not prohibited by federal law.
10. The involvement of state bodies, bodies of local government, bodies of companies regardless of the legal form, voting members of election commissions in the collection of signature of voters shall be prohibited. It shall be strictly forbidden to force voters to give signatures or remunerate them for this in any form. It shall be forbidden to collect signatures at the place of work, study, during and at the place of payment of salaries, pensions, benefits, scholarships and other fees, and during philanthropic actions. Signatures collected with violation of this provision are invalid.
11. A voter shall put his/her signature, indicate the date, his/her surname, first name and patronymic, the year of birth (and, if attained the age of 18 on the voting day, the month and the day of birth), residence address, passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document. The signature and the date shall be written by a voter with his/her own hand. The information on a voter putting his signature into a signature sheet may at the request of the voter be written by a signature collector. The said information shall be fixed in handwriting with no use of pencils being allowed. The voter puts himself the signature and the date of its application. The voter has the right to sign in support of the nomination of various federal lists of candidates, nomination (self-nomination) of different candidates, but only once in support of the nomination of the same federal list of candidates, nomination (self-nomination) of the same candidate.
12. Each signature list with voter signatures collected in support of the nomination of a federal list of candidates, self-nomination of the candidate must be certified by the

signature of the signature collector. When certifying the signature list the person who collects signatures of voters shall personally put his surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth, place of residence, series and number and date of issue of the passport or the document replacing the passport, the name or code of the issuer, as well as his signature and the date of its submission.

13. Each signature list with voter signatures collected in support of the nomination of a federal list of candidates, self-nomination of the candidate must be certified by the signature of the authorized representative of political party. While certifying the signature sheet an authorized representative of a political party shall in one's handwriting write his/her surname, first and middle name, shall sign the sheet and put the date.

14. During the collection of signatures of voters a signature sheet may be filled in on both the front and reverse side of the sheet. The reverse side shall be deemed the continuation of the front page with successive numeration of signatures; and the certifying signatures of and information on a signature collector and an authorized representative of a political party shall be placed on the reverse side immediately after the signatures of voters.

15. After the completion of the collection of signatures authorized representatives of a political party shall separately count the number of signatures collected in each subject of the Russian Federation where signatures of voters were collected, the number of signatures collected outside the Russian Federation and the total number of signatures collected. The counting results shall be documented in the protocol (in paper and machine-readable form) on results of signature collection in the form set forth by the CEC. The protocol shall be signed by an authorized representative of the political party.

16. The signature sheets with voter signatures collected in support of the nomination shall be submitted to the CEC, and in support of the nomination (self-nomination) of the candidate - to the DEC. Signature sheets shall be submitted in the numbered and stitched form.

#### **Article 46. Submission of Electoral Documents for Registration of a Federal List of Candidates**

1. For registration of a federal list of candidates an authorized agent of a political party shall submit to the CEC:

1) a document confirming the establishment of a special electoral account of the election fund of a political party;

2) information on changes introduced to the federal list of candidates after its copy was certified; on changes of information about each candidate on the federal list of candidates which were submitted earlier in compliance with part 1 to 3 and 5 of Article 42 of this Federal Law (provided such changes took place);

3) in respect of each candidate included in the federal list of candidates - a written candidate notice of the fact that he has no accounts (deposits), does not keep cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the Russian Federation, owns and (or) does not use foreign financial instruments.

2. The authorized representative of a political party, which is subject under Part 3 of Article 44 of this Federal law, together with the documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall also submit:

1) signature sheets duly numerated and stitched up in folders by each subject of the Russian Federation where signatures of voters were collected, The number of signatures submitted to the CEC for registration may exceed the number set forth by this Federal Law for registration of a federal list of candidates by no more than five per cent;

2) the protocol on results of signature collection in the paper and in the machine-readable format; drawn up in accordance with the requirements of part 15 of Article 45 hereof;

3) the list of signature collectors compiled in compliance with the requirements set forth by part 8 of Article 45 of this Federal Law;

4) a copy of the document confirming the payment for the production of the signature sheets.

3. All documents for registration of a federal list of candidates shall be submitted to the CEC simultaneously not earlier than 75 days and not later than 45 days prior to 18 o'clock (Moscow time) of the voting day.

4. Upon receipt of the documents for registration of a federal list of candidates the CEC shall issue an authorized representative of a political party document confirming their reception, with the date and time of the beginning and end of reception. In the case of submission of the signature sheets the CEC certify each folder containing signature sheets with seal (Special stamp), verify that the number of submitted signature sheets to the number indicated in the protocol on the results of collecting voters' signatures, and then issues an authorized representative of a political party document confirming reception of submitted documents and signature sheets, with the date and time of receipt, the number of received signature lists and the declared number of signatures. CEC has no right to restrict the access of the authorized representative of a political party in its premises or to refuse him admission to the federal list of candidates submitted documents for registration in the event that these documents are delivered before the expiration of the time specified in part 3 of this Article.

#### **Article 47. Submission of Electoral Documents to the DEC for Registration of a Candidate Nominated for a Single-Mandate Electoral District**

1. For registration of a candidate nominated by a political party or through self-nomination for the single-mandate electoral district, the candidate or the authorized representative of the political party shall submit to the relevant DEC following documents:

1) a document confirming the establishment of a special electoral account of the electoral fund of the candidate;

2) information on changes in the previously submitted data in accordance with paragraph 1 of Part 5 and Part 6 of Article 41 and paragraph 1 of paragraph 5 of Article 42 of this Federal Law (in the event of changes);

3) a written notification that a candidate has no accounts (deposits), does not keep cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the Russian Federation does not own and (or) does not use foreign financial instruments.

2. The candidate nominated in single-mandate electoral district by the political party, which is subject under Part 3 of Article 44 of this Federal law, or self-nominated candidate or an authorized representative of the political party with the documents referred to in part 1 of this Article shall also submit:

1) signature sheets with voter signatures collected in support of nomination (self-nomination) of a candidate, numbered and stitched in a folder. The number of submitted voter signatures may be no more than 5 per cent greater than mandatory number in support the nomination (self-nomination) established by Part 5 of Article 44 of this Federal law;

2) The protocol on the results of collecting voters' signatures on paper and in machine-readable form, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of part 15 of Article 45 of this Federal law;

3) a list of signature collectors on paper and in machine-readable form, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 8 of Article 45 hereof;

4) a copy of the document confirming the payment for the production of the signature lists.

3. If at the time of submission to the DEC of the required documents necessary for the registration of the candidate nominated by the political party in single-mandate electoral district, which is under part 3 of Article 44 of this Federal Law, federal list of candidates nominated by a political party that was certified on the basis of voter signatures, the submission of signature sheets with voter signatures collected in support of the nomination of the candidate is not required.

4. All documents for the registration of a candidate nominated by a political party for the single-mandate electoral district, or through self-nomination shall be submitted to the DEC at the same time and not earlier than 75 days and not later than 45 days 18:00 local time before the voting day.

5. When receiving the documents of the DEC shall issue to the candidate or the authorized representative of a political party document confirming their reception, with the date and time of the beginning and end of reception. In the case of submission of signature sheets the DEC shall certify each folder containing signature sheets with the stamp of the DEC, and check the number of submitted signature sheets against the number indicated in the protocol on the results of collecting signatures, and then provide the candidate or the authorized representative of a political party with a document confirming the reception of submitted documents and signature sheets, with the date and time of receipt, the number of received signature lists and the declared number of signatures.

## **Article 48. Verification of Compliance with Requirements Imposed by this Federal Law during the Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates, Nomination of Candidates for Single-Mandate Electoral Districts. Verification of Information on Candidates, Procedure of the Collection of Signatures and Signature Sheets**

1. The CEC shall check the compliance with the requirements imposed by this Federal Law during the nomination of a federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts. In the event of submission of signature sheets the CEC shall check the compliance with the procedure of signature collection, the signature sheets, and the authenticity of information on voters and of their signatures in the signature sheets.
2. In order to verify compliance with the order of nomination of political parties, federal lists of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral district, about the collection of voters' signatures and execution of signature sheets, reliability of information about voters and their signatures CEC may decide to set up working groups from among its members, employees of its staff and organizations established to ensure its activities. Such verification may include the involvement of members of lower election commissions, experts from among specialists of internal affairs bodies, institutions of justice, military recruitment offices, agencies of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of temporary and permanent residence, other state bodies, as well as other persons in accordance with paragraph 19 of Article 28 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees". Expert reports can be served as the basis for recognition of false and (or) invalid voter signatures contained in signature sheets. Expert opinions are set out in writing, in statements verification of signature sheets, or other document. In the period of the recruitment experts are exempted from their permanent work, and their employment (position), established salaries and other payments in the workplace is kept the same.
3. The CEC validates information about the candidates, included in the federal list of candidates, and other information submitted by the political parties in accordance with this Federal Law.
4. The CEC refers to the relevant authorities with the presentation of validation of presented in accordance with Article 42 of the Federal Law of information about candidates, included in the federal list of candidates, that these candidates fulfil the requirements, specified in part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal law, and also validation presented in accordance with part 2 of Article 42 of the Federal law about criminal record of candidates included in the lists of candidates in single-mandate electoral district. The relevant authorities shall report on the findings, within 10 days, and in respect of the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of Part 5 of Article 42 of this Federal Law, the requirements specified in part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law - within 20 days. If this statement has been received 10 or less than 10 days before voting day, the relevant authorities should communicate the results of investigation in the period established by the CEC. Checking compliance with the requirements specified in part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law, is carried out on the grounds established by the Federal Law of May 7, 2013 No 79-FZ "On the prohibition of certain categories of persons to open and operate accounts (deposits), to store cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the Russian Federation, to own and (or) use of foreign financial instruments "(hereinafter - the Federal law "On the prohibition of certain categories of persons to open and operate accounts (deposits), to store cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation, to own and (or) use of foreign financial instruments "). Procedure of the verification of the information specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 5

of Article 42 of this Federal law shall be established by decree of the President of Russian Federation.

5. Information about the facts of false information submitted by candidates, the CEC shall submit to:

1) the media - in respect of candidates included in the federal list of candidates;

2) the DEC's - in respect of candidates included in the lists of candidates in single-mandate electoral district.

6. For the check-up of authenticity of information contained in signature sheets the CEC shall be entitled to use GAS Vybory including the State System For Registration of Voters (Referendum Participants). Conclusions of the investigation results received through the communication channels of GAS Vybory and certified with a digital signature of the Chair of the Election Commission of a subject of the Russian Federation may serve as a ground to determine the signatures of voters void.

7. In the event of any incomplete information about the candidates included in the federal list of candidates, list of candidates in single-mandate electoral district, the absence of any documents referred to in parts 1, 4, 5 and 8 of Article 42, part 1 and paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 2 of Article 46 of this Federal law, or non-compliance with the requirements of this Federal law to part 1 of Article 42, paragraphs 2 and 4 of part 2 of Article 46 submitted to the CEC in accordance with parts 1, 4, 5 and 8 of the present Federal the law, the CEC not later than three days prior to the session on which is to consider the issue of assurance of the documents shall notify the political party which nominated a federal the list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts. Political party shall be entitled to make amendments and additions to the documents containing information on the candidates, as well as in other documents submitted to the CEC in accordance with paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 8 of Article 42, part 1, paragraphs 2 and 4 of part 2 of Article 46 hereof, in order to bring these documents in line with the requirements of the present Federal law, including their registration not later than one day prior to the date of this session. A political party shall be entitled to replace the submitted document only if it is filled in with a violation of the requirements of this Federal Law. If as a result of investigations carried out by the CEC, revealed the absence of a certified copy of any document referred to paragraph 8 of Article 42 of this Federal Law, a political party has the right to submit it no later than one day prior to the date of the session at which the issue of registration of the federal list of candidates will be considered.

8. The CEC provides the voters with information on candidates submitted by political parties when nominating federal lists of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral district, to the extent established by the CEC.

9. No less than twenty per cent of the signatures necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates and information on voters corresponding thereto shall be verified. For the preliminary verification an equal number of signatures shall be selected in each federal list of candidates. The verification shall be conducted on a selective basis. The procedure of a selective verification shall be set forth by the CEC. The selective verification may be attended by authorized representatives or proxies of political parties submitted the necessary number of signatures of voters for registration of federal lists of candidates. The selection (sampling) shall be exercised by the CEC immediately after the issuance of a

document confirming the acceptance of the signature sheets to an authorized representative of a political party. The selective verification may be attended by other persons delegated by the said political parties.

10. When conducting selection and verification of signature sheets authorized representatives or agents of political parties as well as other persons, directed by political parties may be present. Political parties shall be notified on verification of their signature sheets.

11. All signatures of voters and information on voters corresponding thereto selected for the selective verification shall be checked. If these signature sheets contain a larger number of voter signatures than the set amount needed for verification, the signatures are verified in the last selected signature list, from the first signature until the necessary number of signatures is verified.

12. As a result of verification the voter signature may be pronounced authentic or inauthentic, and (or) invalidated.

13. Voter signatures contained in signature sheets but excluded (crossed out) by persons certifying the signature sheets if specifically required by them in the signature sheet or in the protocol on the results of the signature collection prior to the submission of signature sheets shall not be verified and counted.

14. They cannot serve as a basis for the recognition of signatures invalid reduction of words and dates available in the voter data contained in signature sheets, if such reductions do not prevent unambiguous interpretation of this information.

15. If the verification of signatures reveals several signatures of the same voter in support of the nomination of the same federal list of candidates, considered to be authentic only one signature, and the other signatures are considered invalid.

16. An inauthentic signature is the one made on behalf of one person by another person. The signature shall be acknowledged inauthentic on the basis of a conclusion of an expert recruited for the verification in line with part 7 of this Article.

17. The following signatures shall be deemed void:

1) voter signatures collected before the date of payment of production of signature sheets;

2) signatures of voters possessing no right to vote as well as signatures of voters residing outside the respective subject of the Russian Federation;

3) signatures of voters, if information on voters corresponding thereto is false. In this case the signature shall be deemed void only in case of confirmation by the official body carrying out registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of their permanent and temporary stay within the Russian Federation, or on the conclusion of an expert involved in the verification in accordance with part 2 of this Article;

4) signatures of voters, if all or some pieces of information required in accordance with this Federal Law are missing or (and) if there is no date of signature in the signature sheet;

5) signatures of voters if information thereon is written in pencil or is made not in handwriting;

6) signatures of voters, if the dates of signatures are modified and no evidence is provided that voters agree with such modifications as well as signatures of voters, if dates of signatures are not put in their own hand – on the basis of a written conclusion of an expert recruited for the verification in line with part 2 of this Article;

7) signatures of voters, if information of voters corresponding thereto is modified and no evidence is provided that voters or persons certifying signature sheets agree with such modifications;

8) all signatures of voters in the signature sheet in the case the signature sheet is not certified personally by signature collectors and (or) an authorized agent of the political party, or in the case at least one of these signatures is inauthentic, or at least one date of signature of the said persons is not put or not made personally, or in the case information on the signature collector and (or) the date of signature of the signature collector or an authorized agent of a political party was modified and no evidence is provided that the said persons agree to such modifications, or in the case the information on signature collector or on an authorized agent of a political party is incomplete or inauthentic, or in the case information on the signature collector is not written in his/her own hand;

9) all voter signatures on the signature sheet, the form of which does not comply with the requirements set out in Annex 2 of this Federal law, and (or) which does not include the information referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Article 45 of this Federal law, and (or) which is made in non-compliance with the requirements provided for by part 2 of Article 45 of this Federal law;

10) voter signatures collected in violation of the requirements provided for in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Article 45 of this Federal law;

11) signatures of voters, if the information about them included in the signature sheet not by the voters, putting their signatures, and person who collects signatures is not included in the signature list, - on the conclusion of an expert involved in the verification in accordance with part 2 of this Article;

12) all voter signatures on the signature sheet, which is authenticated by the signature collector by a person not entered in the list drawn up in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 45 of this Federal law;

13) signatures of voters who are included in the signature sheets later than the person performing the collection of signatures, and (or) the authorized representative of a political party signed the signature sheet;

14) all signatures on the signature sheet if the witnessing record of voter signatures collector was included later than the recording of assurance of the authorized representative of a political party.

18. If the verification reveals that in the signature sheets there is (are) completed line(s) in breach of requirements imposed by this Federal Law, only the signature in this (these)

line(s) shall not be considered with an exception of cases provided for in paragraphs 8, 9, 12 and 14 and part 17 of this Article.

19. If modifications and mistakes are properly explained during the compilation of the signature sheet, they shall not serve as a reason to acknowledge a signature of a voter void unless it is revealed that it is void in line with paragraphs 8, 9, 12 and 14 of part 17 of this Article.

20. In the event inauthentic and (or) void signatures of voters should equal to or outnumber five per cent of the total number of signatures selected for the selective verification and additional verification of other fifteen per cent of signatures necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates in the procedure set forth in this Article.

21. If the total sum of inauthentic and (or) void signatures revealed during the selective verification equals or outnumbers five per cent of the total number of signatures selected for the verification in accordance with part 9 and 17 of this Article the further verification shall stop and a federal list of candidates shall not be registered.

22. The federal list of candidates shall not be registered if the number of submitted signatures with the deduction of those acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void is less than the necessary minimum.

23. After the completion of the verification for each federal list of candidates the concluding protocol shall be compiled which shall be signed by a voting member of the CEC and shall be submitted to the CEC for the resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the refusal of such registration. The protocol shall document the number of declared, submitted and checked signatures as well as the number of signatures acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void and an explanation of reasons. The protocol shall be attached to the Resolution of the CEC on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the refusal of such registration. After the adoption of the said Resolution the amendments to the protocol shall be banned. A copy of the protocol shall be passed to an authorized agent of a political party not later than two days prior to the meeting of the CEC during which the resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates will be considered. In the event the number of authentic signatures should be insufficient for the registration or the number of signatures acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void should equal or outnumber five per cent of the total number of signatures selected for the verification, an authorized agent of a political party shall be entitled to receive in the CEC simultaneously with a copy of the concluding protocol the certified signature sheet verification registers which explain reasons of acknowledgement of signatures inauthentic and (or) void and indicate the numbers of the folder, signature sheet and the line that contain such signatures as well as to receive copies of official documents on the ground of which the respective signatures were acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void.

24. Re-verification of signature sheets after the adoption of decision on registration or refusal of registration of a federal list of candidates may be carried out only by the Supreme Court in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 99 of this Federal law, only signatures selected for verification by commission can be re-verified.

**Article 49. Verification by the District Election Commission of Compliance with the Requirements of this Federal Law During Self-Nomination of Candidates, Submission of Documents to the District Election Commission by Candidates Nominated in Single-Mandate Electoral Districts. Verification of Information on Candidates, Procedures of Voter Signature Collection and Signature Sheets**

1. The district election commission shall verify compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law during self-nomination of a candidates and the submission by the candidates, nominated by political parties in single-mandate electoral districts and self-nominated, of documents to the district election commission, as well as the accuracy of information about the candidates. In case of submission of signature sheets with voter signatures the district election commission shall verify compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law to the collection of voter signatures the format of signature sheets, the accuracy of information about the voters and the voters' signatures contained in the signature sheets.

2. In order to verify compliance with the requirements specified in part 1 of this Article, the district election commission may decide to create working groups. Verification may take place with the involvement of members of lower election commissions, experts from the bodies of the interior, justice institutions, military recruitment offices, agencies of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation, other state bodies. Expert reports may serve as the basis for declaring false and (or) invalid voter signatures contained in signature sheets. Expert opinions shall be made in writing in the statements of verification of signature sheets or other documents. During their work period the experts involved shall be exempt from their main work, while preserving their workplace (position), established salaries and other payments in their workplace.

3. The district election commission shall request the relevant authorities to verify the authenticity of information provided by candidates in accordance with part 5 of Article 41, paragraph 1 of part 5 of Article 42 or part 1 of Article 43 of this Federal Law, except for the information that in accordance with part 4 of Article 48 of this Federal Law shall be verified by the Central Election Commission, as well as the verification of compliance with the requirements of part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law. The relevant authorities shall, within 10 days, and in respect of the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of part 5 of Article 41 and paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Article 43 of this Federal Law, verify compliance with the requirements of part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law, - within 20 days, report on their findings. If the request was received less than 10 days or less before the voting day, the relevant authorities shall communicate the results of verification within the time established by the district election commission. Verifying compliance with the requirements of part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law shall be carried out on the grounds established by the Federal Law "On the prohibition for certain categories of persons to open and operate accounts (deposits), store cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation, own and (or) use foreign financial instruments". The procedure for verifying the information specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of part 5 of Article 41, paragraphs 3 and 4 of part 1 of Article 43 of this Federal Law shall be established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation.

4. To establish the authenticity of the data contained in signature lists, the district election commission shall be entitled to use the GAS Vybory, including the register of voters, referendum participants.

5. Upon discovering incomplete information about a candidate, the absence of any documents referred to in parts 4 - 6 and 8 of Article 41, parts 1 and 4 of Article 43, part 1 and paragraphs 2 and 4 of part 2 of Article 47 of this Federal Law, or non-compliance with the requirements of this Federal law to the registration documents submitted to the district election commission in accordance with parts 4 - 6 and 8 of Article 41, parts 1 and 4 of Article 43, part 1 and paragraphs 2 and 4 of part 2 of Article 47 of this Federal law, the district election commission shall, no later than three days prior to the day of its session where it is due to decide on the issue of candidate registration, notify the candidate. No later than one day prior to the date of this session the candidate has the right to make amendments and additions to the documents containing information about him, as well as to other documents submitted to the district election commission in accordance with parts 4 - 6 and 8 of Article 41, parts 1 and 4 of Article 43, part 1 and paragraphs 2 and 4 of part 2 of Article 47 of this Federal Law, in order to bring these documents into compliance with the requirements of the present Federal Law, including to their form. The candidate shall be entitled to replace the submitted document only if its form violates the law. If verifications carried out by the district election commission reveal an absence of a copy of any document provided by part 8 of Article 41 and part 4 of Article 43 of this Federal Law, the candidate shall be entitled to submit it no later than one day prior to the session on the question of his registration.

6. The district election commission shall communicate to the voters information on the candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral districts, in the amount prescribed by the Central Election Commission.

7. Verification of voter signatures shall check at least 20 percent of the number of voter signatures required for the registration of a candidate and the corresponding information on the voters who put their signatures on the signature sheets. For the initial verification, the same number of voter signatures collected in support of nomination (self-nomination) of each candidate shall be taken. This number shall be determined by decision of the district election commission. Signature sheets for sample verification shall be selected randomly (by lot). Sampling shall be carried out in the district election commission immediately after issuing candidate the document confirming the receipt of signature sheets. The procedure for sampling shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

8. The conduct of sampling in the district election commission and the verification of signature sheets may be attended by any candidate who submitted the number of voter signatures required for the registration, his authorized representatives or proxies, as well as other persons sent by such candidate. Candidates who submitted the number of voter signatures required for the registration shall be notified about the verification of signature sheets.

9. Verification shall cover all voter signatures and corresponding information about the voters contained in the signature sheets sampled for verification. If these signature sheets contain a larger number of voter signatures than the number set for verification, in the last signature sheet signatures shall be checked starting with the first, until the required number of signatures to be checked.

10. Based on the verification, a voter signature may be declared authentic, unauthentic and (or) invalid.

11. Verification and count shall not include voter signatures contained in signature sheets but excluded (crossed out) by the persons certifying the signature sheets, if this is specifically stated by them in the signature sheet, or in the protocol on the results of signature collection prior to the submission of signature sheets to the district election commission.

12. Abbreviations of words and dates in the voter data contained in signature sheets may not serve as a basis for declaring signatures invalid, if such abbreviations do not prevent unambiguous interpretation of this information.

13. If, during the verification of signatures, several signatures of the same voter are found in support of the nomination (self-nomination) of the same candidate, only one signature shall be deemed authentic, and the other signatures shall be deemed invalid.

14. A signature shall be deemed unauthentic if it is made on behalf of one person by another person. Such a signature shall be recognized unauthentic on the basis of conclusion of an expert involved in the verification in accordance with part 2 of this Article.

15. The following shall be deemed invalid:

1) voter signatures collected before the date of payment for the production of voter signature sheets;

2) signatures of persons who do not have the right of active suffrage in the respective single-mandate electoral district;

3) signatures of voters who indicated false information in the signature sheet. In this case, the signature shall be invalidated only if there is an official certificate from the body in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of stay and place of residence within the Russian Federation, or based on the conclusion of an expert involved in the verification in accordance with part 2 of this Article;

4) signatures of voters without providing any information required in accordance with this Federal Law and (or) without specifying the date of making the signature on the signature sheet;

5) signatures of voters, whose information is included in the signature sheet not by hand or with a pencil;

6) voter signatures with corrections in the dates of their entry in the signature sheet, if the corrections are not expressly certified by voters, and voter signatures the dates of entry of which were not entered by the voters themselves - based on the opinion of an expert involved in verification in accordance with part 2 of this Article;

7) signatures of voters with corrections in the respective voter data, if these corrections are not expressly certified by voters or the persons who collected voter signatures;

8) all voter signatures on the signature sheet, if the signature sheet is not certified by the own signature of the person who collected the signatures, and (or) the candidate, or if at

least one of these signatures is unauthentic, or if the signature sheet is certified by a person who collected voter signatures and who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of collecting signatures, and (or) if this person has been declared incapable by court, or if at least one date of verification of the signature sheet is not entered or not entered by hand, or if the information about the person collecting voter signatures and (or) the date when the this person or the candidate signed the sheet was corrected, and these corrections have not been certified respectively by the person who collected voter signatures or the candidate, or if the information on the person collecting voter signatures or the candidate in the signature sheet is incomplete or false, or if the information on the person collecting voter signatures is not entered into the signature sheet with his own hand or with a pencil;

9) all voter signatures on the signature sheet the form of which does not meet the requirements established by Annexes 3 and 4 of this Federal Law, and (or) which do not include the information referred to in parts 3, 4 and 5 of Article 45 of this Federal Law, and (or) which is made without compliance with the requirements provided for by part 2 of Article 45 of this Federal Law;

10) voter signatures collected in violation of the requirements of parts 9 and 10 of Article 45 of this Federal Law;

11) voter signatures, if their data are not included in the signature sheet by the voters who signed, and not by the person who collected the signatures of voters included in that signature sheet, - based on the opinion of an expert involved in the verification in accordance with part 2 of this Article;

12) all voter signatures on the signature sheet, which is authenticated by the signature collector who was not on the list drawn up in accordance with part 8 of Article 45 of this Federal Law;

13) signatures of voters entered in the signature sheet after the certification of the signature sheet the person who collected the signatures, and (or) a candidate;

14) all voter signatures on the signature sheet, if the certifying record of the person who collected voter signatures was put after the certifying signature of the candidate.

16. Upon detection in the signature sheet a filled line (lines) that do not comply with the requirements of the present Federal law, only the signature in this line (lines) shall not be counted, except for the cases provided for in paragraphs 8, 9, 12 and 14 of part 15 of this Article.

17. Corrections and erasures, expressly certified by the voter or the person certifying the signature sheet, made during the preparation of the signature sheet, may not serve as a basis for declaring a signature invalid, unless it is found to be unauthentic or invalid in accordance with paragraphs 8, 9, 12 and 14 of part 15 of this Article.

18. If the number of unauthentic and (or) invalid voter signatures identified in the sample verification equals or exceeds 5 percent of the established number of signatures to be checked, another 15 percent of the number of signatures required for the candidate registration shall be carried out, in the order established by this Article.

19. If the total number of unauthentic and (or) invalid voter signatures identified in the sample verification equals or exceeds 5 percent of the total number of signatures to be checked in accordance with parts 7 and 18 of this Article, further verification of signature sheets shall be stopped and the candidate shall not be registered.

20. A candidate shall not be registered if the number of voter signatures submitted minus the signatures found unauthentic and (or) invalid is insufficient for registration.

21. After completion of the verification of signature sheets of each candidate, whose nomination was supported by the collected signatures, the final protocol shall be drawn up, which shall be signed by the authorized voting member of the district election commission. On the basis of this protocol, the district election commission shall make a decision to register the candidate or refuse registration. The protocol shall specify the number of announced, submitted and checked voter signatures, and the number of signatures deemed unauthentic and (or) invalid, and the grounds (reasons) they were recognized as such. The protocol shall be annexed to the decision of the district election commission to register a candidate or refuse his registration. Amendments to the protocol after the respective decision shall not be permitted. A copy of the protocol shall be given to the candidate no later than two days before the session of the district election commission on the issue of registration of the candidate. If the number of valid signatures of voters is insufficient for the registration of the candidate or if the number of unauthentic and (or) invalid signatures equals or exceeds 5 percent of the total number of signatures to be checked, the candidate shall be entitled to receive in the district election commission, together with a copy of the final protocol, certified copies of the statements of verification of signature sheets, which set out the grounds (reasons) for declaring the signatures unauthentic and (or) invalid, indicating the folder number, the signature sheet and line in the signature sheet that contain each such signature, and to receive copies of official documents on the basis of which the respective signatures were deemed unauthentic and (or) void.

22. Re-verification of signature sheets after the adoption by the district election commission of the decision to register or refuse to register a candidate, may be carried out only by a supreme court of the republic, district, regional court, court of the autonomous region, autonomous district, or by the Central Election Commission in accordance with part 9 of Article 99 of the present Federal Law, and only within the signatures that were verified.

## **Article 50. Registration of a Federal List of Candidates**

1. Not later than after ten days after the receipt of documents necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates or, in the event of putting up an electoral deposit, after the wiring thereof to the account of the CEC and the CEC shall adopt a resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the grounded refusal of such registration.

2. The resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates shall contain the time and the date of registration.

3. In the event it should be decided against the registration of a federal list of candidates, the CEC shall be obliged within three days from the adoption of such decision to issue an authorized agent of a political party a copy of the decision that explains the reasons of refusal. Rejection may be justified by the following reasons:

1) non-compliance with the requirements of nomination of a federal list of candidates provided for in the Federal Laws "On Political Parties", "On Basic Guarantees" and in this Federal Law;

2) lack among the documents submitted for the registration of a federal list of candidates of documents necessary in accordance with this Federal Law for the registration of a federal list of candidates;

3) the presence on the day before the session of the CEC, which is to consider the question of a federal list of candidates' registration, among the documents submitted in accordance with Articles 42 and 46 of this Federal law, documents drawn up in violation of the requirements provided for in subsections 3 - 5 of Article 38, part 4 and 6 of Article 39, paragraphs 1 - 5 and 8 of Article 42 of this Federal law (except in cases of information for individual candidates on the federal list of candidates);

4) absence of any information provided for in paragraphs 1 - 3, and 5 of Article 42 of this Federal law (except in cases of absence of information in respect of individual candidates on the federal list of candidates) on the day preceding the day of the session of the CEC, which is to consider the question of a federal list of candidates for registration in the documents submitted in accordance with Article 42 of this Federal law;

5) established by the decision of the court the fact of non-compliance with the political party of restrictions imposed by paragraph 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";

6) established by the decision of the court the fact of vote buying by political party, its authorized representative, authorized representative, as well as acting on their behalf by another person or entity; sufficient number of authentic signatures of voters are submitted for the registration of a federal list of candidates, or five or more per cent of signatures selected for the verification are acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void signatures of voters;

7) a political party has not created its electoral fund. The lack of cash therein shall not serve as a reason for refusal of registration;

8) expenditures made by a political party for the needs of its election campaign from other sources than its electoral fund and electoral funds of its regional chapters exceed five per cent of the maximum limit of all expenditures from an electoral fund set forth by this Federal Law;

9) expenditures made by a political party for the needs of its election campaign exceed five per cent of the maximum limit of all expenditures from an electoral fund set forth by this Federal Law;

10) the number of candidates excluded from the federal list of candidates at the volition of these candidates, at the decision of a political party (with an exception of force majeure circumstances) and at the decision of the CEC adopted in line with Clause 4 of this Article

exceeds twenty five per cent of the total number of candidates on an federal list of candidates;

11) authorized agents or proxies of a political party more than once took advantage of their office;

12) disposal of the candidates from the federal list of candidates, which resulted in the number of regional candidate groups appeared less than twenty-six;

13) for the federal list of candidates nominated by a political party, which is subject to part 3 of Article 44 of this Federal law, - availability of voter signatures submitted in support of the nomination of a federal list of candidates, more than 10 percent of the signatures collected in a place where, in accordance with this federal law prohibited the collection of signatures;

14) for the federal list of candidates nominated by a political party, which is subject to part 3 of Article 44 of this Federal law, - insufficient number of valid signatures submitted in support of the nomination of a federal list of candidates or the identification of more than 5 percent invalid signatures of voters of the total number of signatures to be checked;

15) for the federal list of candidates nominated by a political party, which is subject to part 3 of Article 44 of this Federal law, - absence among the documents submitted to the CEC, the documents referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 46 of this Federal law.

4. The CEC shall exclude a candidate from a federal list of candidates if:

1) the candidate does not possess a right to be elected;

2) the candidate did not indicate the information on the criminal conviction;

3) the court of law determines that the candidate during the campaign period has not complied with the restrictions imposed by paragraph 1 or 1.1. of Article 56 of this Federal Law;

4) the candidate more than once has taken advantage of his office;

5) the candidate is included in another federal candidate list;

6) the presence in the federal list of candidates nominated by a political party a member of another political party;

7) the absence among the documents submitted to the CEC in accordance with Article 42 of this Federal Law, the documents required in accordance with parts 2, 3, 5 and 8 of Article 42 of the Federal Law for the registration of a candidate included in the federal list of candidates ;

8) the presence on the day before the CEC session on registration documents submitted in accordance with Article 42 hereof, documents drawn up in violation of the requirements stipulated by parts 2, 3, 5 and 8 of Article 42 of this Federal law;

9) absence in documents submitted in accordance with Article 42 of this Federal law, any information in relation to the candidate provided for in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of Article 42 of this Federal law on the day before the session on registration;

10) the presence of the fact of registration of the candidate in single-mandate electoral district as a self-nominated candidate or as a candidate nominated by another political party;

11) non-compliance with requirements established by part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law.

5. In the event the registration of a federal list of candidates should be refused its second nomination shall not be banned provided the procedure and terms set forth by this Federal Law is complied with.

6. In the event evidence should be revealed of the criminal or administrative offence the CEC shall pass to the law enforcement bodies, court of law the corresponding documents and materials for the offence to be investigated and decided upon.

7. The Resolution of the CEC on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the refusal of such registration may be appealed by a political party or a candidate in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which shall examine the complaint within 10 days after the day it is filed. This time limit cannot be restored.

8. After the registration of a federal list of candidates a candidate on such list shall acquire a status of a registered candidate. Each registered candidate shall be issued a certificate.

9. Registered federal lists of candidates and information of the candidates thereon shall be within 48 hours passed by the CEC to the representatives of the mass media. The information on property and income of registered candidates subject to the obligatory publication shall be specified by the CEC.

10. DEC and TEC not later than fifteen days prior to the day of elections shall place on the stands in their premises information on registered candidates specified in parts 3 to 5 Article 78 of this Federal Law. Information on cancellation of registration of registered federal lists of candidates, on the quitting of candidates from the registered federal list of candidates shall be placed in the same way. Information on registered candidates and political parties which registered federal lists of candidates shall be placed in the order as in the ballot.

11. In the event that less than two federal lists of candidates are registered 35 days before the voting day, the voting day of deputies of the State Duma at the decision of the CEC shall be postponed by no longer than two months to allow an additional nomination of federal lists of candidates and execution of further electoral actions.

## **Article 51. Registration of a Candidate Nominated for a Single-Mandate Electoral District**

1. District election commission, no later than 10 days after receiving the documents

necessary for candidate registration in the single-mandate electoral district, shall make a decision to register the candidate or a reasoned decision to refuse registration.

2. The decision of the district election commission on registration of the candidate in a single-mandate electoral district shall indicate the date and time of registration. When registering a candidate nominated by a political party, the decision on registration shall indicate that the candidate is nominated by a political party, as well as the name of this political party.

3. Registration of the same candidate in more than one single-mandate electoral district shall not be permitted.

4. One and the same candidate may be registered for the federal electoral district and one single-mandate electoral district, if the nominated candidate is on the federal list of candidates of and nominated in the single-mandate electoral district by the same political party.

5. A self-nominated candidate and registered for the single-mandate electoral district may not be registered as a candidate nominated by a political party. A candidate nominated by a political party and registered for the single-mandate electoral district may not be registered as a self-nominated candidate.

6. In case of non-compliance with the requirements of parts 3 and 5 of this Article, the valid candidate registration shall be the one adopted earlier. The decision on candidate registration taken later shall be annulled by the district election commission, if within a day after its adoption a candidate does not submit an application to revoke the registration that took place earlier.

7. In case of decision to refuse the registration of the candidate, the district election commission shall within one day from the date of its adoption give the candidate a copy of the decision stating reasons for the refusal. The grounds for refusal are:

1) absence of the candidate's right of passive suffrage;

2) for a candidate nominated by a political party - failure to comply with the requirements to the candidate nomination provided by the Federal Law "On Political Parties" and this Federal Law;

3) absence among the documents submitted to the district election commission in accordance with Articles 41, 43 and 47 of this Federal Law of the documents referred to in parts 4 - 6 and 8 of Article 41, parts 1 and 4 of Article 43, part 1 of Article 47 of this Federal law;

4) as of the day preceding the session of the district election commission to consider the issue of registration of the candidate, the presence among the documents submitted in accordance with Articles 41, 43 and 47 of this Law, of documents drawn up in violation of the requirements of parts 4 - 6 and 8 of Article 41, parts 1 and 4 of Article 43, paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 2 of Article 47 of this Federal Law;

5) as of the day preceding the day of the session of the district election commission to consider the issue of registration of a candidate, the absence in the documents submitted

in accordance with Articles 41 and 43 of this Law, of any information provided for by paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of art 5 of Article 41 or paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of part 5 of Article 42 of this Federal Law;

6) for the candidate who submitted signature sheets with voter signatures collected in support of his nomination (self-nomination) - the presence of more than 10 percent of the signatures collected in a place where, in accordance with this Federal Law, the collection of voter signatures is prohibited;

7) for the candidate who submitted signature sheets with voter signatures collected in support of his nomination (self-nomination)- insufficient number of valid voter signatures submitted for the candidate's registration, or identification of 5 percent or more of unauthentic and (or) invalid signatures from the total number of signatures to be checked;

8) for the candidate who submitted signature sheets with voter signatures collected in support of his nomination (self-nomination) -the absence among the documents submitted to the district election commission of the documents referred to in part 2 of Article 47 of this Federal Law;

9) concealment of information by the candidate about his criminal record, which shall be submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of part 5 of Article 41 and paragraph 1 of paragraph 5 of Article 42 of this Federal Law;

10) non-creation of an electoral fund by the candidate. The absence of funds in the electoral fund shall not be a basis for refusal to register a candidate;

11) use by the candidate in the financing of his election campaign, in addition to the funds from the electoral fund, other funds amounting to more than 5 per cent of the limit of total expenditures from the electoral fund established by this Federal Law;

12) exceeding by the candidate in the financing of his election campaign by more than 5 per cent of the limit of total expenditures from the electoral fund established by this Federal Law;

13) established by a court judgment fact of non-compliance by the candidate during the campaign period with the restrictions of paragraph 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";

14) repeated use of the advantages of the candidate's office or official position;

15) registration of the candidate in another district in this election, except when the candidate is nominated by a political party in the single-mandate electoral district and on its federal list of candidates;

16) established by a court judgment fact of bribery of voters by the candidate, his proxy, his authorized representative on financial issues, as well as another person or entity acting on their behalf;

17) non-compliance by the candidate with the requirements specified in part 13 of Article 4 of this Federal Law.

8. In case of refusal to register a candidate, his re-nomination shall be possible under the procedures and terms established by the present Federal Law.

9. In case of detection of a violation of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections entailing criminal or administrative liability, the district election commission shall send to law enforcement agencies, court related documents and materials to establish the violation and holding the perpetrators responsible.

10. Decision of the district election commission on refusal to register a candidate may be appealed to the Central Election Commission or the supreme court of the republic, district, regional court, city court for the city of federal significance, autonomous district court, autonomous region court within 10 days from the date of adoption of the appealed decision. This time limit may not be restored.

11. Each registered candidate shall be issued a certificate.

12. Information on the candidates registered in single-mandate electoral districts shall be provided to the mass media by the district election commission no later than 48 hours after the registration. The list of information to be disclosed with regard to the income and property of the candidates registered in single-mandate electoral district, the incomes and property of their spouses and minor children, on the expenses of these persons shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

13. District and territorial election commissions, no later than 15 days before the voting day, shall place on a board in their premises information about the registered candidates, containing the information provided for in parts 4 and 5 of Article 78 of this Federal Law. Information about the cancellation of registration of registered candidates shall be placed similarly. Information about the registered candidates shall be placed in the same order as on the ballots.

14. If, 35 days prior to the voting day, there is no candidate or only one candidate is registered in a single-mandate electoral district, by decision of the district election commission the election in that single-mandate electoral district shall be postponed for a period not exceeding two months for the additional nomination of candidates and performance of subsequent electoral actions.

## **CHAPTER 7. STATUS OF CANDIDATES**

### **Article 52. Equality of Candidates**

1. All candidates shall enjoy equal rights and bear equal obligations, unless otherwise provided for in this Federal Law, the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

2. On behalf of the candidates nominated on a federal list of candidates only authorized representatives and agents of the political party which nominated the list, and on behalf of the candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral district - only their authorized representatives for financial matters and proxies may act.

## Article 53. Restrictions Pertaining to Office or Official Position

1. Candidates who hold state or elected municipal offices or are on state or municipal service; candidates who are members of bodies of organizations regardless of their legal form (for organizations the supreme bodies of which are general meetings – also members of governing bodies of such organizations) with an exception of political parties; as well as candidates who are officials, journalists or other staff members of mass media organizations during the election campaign shall refrain from taking advantage of their office or official position.

2. Registered candidates who are on state or municipal service or who work for mass media organizations shall, during their participation in elections of deputies of the State Duma, be relieved from their office duties. A certified copy of relevant order (resolution) shall be submitted

1) in relation to the candidate included in a registered federal list of candidates - by authorized representative of the political party to the CEC not later than five days from the date of registration of a federal list of candidates, which includes such a candidate;

2) candidate, registered for single-mandate electoral district, - to corresponding DEC no later than five days from the date of registration of the candidate.

3. Non-candidates who hold state or elected municipal offices or are on state or municipal service; or who are members of bodies of organizations regardless of their legal form (for organizations the supreme bodies of which are general meetings – also members of governing bodies of such organizations) with an exception of political parties; as well as officials, journalists or other staff members of mass media organizations during the election campaign shall refrain from taking advantage of their office or official position to promote the nomination of federal lists of candidates and (or) the election of candidates placed thereon.

4. In this Federal Law taking advantage of an office or official position shall mean:

1) involvement of persons who are subordinate to or dependent on a candidate in the line of duty, other state and municipal employees in activities carried out during the working hours to promote nomination of federal lists of candidates, and candidates, and (or) election of a candidate;

2) use of premises occupied by state bodies or bodies of local government, organization regardless of their legal form (with an exception of premises occupied by political parties) for activities promoting nomination and/or election of a candidate (candidates) if the use of the same premises is not guaranteed to other candidates on the same terms and conditions;

3) use of telephone, fax and other facilities of communication, information services, office equipment of state bodies or bodies of local government, state and municipal institutions, organizations regardless of legal form (with an exception of the said facilities of communication, information services, office equipment used for everyday activities of political parties) for election campaigning unless their use is not paid for at the expense of a respective electoral fund;

4) use of transportation owned by state or municipal bodies, by organizations (with an exception of transportation owned by political parties) at no charge or reduced charges for activities promoting nomination and/or election of a candidate (candidates). This provision shall not apply to persons using the said transport facilities in accordance with the Russian Federation laws on the security services provided by the state;

5) collection of signatures or election campaigning carried out by persons who hold state and municipal elected offices or are in state or municipal service, or are heads of local administrations, or members of bodies of organizations regardless of their legal status (for organizations the supreme bodies of which are general meetings – also members of governing bodies of such organizations) with an exception of political parties during business trips (paid for from the respective budget or funds of organizations);

6) privileged access (compared to other candidates) to the state and municipal mass media for collection of signatures or election campaigning;

7) campaign speech at mass events organized during an election campaign by a state and (or) municipal body, organization regardless of their legal form (with an exception of political parties);

8) publication of any work progress reports during an campaign period, mailing of congratulations and other materials on behalf of a candidate unless such mailing is paid for out of a relevant electoral fund.

5. Compliance with the restrictions listed in  $\text{з\text{п}е 4}$  of this article must not prevent deputies from exercising their powers and performing their obligations to voters.

6. Officials, journalists and other persons holding creative jobs in mass media organizations shall not participate in highlighting an election campaign in the mass media if these persons are candidates or authorized agents, or proxies of political parties.

#### **Article 54. Guarantees for the Activity of Candidates**

1. The employer, head of state body or its subdivision, commander of a military unit, administration of an academic institution where a registered candidate works, serves, does alternative civil service, undergoes military training or studies shall be obliged to relieve the candidate from work, service, training and study on any day and for any time in the period from the day of the candidate's registration by the CEC to the day of the official publication of the general election results of deputies of the State Duma.

2. At one's own initiative the employer (administration of an academic institution) shall not be entitled to dismiss a registered candidate from work, service or study as well as to move him/her to a different position, call for military service, military training or alternative civil service. The period during which a candidate participates in elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be included in his overall employment record in accordance with his specialty before the registration.

3. Decisions to initiate criminal proceedings against a registered candidate, a criminal case against him can be taken with the consent of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. A registered candidate shall not be subjected to

administrative penalty imposed by a court of law, without the consent of the Prosecutor General. Having given the required consent of the Russian Federation Chairman of the Investigative Committee, the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation are required to notify the CEC.

## **Article 55. Proxies of Political Parties, Proxies of Candidates**

1. A political party which nominated its federal list of candidates shall be entitled to appoint as many as 1000 proxies. A candidate nominated for a single-mandate electoral district shall be entitled to appoint up to 20 proxies. The said proxies shall be registered by the CEC, election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC within 5 days after the submission by political parties, candidates of written notice of the appointment of proxies and declarations of acceptance of office of such persons. List of proxies of a political party on paper and in machine-readable form shall be submitted to the CEC. The list of authorized representatives of candidates on paper and in machine-readable form is to be submitted to the DEC in the form established by the CEC. From June 1, 2015 a list of proxies in the paper and the text of the application proxy for consent shall be produced using the software on the basis of the document in a machine-readable form, drawn up in the form prescribed by the CEC.

2. The notice of the appointment of proxies shall indicate the surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth, number and date of issue of the passport or an equivalent identity document, place of employment and office held (if unemployed – occupation), residence address of each proxy.

3. The following persons shall not be appointed proxies: candidates to elected offices of any level, heads of local administrations, staff members of election commissions. Persons enrolled on state or municipal service may be appointed proxies provided they are relieved from office or office position for the period they are empowered with duties of proxies. Registration of proxies enrolled on state or municipal service shall be exercised under the condition copies of the respective order (resolution) are presented to:

1) the CEC - to the proxy of a political party;

2) the DEC - for the proxy of a candidate nominated for a single-mandate electoral district.

4. Certificates (ID cards) shall be issued to proxies by the CEC, proxies of candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral district - to the relevant DEC. At the request of proxies the employer shall grant them an unpaid leave of absence for the period during which they are to exercise the powers of a proxy.

5. Proxies shall participate in the election campaign of the political party which appointed them. A proxy shall have no powers of an observer.

6. Political parties which appointed proxies may, at any time, recall them and appoint other proxies in their place by serving a notice to this effect on the CEC, DEC, which shall annul certificates issued to the recalled proxies. Proxies may, at any time, resign their powers on their own initiative by returning their certificates to the CEC, DEC and notifying the political party of their decision.

7. The powers of proxies shall commence from the day when proxies are registered by the CEC, DEC and cease when a candidate's status is lost by all candidates nominated on a federal list of candidates by a political party, as otherwise provided for in part 6 hereof, but not later than the day of the official publication of the election results of deputies of the State Duma.

8. Registration of a proxy shall be annulled by the CEC, DEC if the proxy acquires a status incompatible with the status of a proxy. The political party shall be notified of such decision within three days.

#### **Article 56. Withdrawal of Candidates, Revocation of Federal Lists of Candidates**

1. A candidate nominated through a federal list may at any time but not later than fifteen days or, in the presence of compelling circumstances, not later than one day before the voting day, decide against his/her further participation in elections of deputies of the State Duma by submitting a written application to the CEC. Such application is irrevocable. If this application is submitted to the certification of a federal list of candidates, CEC excludes the candidate from the federal list of candidates to its assurances. If this application is submitted after the certification or registration of a federal list of candidates, CEC exclude the candidate from the federal list of candidates not later than three days, and three or less days prior to the voting day - within one day from the date of submission of the application.

2. The candidate nominated in single-mandate electoral district shall be entitled to not less than five days, and if there are compelling circumstances - not later than one day prior to the day of voting to refuse further participation in the elections to the State Duma by submitting a written statement to the corresponding DEC. This statement is irrevocable. If this application is submitted after the registration of the candidate, the DEC excludes this candidate not later than three days, and three or less days prior to the voting day - within one day from the date of submission of the application.

3. At any time but not later than five days before the voting day, a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates may recall their federal list of candidates upon a decision of a congress of this political party by submitting a written application to the CEC not later than 5 day before the voting day. Such application shall be irrevocable.

4. A political party in accordance with the federal law and (or) its Charter shall be entitled within fifteen days before the voting day to remove a candidate from its federal lists of candidates certified (registered) by the CEC.

5. A political party in the manner and on the grounds provided for by federal law and (or) by the Charter of a political party shall have the right at any time, but not later than five days before the voting day, withdraw its candidate nominated in single-mandate electoral district by submitting a written statement of this assurance to the list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts in the CEC, and after assurances from the list - the corresponding DEC. This request is not revocable. The CEC excludes the candidate from the list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts according to his assurances, and the DEC in the case, if the candidate was registered, shall annul registration of the candidate. CEC, DEC shall immediately notify on such a decision the person about whom it is made, and give him a copy of the decision.

6. No new persons shall be put on the list of persons and no changes shall be made in the order in which candidates are arranged on the federal list, a list of candidates in single-mandate electoral districts except for the cases where changes in the arrangement of candidates result from the quitting of candidates as well as the case stipulated by part 7 of Article 40 of this Federal law.

7. In the event fewer than two registered federal lists of candidates should remain by the votign day or less than two registered candidates for one single-mandate electoral district, the elections of deputies of the State Duma upon the CEC decision shall be postponed by a period of no longer than three months for the additional nomination candidates.

8. If the circumstances indicated in part 7 of this Article result from the fact that a political party recalled a registered federal list of candidates or candidates in the absence of any compelling circumstances, or the registration of a federal list of candidates was annulled by a court, or the registration of a federal list of candidates was annulled on the grounds provided for in part 2 of Article 99 of this Federal Law (with an exception when the quitting of candidates is caused by compelling circumstances) all expenses incurred by all election commissions in the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be collected from the respective political party, respective candidate.

9. Following circumstances shall be regarded as compelling a political party to withdraw the federal list of candidates: withdrawal including in connection with the death of more than 25 percent of candidates from the federal list of candidates. Following circumstances shall be regarded as compelling candidate to refuse further participation in the elections: the holding of the office provided by the Constitution, recognized by a court as legally incapable, restricting in capacity by a court, as well as the serious illness or persistent health problems of the candidate or his close relatives.

## **CHAPTER 8. VOTER INFORMATION AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

### **Article 57. Informational Support of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma**

The informational support of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall include voter information and election campaign and shall contribute to the conscious expression of voters will and openness of elections.

### **Article 58. Voter Information**

1. Informing of voters shall be carried out by state bodies, bodies of local government, election commissions, mass media organizations, legal entities and individuals in accordance with this Federal Law, Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees”. State bodies, bodies of local government shall not inform voters of political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, candidates in single- mandate electoral districts or individual candidates.

2. Informational materials carried by the mass media or disseminated by other methods shall be objective and accurate and shall not violate the equality of political parties

nominated federal lists of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts or individual candidates provided for in this Federal Law.

3. Mass media organizations shall be entitled to inform voters freely with an exception of restrictions imposed by this Federal Law, Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". Organizations engaged in release media, editorial online publications is entitled under Part 2 of this article to publish (make public) interviews with the candidates and representatives of political parties, let out (on air) other reports and materials about the candidates, political parties, the transfer involving candidates and representatives of political parties. Organization broadcasting, electronic version of online publications may also on the basis of part 2 of this Article to organize joint activities with the participation of candidates and representatives of political parties and carry out their translation (disclosure) on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations.

4. In TV and radio news programs and in the publications carried by the print media reports concerning election events shall be always presented in the form of separate news items, without any comments. Such news items are not be paid for by political parties, candidates and shall not discriminate against or give preference to any political party, in particular with regard to the time devoted to highlighting their election activities, the amount of space allocated in the print media for such reports.

5. Journalists, other creative workers and officials of a mass media organization who are engaged in the activity aimed at the informational support of elections of deputies of the State Duma in accordance with the electoral laws of the Russian Federation shall not be fired by the administration (employer) and shall not be transferred to other jobs without their consent during the election campaign at elections of deputies of the State Duma and during one year thereafter, unless there is a case where a disciplinary action was taken against them in accordance with the labour laws of the Russian Federation and this action was not appealed in a court or was declared lawful and appropriate by a court.

6. On voting day, before the end of voting in the territory of the Russian Federation, no information shall be published (made public) about the results of the elections and no such information shall be placed in the public information and telecommunication networks (including the Internet). This restriction does not apply to the dissemination of information by means of live video to be installed in rooms where counting of votes, in accordance with Part 15 of Article 78 of this Federal law.

### **Article 59. Participation of Election Commissions in Informational Support of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma**

1. Election Commissions shall engage in the informing of voters by various means, including by means of mass media, of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, of the terms and order of execution of electoral action, of political parties and candidates such, and of the electoral legislation. Election commissions also take the necessary measures to inform the voters who are disabled.

2. During the period from the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma till the official publication of election results the nation-wide state-owned broadcasting organizations shall grant no less than fifteen minutes of their air time at each of their channels to the CEC and the regional state-owned broadcasting organizations shall

grant no less than ten minutes of the air time at each of their channels to the election commissions of a Russian Federation subject, DECs weekly for the purpose provided for in part 1 of this Article and for the answers to questions of voters. For the same purpose the nation-wide state-owned broadcasters shall free of charge grant no less than ten minutes of the air time at each of their channels weekly to the CEC within ninety days before the termination of the period during which the decision on the elections shall be adopted till the notice of elections is officially published.

3. During the period from the official publication of notice of elections nation-wide state-owned print mass media organizations, if published once a week or more frequently, shall free of charge allocate to the CEC not less than one hundredth of their weekly printed space. During the period from the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma regional state-owned printed mass media organizations, if published once a week or more frequently, shall free of charge allocate to the election commissions of a Russian Federation subject, DECs not less than one hundredth of their weekly printed space. These election commissions shall use the said printed space for the purpose provided for in part 1 of this Article and for the answers to questions of voters.

### **Article 60. Publishing of Opinion Poll Results**

1. The publishing of opinion poll results pertaining to elections shall be deemed a variety of voter information.

2. When publishing opinion poll results pertaining to elections of deputies of the State Duma the mass media, citizens and organizations that publish (make public) these results shall indicate the organization which conducted the poll, the time when it was conducted, the number of respondents (sample), how the information was gathered, the region where the poll was conducted, the precise formulation of the question, the statistical assessment of a possible error, the person (persons) who ordered the poll and paid for the publication.

3. Within five days before the voting day and on the voting day it shall be prohibited to publish (make public) opinion poll results, forecasts of election results at elections of deputies of the State Duma, other studies relating to the election, in particular in the public information and telecommunication networks (including the Internet).

### **Article 61. TV and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and Print Media Used for Informational Support of the Election of Deputies of the State Duma**

1. The informational support of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be provided by means of state, municipal and non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media.

2. In this Federal Law state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media which are founded (co-founded) or the editorial offices of which are founded (co-founded) by state bodies and organizations and/or which, a year before the day of the official publication of notice of elections, received state support in the form of subsidies and/or subventions for their current functioning from the federal budget, budgets of entities of the Russian Federation and/or which have a charter capital where the Russian Federation or an entity of the

Russian Federation has a stake as of the day of the official publication of notice of elections.

3. In this Federal Law municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media which are founded (co-founded) or the editorial offices of which are founded (co-founded) by bodies of local government or municipal organizations and/or which, a year before the day of the official publication of notice of elections, received municipal support in the form of subsidies and/or subventions for their current functioning from the municipal budget and/or which have a charter capital where a municipality or municipalities have a stake as of the day of the official publication of notice of elections.

4. In this Federal Law non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media, which do not fall within part 2 and 3 of this Article.

5. In this Federal Law, depending on their coverage and distribution area, state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media are divided into:

1) nation-wide TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e., TV and radio organizations which have a broadcasting license covering the territory of a half or more than a half of subjects of the Russian Federation or whose programs are distributed on a contractual basis by other organizations in a half or more than a half of subjects of the Russian Federation;

2) regional TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e., TV and radio broadcasting organizations which have a broadcasting license covering less than a half of subjects of the Russian Federation as well as relevant divisions of the TV and radio broadcasting organizations indicated in paragraph 1 of this part;

3) nation-wide print media registered for distribution in a half or more than a half of subjects of the Russian Federation;

4) regional print media registered for distribution in less than a half of subjects of the Russian Federation.

6. Print media funded by legislative (representative), executive and judicial bodies of state power, bodies of local government exclusively for the publication of their official documents and reports, regulations and other acts shall not publish any campaign materials and editorial articles highlighting the activity of political parties and candidates.

7. The list of nation-wide TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media shall be published by the CEC on the basis of the information submitted by the federal bodies of executive power which formulate and implement the state policy vis-à-vis the mass media, not later than on the tenth day after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

8. The list of regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media and of municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial offices of municipal print media shall be published by the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation on the basis of the information submitted by the territorial agencies of the

federal executive state bodies of which formulate and implement the state policy vis-à-vis the mass media and the relevant executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation not later than on the 15-th day after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

9. The lists specified in parts 7 and 8 of this Article shall be submitted to respective election commissions not later than on the fifth day after the official announcement of elections. The said lists shall indicate the following information about each broadcasting organization, each periodical print media:

1) name of the broadcasting organization, the respective media form of periodical distribution (television, radio, television program, radio program) and the spread of the territory in accordance with a license for television broadcasting, radio broadcasting, or the name of a periodical and the territory of its distribution in accordance with the certificate of registration mass media;

2) the registration number and date of issue of the certificate of registration of mass media;

3) legal address of a broadcasting or print media organization;

4) founder (co-founders) of a broadcasting or print media organization;

5) kind and amount of state or municipal support (if any has been rendered throughout a year preceding the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma);

6) share of or a contribution to the charter capital of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation or municipalities (if any is available on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma);

7) periodicity of issue of a print media outlet;

8) indication that the broadcaster or print media periodical is specialized (for specialized broadcasters, printed periodicals)

10. The federal executive body exercising functions of providing public services and managing state property in the sphere of the press, media and mass communication, including computer networks of common use in the field of electronic media, publishing and printing, not later than on the fifth day after the day of official publication (publication), the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma is the federal executive body authorized to exercise the functions of registration of mass media, a list of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and periodicals, which for the year preceding the day of official publication (publication) of the decision, allocated budget allocations from the federal budget for their operation (including in the form of subsidies), as well as information about the type and amount of such allocations.

11. The executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation not later than on the fifth day after the day of official publication (announcement), of the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma shall submit to the territorial bodies of federal executive body authorized to exercise the functions of registration of mass media, a list of TV and

radio broadcasting organizations and periodicals, founders (co-founders) or founders (co-founders) editions that on the day of official publication (announcement), the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma are the state bodies and organizations of the Russian Federation and (or) that for the year preceding the date of official publication (publication) decision on appointment of elections, allocated budget allocations from the Russian Federation budget for their operation (including subsidies form) with details about the type and the scope of such provision, and (or) in the authorized (share) capital which on the day of official publication (publication) decision to call the election there is a share (contribution) of the subject (subjects) of the Russian Federation.

12. Local authorities no later than the fifth day after the day of official publication (Publication) decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma are the territorial bodies of federal executive body authorized to exercise the functions of registration of mass media, a list of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and periodicals publications, subject to part 3 of this Article, specifying in relation to radio broadcasting organizations and periodicals, which for the year preceding the day of official publication (publication) decision to call the election, allocated budget allocations from the local budget for their operation (including in the form of subsidies), the type and amount of such allocations.

## **Article 62. Electoral Campaign**

1. The following shall be regarded as electoral campaign during the conduct of an election campaign:

1) calls for voting for or against a federal list of candidates, or for or against individual candidates on the list, or against all federal lists of candidates;

2) expression of preference for some political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, for some individual candidate(s), in particular, statements indicating the federal list of candidates, candidate(s) for which a voter will vote (unless for publishing of opinion poll results in accordance with part 2 of Article 53 of this Federal Law);

3) description of possible consequences of the election or non-election of a federal list of candidates;

4) dissemination of materials with a marked predominance of the information about some political parties which nominated a federal list of candidates, some candidate(s) with positive or negative comments;

5) dissemination of information about the activities of a candidate unrelated to his/her professional activity or performance of his/her official duties;

6) activity promoting formation of a positive or negative attitude of voters towards a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, candidate(s);

2. Actions indicated in paragraph 1 of part 1 of this Article, if done by representatives of mass media organizations as their professional duties, shall be deemed electoral campaigning provided such actions are done with a view to encourage voters to vote for or against a federal list of candidates, or for or against some candidate(s), or against all

federal lists of candidates. Actions indicated in paragraphs 2-6 of part 1 of this article shall be deemed electoral campaign if done more than once.

3. Election campaigning may be conducted:

- 1) on TV or radio channels and in the print media;
- 2) by means of public campaign events;
- 3) by producing and distributing printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials;
- 4) by other methods which are not prohibited by law.

4. Electoral campaign on TV and radio channels and in the print media shall be conducted in the form of public debates, discussions, roundtables, press conferences, interviews, speeches, demonstration of TV stories and video films about political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, about registered candidates, and in other forms which are not prohibited by law.

5. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall be entitled at its own discretion to select the contents, form and methods of its election campaign, do electoral campaign and involve other persons therein in the procedure established by the law of the Russian Federation.

6. Electoral campaign can be done on behalf of a political party by candidates on its federal list, persons empowered therewith as well as proxies and agents of a respective political party (hereinafter – agents of a political party).

7. No election campaign shall be conducted and no kind of campaign materials shall be produced and distributed by:

- 1) state bodies , other state bodies, bodies of local government;
- 2) persons who hold state or elected municipal office, who are state or municipal servicemen, persons who hold executive office in organizations regardless of their legal status (in organizations whose supreme body is a general meeting, - in governance bodies thereof), with an exception of political parties when discharging their official duties by taking advantage of their office and official position;
- 3) military units, military institutions and organizations;
- 4) charity and religious organizations and organizations founded by them as well as members and representatives of religious associations when they are performing rites and ceremonies;
- 5) election commissions and voting members thereof;
- 6) foreign nationals, stateless persons and foreign entities;
- 7) international organizations and international public movements;

8) representatives of mass media organizations when they are engaged in their professional activities.

9) persons in respect of whom during the ongoing election campaign a court established a violation of the restrictions imposed by paragraph 1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

8. Involvement of campaigning of persons under age of 18 years as of voting day, including the use of pictures and statements of such persons in campaign materials, shall be prohibited.

8.1 The use of statements by individual who do not have the right to conduct election campaign in accordance with this Federal law, about the political party that nominated the list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, about the candidate (candidates) in the election campaign materials shall be prohibited.

9. The use of statements by individual not referred to in paragraph 8.1 of this Article about the political party that nominated the list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, about the candidate (candidates) shall be only permitted upon obtaining of written consent of the individual in question. The document confirming such consent shall be submitted to the election commission together with the copies of election campaign materials that are submitted in accordance with part 5 of Article 68 of this Federal law. In case of placing election campaign material on the TV and radio channels of broadcasting organization or in periodical, the abovementioned document must be submitted to the election commission upon its request. The presentation of the abovementioned document is not required in the following cases:

1) political party uses the statements of the candidates nominated by this political party in federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts;

2) use of public statements made about the political party that nominated the list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, about the candidate (candidates) with indication of the date (period) of disclosure of such statements and the titles of mass media outlets where such statements were published;

3) quoting statements about the political party that nominated the list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral districts, about the candidate (candidates) that were made public on by political parties, by candidates in their election campaign materials, produced and disseminated in accordance with the law.

9.1 The use of images of individuals in election campaign materials shall be allowed only in the following cases:

1) political party uses images of the candidates nominated by this political party (including a federal list of candidates), including candidates among unidentified persons;

2) candidate uses his own images, including among unidentified persons.

9.2. The consent for the use of relevant images is not required in cases referred to in paragraph 9.1 of this Article.

10. All campaign expenditures shall be paid exclusively from electoral funds of political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates and their regional branches (if available). Campaign activities aiming to encourage or encouraging voters to vote for a federal list of candidates nominated by a political party which are paid for from electoral funds of other political parties and their regional branches shall be prohibited.

11. If a political party which has registered a federal list of candidates shall within 20 days before the day of elections publish its election program at least in one national state print media outlet and in the Internet. Such publication shall be carried out with the use of either free space provided by the print media under this Federal Law or space paid for from the electoral fund of the political party.

12. A political party which has registered only candidates in the single-mandate electoral district shall within 20 days before the day of elections publish its election program at least in one national state print media outlet and in the Internet and submit a copy of it to the CEC with notification on the website where this program is published. Such publication shall be carried out with the use of either free space provided by the print media under this Federal Law or space paid for from the electoral fund of the candidate.

### **Article 63. Campaign Period**

1. The campaign period for political party begins from the date of the decision on the nomination of a federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral district. Campaign period for the candidate nominated to the federal list of candidates, begins from the date of submission to the CEC, federal list of candidates. Campaign period for a candidate nominated for a single-mandate electoral district, starting from the day the candidate for the DEC of an application for consent to stand Campaign period ends at 00.00 hours local time one day before the voting day.

2. Election campaign on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations, in periodicals and online publications are carried out in the period that begins 28 days before voting day and ends at midnight local time on the day preceding the voting day.

3. Conduct of election campaigning on the day preceding the voting day, and voting day is prohibited.

4. Printed campaign materials (leaflets, posters and other materials), previously produced in accordance with this Federal law and placed in the manner prescribed by the law in special places referred to in part 9 of Article 68 of this Federal law, on advertising structures or other sturdy placed objects in accordance with paragraphs 10 and 11 of Article 68 of this Federal law may remain in their place on the voting day.

### **Article 64. General Terms of Access of Political Parties to the Mass Media**

1. Air time on TV and radio channels and space in print media may be made available (offered) to political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, for a fee (paid airtime, paid print space), and in cases and in the procedure established by this Federal Law free of charge (free air time, free space)

2. A political party shall not be entitled to use free and paid airtime, free and paid print space for election campaigning for the other political parties and candidates nominated by them.

3. A self-nominated candidate, is not entitled to avail himself of his free and paid airtime, free and paid print space for election campaigning for other candidates and other for political parties.

4. A candidate nominated by a political party is not entitled to use his free and paid airtime, free and paid print space for election campaigning for the other political parties, with the other candidates. Other political parties refer to all political parties, except the political party which nominated this candidate. Other candidates refer to all candidates, except the candidates nominated by the same political party, which nominated this candidate.

5. State-owned and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets shall be obliged to ensure political parties have equal terms and conditions for campaign and, in particular, for the presentation of their election programs to voters.

6. Nation-wide state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets shall offer free air time, free print space to political parties for campaign.

7. Regional public broadcasting organizations and editorial offices of regional state print media are obliged to provide airtime and print space for election campaigning to political parties, registered candidates, except in the case provided for in part 8 of this article. Candidates registered in single-mandate electoral district, airtime provided regional public organization of broadcasting, which has a license to broadcast in the territory, including the territory of the single-mandate electoral district, or a member of the single-mandate electoral district territory, and the printed area - edited state print media, the area of which is in accordance with the certificate of registration of mass media includes the territory of the single-mandate electoral district, or a part of its territory.

8. Regional public broadcasting organizations and editorial offices of regional state print media do not provide airtime and print space for election campaigning in the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation of a political party, a registered federal list of candidates for which there is no regional group, corresponding to the subject of the Russian Federation, including a group of subjects of the Russian Federation, a part of the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, except for the cases specified in part 21 of Article 65 and part 12 of Article 66 of this Federal law.

9. Municipal broadcasting organizations and editorial offices of periodicals shall have the right to provide air time and print space for election campaigning to political parties, registered candidates if such organizations and editorial boards are in line with the requirements provided for in part 13 and 14 of this Article. Airtime and print space provided by these organizations for broadcasting and editorial offices of periodicals only with a charge.

10. Non-governmental organizations of broadcasting, Non-state print and online publications editors, issuing mass media, registered at least one year before the date of official publication (announcement), the decision to call the election of deputies of the State Duma, as well as non-state periodical printed edition publications and editorial

network media founded by political parties (their structural units), regardless of the term of registration of publications entitled to grant political parties paid airtime, the paid space in print media, services in placing election propaganda materials in online publications subject to such organizations and editorial boards of requirements, provided for in parts 13 and 14 of this Article.

11. Non-governmental regional organization, issuing mass media, and editorial of online publications specified in part 10 of this Article, shall have the right to provide candidates with paid airtime, the paid space in print media, services for placing campaign materials in online publications if organizations and the editorial boards are in line with the requirements provided in parts 13 and 14 of this Article.

12. Non-governmental organizations of broadcasting, editors of non-state periodicals and online publications, not specified in parts 10 and 11 of this Article shall not be entitled to grant political parties and registered candidates air time, print space, services for placement of election campaign materials in online editions.

13. The terms of payment for the provision of air time, print space shall be equal for all political parties and candidates to which they were provided. This requirement shall not apply to the editorial offices of print media founded by political parties, candidates. In this Federal Law print media founded by a candidate (candidates) means print media founded not less than one year before the commencement of an election campaign by a citizen (citizens) of the Russian Federation, who participates (participate) in elections of deputies of the State Duma as a candidate (candidates).

14. Information about the rates charged (in the Russian Federation currency) for air time, space in print media and other terms of payment shall be published by a relevant TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial office of a print media outlet not later than 30 days after the day of announcement of elections or, if the first campaign material was published (broadcast) by them earlier, on the day of such publication. The said information and notice of readiness to provide air time, space in print media to political parties shall within the same period be submitted to:

- 1) the CEC – by nation-wide TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets;
- 2) the election commission of a Russian Federation subject– by regional and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets.

15. TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets (regardless of the form of ownership) which provided free or paid air time and free or paid space to political parties shall keep separate records of the amount and cost of such air time and print space in according to the forms of such records established by the CEC, and, within ten days of voting day, shall present the data of these records to:

- 1) the CEC – by nation-wide TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets;
- 2) the election commission of a Russian Federation subject– by regional and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets.

16. At the request of CEC, TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets (regardless of the form of ownership) which provided free or paid air time and free or paid space to

political parties (or, in the case of regional or municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets, at the request of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject) shall present relevant contracts specified by part 18 of this Article to these commissions.

17. Non-state-owned and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets, specialized TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media and state-owned print media which are published less than once a week may refuse to offer political parties or candidates free air time, free print space for campaign. Such refusal shall be deemed effective if no notice indicated in part 14 of this Article was submitted to a relevant election commission within the period established by this part.

18. The provision of air time and print space for election campaigning, services for placement of election materials in the network edition is carried out in accordance with the written contract concluded between the broadcasting organization, the editors of the periodical edited or online editions and a political party, its regional branch, candidate to provide these air time and print space and services.

19. Mass media organizations shall be obliged to keep the documents indicated in part 15, 16, and 18 of this Article, which confirm the provision of free and paid air time and free and paid space in print media, for not less than three years after the day of elections.

#### **Article 65. Election campaign on Television and Radio**

1. The total air time which each of nation-wide state-owned TV and radio broadcaster provides on each of its channels for election campaign to political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates shall be not less than one hour on working days during the period specified in part 2 of Article 63 of this Federal Law.

2. The total air time which each of the regional state-owned TV and radio broadcasters provides on each of its channels shall be not less than half an hour daily on working days during the period specified in part 2 of Article 63 of this Federal Law. In the event the total air time of the broadcaster is less than two hours daily, not less than one quarter of its total air time.

3. In the conduct of by-elections of deputies of the State Duma of the total amount of airtime that each of the regional state TV and radio broadcasting organization provides free on each of its channels for registered candidates for election campaigning must be at least 10 minutes during working days within the period established by Part 2 of Article 63 of this Federal law.

4. If as a result of donations of air time on any channel, the radio channel for each political party, each registered candidate will have 60 minutes of air time, the total amount of airtime, provided in accordance with this Article respective broadcasting organization, is reduced and shall be:

1) All-Russian non-state television and radio broadcasting organizations - 60 minutes, multiplied by the number of political parties;

2) to the regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations - 60 minutes multiplied by the sum of the number of political parties and the number of candidates registered in single-mandate electoral district, formed on the territory of the relevant subject of the Russian Federation.

5. Half of the total amount of free airtime provided by the regional state TV and radio broadcasting organization assigned for election campaigning by political parties, the other half - for election campaigning registered candidates.

6. Airtime provided free of charge, should fall on the respective broadcasting organization defined period, when TV and radio programs attract the largest audience.

7. Airtime provided free of charge, is given for discussions, "round tables" and other joint campaigning events (hereinafter - the joint campaign activities) and (or) for placement of election campaign materials of political parties and registered candidates. A political party, registered candidate shall be entitled not later than 35 days before voting day to give up airtime in full or by air time provided to conduct joint campaign activities, or from the air time provided for the placement of election campaign materials, including some channels by notifying in writing according to the CEC, the election commission of the Russian Federation. This failure results in a corresponding decrease in the volume of airtime provided by TV and radio broadcasting organization in accordance with part 1 of this article.

8. At least half of the total amount of free of charge airtime t, assigned to carry out joint promotional activities. This rule does not apply to the provision of airtime donated to political parties if the specified amount of airtime missing for at least one joint campaigning event in which each political party, registered federal list of candidates will have five minutes or more, as well as the provision of essential free time candidates registered in the single-member electoral district, if the specified volume of air time for lack of at least one joint campaigning event, which will have five or more minutes for each candidate. The joint campaign activities on channels of regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations are held separately between political parties and between the registered candidates. The subject of the Russian Federation on the territory of which is formed by more than one single-mandate electoral district, joint campaign activities are conducted or separately between candidates registered for each single-mandate electoral district, or between candidates registered for various single-member electoral districts, with the opportunity to participate in each joint campaigning the event must be given to all registered according to the electoral district candidates. In case of failure of a political party, registered candidate in the order established in part 7 of this Article, to participate in joint campaigning events amount of airtime provided by TV and radio broadcasting organization to carry out joint promotional activities is reduced by the proportion, relying of the political party, the registered candidate.

9. The joint campaign event held on the channel nationwide or regional public broadcasting organization within the air time provided free of charge for political parties, involved persons authorized political parties or their respective regional offices. In a joint campaigning event, held on the channel the regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations within the airtime provided free of charge to registered candidates, the candidates shall be involved personally.

10. Dates and time of the broadcast of joint campaigning events on the channels of national and regional public broadcasting organizations are determined by the drawing of lots provided by part 14 of this article.

11. A political party or candidate has the right to refuse to participate in a joint campaigning event after the draw, but not later than five days before the joint campaigning events, and if the joint campaign event should take place in less than five days from the date of the draw - in the draw date of written notification of the respective broadcasting organizations. In this case, the part of air time for this political party or candidate shall be reduced.

12. In the event of refusal of a political party or candidate to participate in a joint campaigning event later than the date specified in part 11 of this Article, including, if the result of such a refusal, only one participant can take part in the respective joint campaigning event, essential time, provided for a joint campaigning event shall not be reduced.

13. The airtime provided free of charge for placement of campaign materials of political parties and candidates shall be distributed (if available), respectively, among all political parties, all registered candidates equally.

14. In view of distributing free air time for broadcasting joint campaign events and campaign materials the CEC, the election commission of entity subject of the Russian Federation shall organize a draw after the completion of registration of federal lists of candidates not later than thirty days prior to the voting day. The draw for the allocation of free airtime provided by the regional state TV and radio broadcasting organization, which has a license to broadcast in the territory of the municipal district, several municipal areas and (or) city district, can be carried out on behalf of the Russian Federation of the election commission of the respective TEC election commissions, DEC, which carries out the drawing of lots, determined by the decision of the election commission of the Russian Federation. The lot-drawing may be witnessed by the persons mentioned in part 1 of Article 32 of this Federal law. As a result of the draw, held by the CEC with the participation of representatives of the national state broadcasting organizations, determined the date and time of the airing of the joint campaign events and election campaign materials of political parties. As a result of the draw organized by the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC with attendance of representatives of respective regional state-owned broadcasters the date and time of broadcasting of joint campaign events and campaign materials of regional groups of candidates, candidates shall be defined. The results of the lot-drawing shall be documented in protocols.

15. On the basis of the protocol referred to in part 14 of this Article, a schedule of distribution of free air time shall be approved by the decision of the relevant election commission and published respectively in national and regional state print media.

16. State TV and radio broadcasting organization shall reserve paid air time for election campaigning of political parties and candidates. The total amount of paid airtime, reserved by each nationwide broadcasting organization may not be less than the total amount of air time provided free of charge, but should not exceed it more than two times. The total amount of paid air time reserved by each regional broadcasting organization may not be less than the total amount of air time provided free of charge, but should not exceed it more than four times.

17. Every political party shall have the right to get airtime for a charge from the total amount by reserved nationwide broadcasting public organization in the amount not less than number obtained by dividing the total amount of reserved airtime by the total number of political parties. Each political party is entitled for a fee to get air time from the total amount reserved by regional public broadcasting organizations in the amount not less than the number obtained by dividing the half of the total amount of reserved airtime by the total number of political parties. Each registered candidate shall be entitled for a fee to get air time from the total amount in the amount not less than the number obtained by dividing the remaining half of the total reserved regional state broadcasting organization airtime by the total number of candidates.

18. Paid airtime provided public broadcasting organization in the period established by part 2 of Article 63 of this federal law. Dates and time of joint campaign events are determined in accordance with the draw, which holds by broadcasting organizations with the participation of interested stockholders on the basis of written applications for participation in the draw submitted by the authorized representatives of political parties and candidates. The draw is carried out within the period specified in part 14 of this Article.

19. Municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations, on the conditions specified by part 14 of Article 64 of this Federal Law shall provide the political parties and candidates with paid air time for election campaigning. The total amount of airtime determines by the municipal organization of broadcasting. Dates and time of the broadcast of joint campaign activities and of each political party, each registered candidate shall be determined in accordance with the draw, which holds by the municipal organization of broadcasting with stakeholders on the basis of written applications for participation in the draw submitted by the authorized representatives of political parties and candidates. The draw is carried out within the period specified in part 14 of this Article.

20. Should a political party, registered candidate refuse to use their free or paid air time, they shall within five days prior to the date of broadcasting or, if the draw takes place less than five day prior to the date of broadcasting, on the day of draw, file a written notice thereof to a respective broadcasting organization which shall be entitled to use the time thus released at its own discretion.

21. In the event undistributed air time should remain as a result of distribution of paid air time in accordance with part 18 or 19 of this Article or as a result of refusal of a political party or candidate, of use of its air time in accordance with part 20 of this Article, this air time may be offered for a charge to political parties which applied for such air time. The remaining air time shall be distributed among the said political parties on equal terms by means of draw.

22. Non-state-owned broadcasting organizations, provided the conditions set forth in part 14 of Article 64 of this Federal Law have been fulfilled, shall be obliged to offer air time for election campaign to political parties and registered candidates on equal terms. In the event non-state-owned broadcasting organizations should fail to fulfil the requirements set forth in part 14 of Article 57 of this Federal Law, they shall not be entitled to offer political parties and registered candidates air time for election campaign.

23. The contract for paid air time shall stipulate the following conditions: the type (form) of campaign, date and time of broadcasting of campaign materials, the length thereof, amount and order of payment, the way and conditions of involvement of a journalist (moderator) in the TV or radio program. After the contract obligations have been fulfilled, the Statement of Fulfilment shall be signed and the specification of the program and time of broadcasting shall be appended thereto.

24. Not later the day before the provision of air time an authorized financial agent of a political party, a regional branch of a political party shall submit a payment order to a public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) to wire the full amount of payment for the air time. An authorized financial agent of a political party or candidate, of a regional branch of a political party shall present a copy of the payment order endorsed by the branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) to a TV and radio broadcasting organization before provision of air time. If these terms and conditions for the provision of air time are not complied with, air time on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall not be provided.

25. The branch of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) shall wire the money not later than the next banking day after receipt of the payment order. The time for processing a non-cash payment shall not exceed 3 banking days from the day of transaction of money from a special electoral account of political party, its regional chapter or candidate.

26. If, while using paid air time, a political party or a regional group, or candidates violate the terms and conditions stipulated by this Federal Law, a broadcasting organization may apply to a court for cancellation of the contract for the provision of air time.

27. Broadcasting of a campaign material shall not be interrupted; neither shall it be interrupted by commercials.

28. Overlaying (substitution) of campaign materials with other TV or radio programs, other campaign materials shall be prohibited.

29. Video and audio records of the aired campaign materials shall be kept in a respective broadcasting organization within no less than twelve months of the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

## **Article 66. Election Campaign Through Print Media**

1. Political parties are entitled to free print space in, respectively, nation-wide state-owned print periodicals, which published with a periodicity of less than once a week, on the following conditions: offered print space shall have the same amount, place in the column, the same font size and other equal conditions.

2. Political parties, registered candidates are entitled to have free print space in, respectively, regional-wide state-owned print periodicals, which published with a periodicity of less than once a week. Half of the total amount of print space provided to the editorship of the regional state print media, is given for election campaigning by political parties, the other half - for election campaigning candidates registered in single-mandate electoral district, formed on the territory of the relevant subject of the Russian Federation.

Space shall be provided on the following conditions: an equal volume of print space shall be provided, an equivalent place on the strip, the same font size and other equal conditions for political parties, respectively, for the registered candidates.

3. The total minimum weekly amount of free print space which the editorial office of each state-owned print media outlet is to provide to political parties, registered candidates shall equal to or exceed 10 percent of the total amount of weekly print space of the print media outlet in the period provided for in part 2 of Article 63 of this Federal Law. The information about the total amount of free print space which the given print media outlet is to provide for campaign shall be published in the given print media outlet within 30 days after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

4. During the by-elections to the State Duma with a total weekly minimum amount of space that each edition of the regional state print media offered free of charge to registered candidates, must be at least 5 percent of the total area of the corresponding weekly printed publication within the period established by Part 2 of Article 63 of this Federal law.

5. The amount of free print space in a state-owned print media outlet to be provided by its editorial office shall be distributed among political parties, in shares calculated by dividing this amount by the number of political parties, registered candidates.

6. After the end of the registration of federal lists of candidates but not later than 30 days before the voting day, The CEC, election commissions of a Russian Federation subject with the participation of state print media representatives revisions shall draw lots to allocate space in print media provided free of charge, among all political parties, all candidates registered in single-mandate electoral districts, formed on the territory of the relevant subject of the Russian Federation, and to determine the date of publication of election materials. The draw for the distribution of print space provided free of charge in the regional state print media distributed in the territory of the municipal district (city district), can be carried out on behalf of the Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation by the corresponding TEC. If on the territory of the municipal district (city district) is formed by several TEC, TEC, which carries out the drawing of lots, determined by the decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject. The lot drawing may be attended by the persons mentioned in part 1 of Article 32 of this Federal law. The results of the lot-drawing shall be included in the protocol and approved by the decision of the election commission.

7. The editorial offices of state-owned print media published with periodicity of no less than once a week shall reserve space for paid publications of campaign materials by political parties, registered candidates. The total amount of paid space to be reserved by the editorial office of a print media outlet shall not be less than the total space to be provided for free, but it should not exceed more than twice. The total amount paid print space, reserved each revision of the regional state print media shall not be less than the total amount of space provided free of charge, but should not exceed it by more than four times.

8. Each political party is entitled for a fee to obtain an area in the national state periodical print space in the amount not less than the share obtained by dividing the total amount of reserved space in print media by the total number of political parties. Each political party is entitled for a fee to obtain a printed area of the regional state print media in the amount

not less than the share obtained by dividing the half of the total printed area reserved by the total number of political parties. Each registered candidate shall be entitled for a fee to obtain a printed area of the regional state print media in the amount not less than the share obtained by dividing the remaining half of the total amount of reserved space in print media by the total number of candidates registered in single-mandate electoral districts formed in the corresponding subject of the Russian Federation.

9. Print space shall be provided by editorial offices of state-owned print media outlets during the period specified in part 2 of Article 63 of this Federal Law. The dates for publication of campaign materials shall be fixed by means of draw which the editorial office of a state-owned print media outlet with attendance of interested persons mentioned in applications for draw submitted by authorized agents of political parties, registered candidates. The draw shall be organized within the time set forth in part 6 of this Federal law. The draw may be attended by, respectively, members of the CEC, election commission of a Russian Federation subject as well as persons indicated in part 1 of Article 32 of this Federal Law. The results of the draw shall be recorded in a protocol.

10. The editorial offices of municipal print media, editorial offices of state print media published with periodicity of less than once a week, if complying with the provisions of part 14 of Article 64 of this Federal Law shall provide paid space to political parties, registered candidates. The total amount of paid space to be provided shall be determined by the editorial offices at their discretion. The dates of publication of campaign materials shall be determined by draw, with which shall be organized by the said editorial offices of the print media with the attendance of interested persons on the basis of written applications for draw, submitted by authorized agents of political parties, registered candidates. The draw shall be conducted within the time set forth by part 6 of this Article.

11. Should after the draw a political party, registered candidate refuse to use the offered print space for campaign they shall within five days prior to the date of publication of campaign materials file a written notice thereof to a respective editorial office of a print media outlet which shall be entitled to use the time thus released at its own discretion.

12. In the event undistributed print space should remain as a result of distribution of paid print space in accordance with part 9 or 10 of this Article or as a result of refusal of a political party, registered candidate to use its print space in accordance with part 11 of this Article, this print space may be offered for a charge to political parties which applied for such print space. The remaining print space shall be distributed among the said political parties on equal terms by means of draw.

13. Editorial offices of non-state-owned print media, provided the conditions set forth in part 14 of Article 64 of this Federal Law have been fulfilled, shall be obliged to offer print space for campaigning to political parties, registered candidates on equal terms. The said editorial offices of non-state-owned print media outlets shall be entitled to refuse a political party of print space for campaigning. In the event non-state-owned broadcasting organizations should fail to fulfil the requirements set forth in part 14 of Article 64 of this Federal Law, they shall not be entitled to offer political parties air time for campaigning.

14. Not later than two days before the publication of campaign materials an authorized financial agent of a political party, of a regional branch of a political party shall submit a payment order to a branch of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) to wire the full amount of payment for the print space. An authorized

financial agent of a political party, of a regional branch of a political party shall present a copy of the payment order endorsed by the branch of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) to the editorial office of a print media outlet before the publication. If this condition is not complied with, print space shall not be provided.

15. The branch of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) shall wire the money not later than the next banking day after receipt of the payment order. The time for processing a non-cash payment shall not exceed 3 working days.

16. Campaign materials published in accordance with this Article shall not be accompanied with any form of editorial comments or headlines or illustrations, if they are not pre-approved by a respective political party, registered candidate.

17. The editorial offices of print media which publish campaign materials shall not give preference to any political party which registered a federal list of candidates by changing the circulation and periodicity of publication of the print media. This requirement shall not apply to the editorial offices of the print media founded by political parties, candidates.

18. All campaign materials published by print media shall indicate a political party or candidate thereof from whose electoral fund the given publication was paid for. If campaign materials were published free of charge in accordance with part 1 or 2 of this Article, the publication shall indicate this fact and the name of a political party, regional group of candidates which were provided with this opportunity.

### **Article 67. Election Campaign by Means of Public Events**

1. State bodies and bodies of local government shall assist political parties and candidates which registered federal lists of candidates in organizing and conducting campaign public events.

2. Notifications of rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets shall be submitted by organizers for review in the procedure set forth by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

3. Should a political party which nominated its federal list of candidates apply for state- or municipality-owned premises suitable for mass events, the owner shall provide such premises in accordance with the Russian electoral law for the period specified by the election commission of a Russian Federation subject or at its direction by a TEC for meetings with voters. Election commissions shall guarantee equal terms of use of the said premises to all political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates or candidates.

4. In the event the premises specified in part 3 of this Article or premises owned by organizations, if over thirty per cent of the stock of such organizations is held by the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) municipalities, have been provided to at least one political party or candidate, the owner of such premises shall not refuse to provide premises to other political parties on the same terms, at any other time

during the election campaign period. In the case of the premises of the political party, registered candidate the owner, the owner of the premises not later than the day following the day of the provision of premises, are required to notify in writing the Election Commission of the Russian Federation about the fact of the provision of premises, the conditions under which it was granted, and on when this space can be provided within the campaign period, to other political parties, other registered candidates.

5. Election Commission of a Russian Federation subject that received notice of the fact of the provision of premises of the political party, registered candidate, within two days of receipt of the notification is required to publish the information contained therein in the "Internet" or otherwise bring it to the attention of the other political parties, other candidates registered for the corresponding single-mandate electoral district.

6. Applications for premises for meetings of representatives of political parties and registered candidates to voters considered the owners, the owners of the premises referred to in parts 3 and 4 of this Article within three days from the filing date.

7. Political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates and registered candidates shall be entitled to rent for mass events buildings and premises which belong to citizens and organizations regardless of their legal form.

8. Campaigning inside military units, military organizations and institutions shall be prohibited unless the only building or premise suitable for mass events are located inside a military unit, military organization or institution. Such building or premise shall be provided for meetings with voters engaged in the military service to political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates at the request of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject or on its behalf at the request of DEC or TEC. Meeting with voters engaged in the military service shall be co-organized by the commander of the military unit and the respective election commission. Authorized agents and proxies of other political parties shall be notified of the time and place of such meeting at least three days prior to the meeting.

9. Security measures during mass events shall be undertaken in accordance with the law of the Russian Federation.

### **Article 68. Production and Distribution of Printed, Audio-Visual and Other Campaign Materials**

1. The political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, the candidates have the right to freely publish and distribute printed, audio-visual and other election campaign materials in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Russian Federation. All campaign materials shall be produced in the Russian Federation.

2. The organizations and individual entrepreneurs carrying out work (providing services) for the preparation and placement of election campaign materials shall be obliged to ensure political parties registered candidates equal conditions for payment of the work (services).

3. Producers of printed campaign materials shall guarantee political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates equal payment conditions for the said

campaign materials. Information on prices (in RUB) and other payment conditions shall be published by producers of printed campaign materials within thirty days of the day of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma and within the same term shall be submitted to the CEC or to a respective election commission of a Russian Federation subject. Said campaign materials shall not be produced by organizations or individual entrepreneurs in the event they should fail to comply with these requirements.

4. All printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials shall indicate the title, legal address and individual tax payer number (INN) of an organization which produced them or the last name, first name and patronymic, full residence address of an individual entrepreneur, the title of an organization (name of an individual) which (who) placed the order as well as the number of copies produced, date of production and the electoral fund at the expense of which the said order was paid for.

5. Printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials or copies thereof prior to their distribution shall be submitted to:

1) by the political party which nominated a federal list of candidates – to the CEC or the election commission of a Russian Federation subject on the territory of which will be distributed these materials;

2) by a candidate - to the corresponding DEC.

6. Together with the materials specified in part 5 of this Article, the relevant election commission should also be presented information about the location of the organization (on the place of residence of the person), and ordered the manufacture (produce and order) of these materials, and a copy of the payment manufacture of election campaign material from the relevant electoral fund marked branch of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution).

7. It shall be prohibited to manufacture printed election campaign materials by means of organizations and individual entrepreneurs that have not fulfilled the requirements under paragraph 3 of this Article or under contract with individuals who are not individual entrepreneurs. Additionally, it is prohibited to manufacture election campaign materials without pre-payment from the respective electoral fund, in violation of the requirements established by part 4 of this Article.

8. It shall be prohibited to disseminate election campaign materials produced in violation of part 7 of this Article and (or) in violation of the requirements provided for in parts 5 and 6 of this Article and part 9 of Article 62 of this Federal law.

9. Local governments, on the proposal of the election commission a Russian Federation subject or TEC not later than 30 days before voting day are required to select and equip the territory of each polling station areas (special place) for placing of printed election campaign materials of political parties that nominated federal lists of candidates, the candidates. These places must be easy to visit by voters and arranged in such a way that voters can read the materials contained in the information. Authorized representatives of political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, the candidates have the right to receive in the respective TEC a list of places allocated for the placement of these campaign materials.

10. In cases other than those specified in part 9 of this Article printed campaign materials may be placed in premises, on buildings, constructions and other objects only under the written consent (contract) of the owners and on their conditions. Should such objects be a state or municipal property or property of an organization, in which the Russian Federation, entity subject of the Russian Federation and (or) municipality holds over thirty per cent of the stock, campaign materials shall be placed on them on equal terms for all political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, free of charge.

11. Printed campaign materials shall not be placed on monuments, obelisks or in premises, on buildings and constructions of historical, architectural or cultural value as well as in buildings accommodating election commissions, voting halls and within fifty meters thereto.

12. Provisions of this Article shall not apply to election materials distributed in accordance with Articles 65 and 66 of this Federal Law.

### **Article 69. Restrictions Imposed on Election Campaign**

1. During the election campaign is not permitted violation of the limitations provided for in parts 1 and 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

2. Political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, such candidates, proxies and authorized financial agents of political parties and authorized financial agents of regional branches of political parties as well as other persons and organizations involved in election campaigns shall not bribe voters: they shall not give voters money, gifts and other things otherwise than for the performance of organizational work, signature collection (collection of voter signatures and other campaigning activities); remunerate voters who perform the said organizational work depending on the results of the vote or promise such remuneration; sell goods at reduced prices; distribute free of charge any goods other than printed materials (including illustrated booklets) and badges specially produced for the election campaign; render services free of charge or at reduced rates. While conducting election campaigning candidates, political parties, electoral blocs, their authorized representatives and agents or other persons and organizations shall not influence voters by promises of money, securities, other things (in particular, depending on the voting results) and by rendering services otherwise than on the basis of decisions of state bodies and local government taken in accordance with the federal laws.

3. During the period of an election campaign, the voting and election results shall not be an object of lotteries, totalizators (bets) and other risk-based games in which the winning prize or participation in the prize draw is dependent on the voting results, election results or connected with the elections to the State Duma.

4. In the event commercials and other non-election advertisement should during the election campaign use the name or pictures of a candidate, title, emblem or other symbols of a political party, which nominated a federal list of candidates it should be paid for at the expense of the electoral fund of a political party or candidate. On the voting day and on the preceding day such advertisement, even if paid for at the expense of the electoral fund, shall not be allowed. On the same conditions can be placed ad (other information) on election-related deputies of the State Duma of a political party, its regional branch, the candidate provided guidance in the announcement (other information) of data from the

electoral fund of a political party of its regional branch what the candidate paid for their accommodation.

5. Political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, candidates, proxies, authorized agents (including authorized financial agents) of political parties and their regional branches as well as organizations founded after the commencement of the election campaign, if the said persons or political parties are founders, owners or members of bodies thereof, shall not engage in charity activities during the election campaign. Other individuals and legal entities shall not engage in charity activities during the election campaign at the request, at the direction or on behalf of the said political parties, candidates, proxies and authorized agents; neither shall they campaign during the charity activities. The said political parties, candidates, proxies and authorized agents shall not make proposals to other individuals or legal entities to provide material, financial aid or services to voters.

6. Campaign materials shall not contain commercial advertising.

7. Political parties registered federal list of candidates, registered candidate may not use airtime on the channels of TV, provided to them for the placement of campaign materials for:

1) dissemination of appeals to vote against the federal list of candidates (federal lists of candidates), against the candidate (s);

2) a description of the possible negative consequences if one or another federal list of candidates will be admitted to the distribution of seats, one or the other candidate (or another candidate) will be elected

3) dissemination of information which is clearly dominated by information about any political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral district, of any candidate (no candidates) in combination with the negative comments;

4) dissemination of information, facilitating the creation of a negative attitude of voters to the political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, candidates in single-mandate electoral district, the candidate (s).

8. Mass media outlets shall not publish campaign and informing materials (including such materials which contain trustworthy information) which may damage the honour, dignity or business reputation of a candidate or a political party if these outlets cannot give a candidate, a political party a possibility to publish a denial or some other explanation in defence of their honour, dignity or business reputation before the end of the election campaigning period. When a possibility is offered to a candidate, a political party to publish (make public), free of charge, a denial or some other explanation in defence of their honour, dignity or business reputation air time shall be provided at the same time of the day at which the original information was made public. The amount of air time provided for making a denial or explanation shall not be less than the amount of air time provided for presentation of the original information and shall not be less than two minutes. In print media a denial shall be printed in the same type, in the same place on the page and shall be allocated space not less than the space taken up by the original compromising text. The failure to provide such possibility to a candidate, a political party

may serve as a ground for bringing to responsibility the organizations indicated in this clause and their officials under the laws of the Russian Federation. Requirements provided for in this part shall not apply to cases of placement of campaign materials submitted by political parties, candidates registered within the framework of their use in accordance with the Federal Law of free and paid airtime, free and paid print space.

9. Election commissions shall ensure that the rules of election campaign are complied with and, in the case of breach, shall take countermeasures. Should false printed, audio-visual or other campaign materials be distributed, or should such distribution be in breach of Article 68 of this Federal Law, or should media outlets violate the order of election campaign, the respective election commission shall request law enforcement bodies, a court, a federal body for control over mass media to stop the unlawful campaign activities, seize the unlawful campaign materials and to institute proceedings against media outlets and their officials as well as other persons in line with the law of the Russian Federation.

10. Law enforcement and other bodies shall take measures to stop unlawful campaign activities, to seize and prevent the production of unlawful campaign materials, to identify the producers of such materials and sources from which they are paid for and to promptly inform respective election commissions of the facts revealed and measures taken.

## **CHAPTER 9. FINANCING OF ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE STATE DUMA**

### **Article 70. Financing of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma**

1. Expenditures related to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, work of election commissions throughout their tenure of office, use of computer facilities, voter education and training of election officials shall be disbursed from the funds allocated for these purposes in the federal budget. Provision for such funds shall be made in the federal budget in accordance with the Budget Classification and shall be transferred to election commissions (or executive authorities in charge of diplomatic missions, consular offices, and military units which form election precincts) to their accounts opened in the institutions of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation or, in the lack thereof, in branches of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia". The CEC shall be in charge of handling these funds.

2. Funds allocated from the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be put at the disposal of the CEC in accordance with the approved Budgetary Provisions within ten days of the official publication of call for elections of deputies of the State Duma.

3. No later than fifty days prior to the voting day the CEC shall distribute funds allocated for elections of deputies of the State Duma among election commissions of a Russian Federation subject which, in their turn, shall distribute these funds among DEC and PECs not later than thirty days prior to the voting day. Funds for the preparation and conduct of elections at the polling stations established for voting and vote count outside of country, and the polling stations established on the territory of military units in isolated areas far from populated centers, the CEC allocates between public authorities in charge of registration voters, as well as between the TEC formed in accordance with part 3 of Article 22 of this Federal law, not later than 30 days before the voting day. In the case of early

elections, as well as in case of delayed or not fully finance the preparation and conduct of elections, relevant election commission allocates funds as they become available.

4. Purchase of ballots, absentee vote certificate, special characters (marks), information materials posted in the premises of election commissions and polling station premises, services of election documents delivery and other dispatches of election commissions, used for the election of deputies of the State Duma shall be made by the CEC and (or) by the relevant lower election commissions based by REC decision from a single suppliers (contractors, performers) in accordance with the Federal law of April 5, 2013 No 44-FZ "About contract system in the procurement of goods, works and services for state and municipal needs".

5. In the event of early elections the amount of funds allocated in the federal budget for their preparation and conduct shall not be less than the sum contained in the CEC report on the expenditure of funds for the preparation and conduct of the previous elections (with due regard for the changes in the minimum monthly wage established by the federal law regulating labour remuneration).

6. Chairpersons of election commissions shall handle funds allocated for the in the federal budget elections and shall bear responsibility for the compliance of the financial documents with resolution of election commissions on financial issues and for the submission of expenditure reports in the procedure and terms set forth by this Federal Law.

7. Within sixty days of the submission of the expenditure report for the elections and the report on handling electoral funds to the Chambers of the Federal Assembly (Parliament), the unspent funds for elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be returned to the federal budget and be used in the procedure and for the purposes provided for in the budget legislation.

## **Article 71. Electoral Funds**

1. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall create an electoral fund to finance its own election campaign. A regional branch of such political party in a subject of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to create its own electoral fund, at the decision of the duly authorized governing body of the political party if the federal list has a regional group corresponding to this subject of the Russian Federation (including those belonging to a group of subjects of the Russian Federation) or a regional group(s) corresponding to a part (parts) of this subject of the Russian Federation. A candidate nominated for a single-mandate electoral district shall create his/her own election funds. Political party which nominated candidates only in single-mandate electoral district, candidates on the federal list of candidates, do not create their own election funds.

2. Electoral funds of political parties shall be created exclusively at the expense of:

1) internal funds of the political party; such funds shall sum up to no more than fifty per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law;

2) donations of citizens and legal entities; such donations for each citizen and legal entity shall not exceed respectively 0.07 and 3.5 per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law;

3. The maximum for electoral funds of political parties shall not exceed 700 million RUB. This sum shall not include expenditures made by regional chapters of this political party from their own electoral funds.

4. Electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties shall be created exclusively at the expense of:

1) internal funds of the political party, its regional branch (but not the funds in the electoral fund of the political party); such funds shall sum up to no more than fifty per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for electoral funds of regional branches of political parties;

2) voluntary donations of citizens and legal entities; such donations for each citizen and legal entity shall not exceed respectively 2 and 20 per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties;

5. The maximum sum of all expenses for electoral funds of a regional branch, in the federal list of which a regional group(s) corresponds to a subject(s) of the Russian Federation (corresponds to the all single-mandate electoral districts at the territory of this subject) including inside a group of subjects, shall not exceed:

1) 15 million RUB- in a subject of the Russian Federation where no more than 100 thousand registered voters reside;

2) 20 million RUB - in a subject of the Russian Federation where more than 100 thousand but fewer than 500 thousand registered voters reside;

3) 25 million RUB- in a subject of the Russian Federation where more than 500 thousand but fewer than 1 million registered voters reside;

4) 35 million RUB - in a subject of the Russian Federation where more than 1 million but fewer than 2 million registered voters reside;

5) 55 million RUB - in a subject of the Russian Federation where more than 2 million but fewer than 5 million registered voters reside;

6) 100 million RUB - in a subject of the Russian Federation where fewer than 5 million registered voters reside;

6. If the regional group of the federal list of candidates corresponds to a part of the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation (not to all single-mandate electoral districts, formed on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation), the maximum amount of all expenditures from the regional electoral fund cannot exceed the product of the number of single-mandate electoral districts, corresponded to the regional groups, and the number obtained by dividing the respective maximum limit of all expenditures from the regional electoral fund, as provided by part 5 of this Article, divided to the total number single-mandate electoral districts on the territory of the Russian Federation.

7. If the regional group (regional group) of the federal list is excluded from the federal list, but at least one regional group corresponded to the one single-mandate electoral district of the subject of the Russian Federation remains in the federal list, the maximum amount of all expenditures from the regional electoral fund shall not be reduced, as by Part 6 of this Article.

8. Candidate electoral funds can be established only at the expenses of:

1) internal funds of the political party (if a candidate is nominated by a political party), except for funds of party electoral fund (if this party established the fund for its federal list). Such funds shall sum up to no more than fifty per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for candidate funds.

2) internal funds of candidate; such funds shall sum up to no more than fifty per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for candidate funds.

3) voluntary donations of citizens and legal entities; such donations for each citizen and legal entity shall not exceed respectively 2 and 20 per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for candidate funds;

9. The maximum for candidate electoral funds shall not exceed 40 million RUB.

10. The list of agencies, organizations and individuals who are not allowed to make donations to the election funds established by paragraph 6 of Article 58 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". (As amended by Federal Law No 355-FZ of 24.11.2014.)

11. Non-profit organizations, referred to in subparagraph "f" of paragraph 6 of Article 58 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" shall not be entitled to make donations to the election fund only if obtained by these non-profit organizations, funds or other property were not returned them to list these funds or other property have transferred to foreign countries, agencies, organizations or individuals referred to in paragraphs second - seventh of subparagraph "p" of paragraph 6 of Article 58, of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees" (in the case of failure to return were not listed (transferred) in the Russian Federation, income), until the day of making donations to the election fund.

12. The right to dispose of the electoral fund of a political party belongs to a political party, which created this fund. The right to dispose of election funds of the regional branch belongs to the regional office in agreement with the person authorized by the governing body of a political party. The right to dispose of candidate electoral funds belongs to a candidate, as well as the authorized representative of the candidate for financial matters, acting on behalf of the candidate on the basis of notarized power of attorney. Authorized representative on financial matters shall be registered by DEC's. Registration is done on the basis of the statement of the candidate to appoint its authorized representative on financial matters, the written consent of the citizen to be such authorized representative, notarized power of attorney and upon presentation of the passport or document replacing the passport. The term of office of the authorized representative for financial matters begins from the date of his appointment and expire after 90 days from the voting day, and in case on trial with the participation of the candidate - from the day following the date of entry of a court decision into force.

13. Electoral funds of political parties shall be spent exclusively for the following purposes only:

- 1) to finance activities organized to collect signatures of voters; including salaries for persons collecting signatures;
- 2) to finance campaign activities, to pay for informational and consulting services;
- 3) to pay for other services (work) rendered by citizens and legal entities, and for other expenditures immediately related to campaign activities;

14. Electoral funds of regional branches shall be spent for the following purposes only:

- 1) to finance campaign activities unless they require the use of paid air time and paid print space in the nation-wide media; to pay for informational and consulting services;
- 2) to pay for other services (work) rendered by citizens and legal entities, and for other expenditures immediately related to campaign activities.

15. Technical support of collection of signatures, campaigning and other activities aimed at ensuring a certain election results of deputies of the State Duma shall be financed by political parties, their regional branches exclusively from their respective electoral funds (including internal funds) accumulated in line with the procedure set forth by this Federal Law.

16. Technical support of collection of signatures and other activities aimed at ensuring a certain election result of deputies of the State Duma shall be financed by candidate exclusively from candidate electoral fund accumulated in line with the procedure set forth by this Federal Law.

17. A political party shall not be obliged to pay from its electoral fund for the use of the real estate and movables (with an exception of equities, printed materials and office supplies) provided they were at the disposal of this political party on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

18. A political party shall use for its election campaign only those means, which were transferred, to the special electoral accounts of their electoral funds before the day of elections in line with the procedure set forth in this Federal Law.

19. In the event of additional nomination of federal lists, candidate lists for single-mandate electoral district under circumstances specified in part 11 of Article 50 and part 14 of Article 51 and part 7 of Article 56 of this Federal Law, the maximum for electoral funds of political parties shall be increased in 1,5 times.

## **Article 72. Special Electoral Accounts**

1. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall be obliged to open a special electoral account to accumulate its electoral fund as soon as it receives a copy of its federal list of candidates certified by the CEC.

2. A regional branch of a political party shall be entitled to open a special electoral account in a subject of the Russian Federation in which it is registered to accumulate its electoral fund as soon as it submits to the election commission of a Russian Federation subject a copy of a federal list of candidates certified by the CEC, provided it has a resolution of the duly authorized governing body of the political party specified in part 1 of Article 71 of this Federal Law.

3. Candidate shall be obliged to open a special electoral account in a subject of the Russian Federation where he/she is registered in a single-mandate electoral district as soon as a DEC's commission is notified on his/her nomination.

4. A special electoral account shall be opened in a branch of in the branch of the public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia and in the cases stipulated by paragraph 11 of Article 58 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees", - in the branch of other credit institution indicated for political parties by the CEC or, for regional branches of political parties, candidates by election commissions of a Russian Federation subject, for candidates – by a DEC. A political party, a regional branch of a political party shall be entitled to have only one special electoral account.

5. Immediately upon submission of the duly compiled documents set forth by these Federal Law branches public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) shall open special electoral accounts for political parties, their regional branches or candidate. No fees shall be payable for opening such accounts and processing transactions. No interest shall be paid on the money deposited in such accounts. All transactions in such accounts shall be carried out in the currency of the Russian Federation.

6. A political party shall open a special electoral account on the basis of a document which shall be issued by the CEC within three calendar days of the day when a list of authorized financial agents of this political party was registered. A regional chapter of a political party shall open a special electoral account on the basis of a document which shall be issued by the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation within three days of the submission of an copy of the federal list, registered list of authorized financial agents of the regional chapter. Candidate shall open a special electoral account in a single-mandate constituency where he/she nominated on the basis of document which shall be issued by a DEC within three days after notification on candidate nomination. If a DEC is not established – on the basis of the document issued by the election commission of a Russian Federation subject within the same term. Candidate can delegate the opening of a special account to his/her authorized financial agent.

7. All transactions in a special electoral account except for the return to the electoral fund of unspent money or entry in the account of the money wired before the day of elections shall terminate on the day of elections. In the event the political party or candidate should fail to submit to the CEC the documents needed for the registration of its federal list, candidate or in the event of refusal of such registration or cancellation thereof, or political party withdraw its federal list or candidate in a single-mandate electoral district, or candidate withdraw or changed single-mandate electoral district, according to the part 7 of Article 40 of this Federal Law, all transactions in a special electoral account shall be terminated by the branch of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) following the notice by the CEC.

8. All transactions through the special electoral account of a regional branch as stipulated in part 7 of this Article shall terminate in the event the regional group of candidates corresponding to this subject of the Russian Federation (or all regional groups of candidates corresponding to this group of subjects of the Russian Federation, if there are several of them) should be removed from the federal list of candidates. Transactions shall be terminated by the branch of Sberbank following the notice by the election commission of a Russian Federation subject.

9. Transactions relating to the electoral fund through the special electoral account of a regional branch of a political party may be terminated (suspended) upon the ruling of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject following the decision of the governing body of the political party which authorized herewith by its convention.

10. Following the application from a political party, its regional branch, candidate respectively the CEC, election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC may extend the period for the performance of the financial operations through a respective special electoral account to pay for the services (work) done before the financial operations were terminated (adjourned).

11. A special electoral account shall be closed by a political party, its regional branch, and candidate before the day they submit the final financial report.

12. The procedure of opening, handling and closing of special electoral accounts shall be fixed by the CEC in cooperation with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

### **Article 73. Voluntary Donations to the Electoral Fund**

1. Voluntary donations of citizens to electoral funds shall be done through a postal office or a bank in person out of their own means by presenting a passport or an equivalent identity document. The following information shall be specified in the payment document: the citizen's last name, first name and patronymic, date of birth, residence address, passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document, citizenship. Voluntary donations of legal entities to electoral funds shall be made by a bank wire transfer to a special electoral account. The payment order for donations shall specify the following information: the entity's individual tax-payer number (INN), title, date of registration, banking details, note of lack of restrictions imposed in paragraph 6 of Article 58 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees".

2. Voluntary donations to electoral funds shall be transmitted to special electoral accounts by postal offices or banks no later than on the day successive to the day of receipt of a respective payment document. The total time for processing the payment made by a bank wire transfer shall not exceed 3 working days, starting from the day of debiting the funds from the payer bank account or the day of submission of cash for transfer without opening an account.

3. A political party, its regional branch, candidate shall be entitled to return the donation made to its electoral fund to the donor unless the donor is anonymous. In the event a voluntary donation to an electoral fund should be made by a citizen or a legal entity who (which) lack the right to make such donations or should such donation be made in breach of requirements set forth in part 1 of this Article, or should it be made in an amount

exceeding the maximum limit set forth in Article 71 of this Federal Law, the political party, its regional branch, candidate shall within ten days of receipt of the donation return it in full or return the part which exceeds the said maximum limit to the donor (deducting the wire costs) and specifying the reasons of return. A political party, its regional party, candidate shall not be responsible for the acceptance of donations which were made by donors who provided the wrong information stipulated in part 1 of this Article, provided the political party its regional branch.

4. A political party, its regional branch, a candidate shall be entitled to recover its own funds listed in their electoral funds. A candidate nominated by a political party for the single-mandate electoral district shall be entitled to return to the political party its own funds listed in his electoral fund.

5. Donations to electoral funds made by anonymous donors shall within ten days of receipt of such donations be transferred to the state budget.

6. Citizens and legal entities shall be entitled to provide financial support to a political party exclusively through its electoral fund. It shall be prohibited to render paid services, do paid work or sell/purchase goods if such activities directly or indirectly pertain to elections of deputies of the State Duma and seek certain election results unless they are paid out of a respective electoral fund with a duly documented consent of an authorized financial agent of the political party, its regional chapter, candidate. No cash shall be used for the settlement of accounts between a political party, its regional branch and a legal entity for the said work (services), for the said goods.

7. Legal entities, their branches, representations or other subdivisions shall be prohibited to do work (render services) free of charge or at a price below (or above) normal pricing, if such work (services) directly or indirectly pertain to elections of deputies of the State Duma and seek certain election results. Material support to a political party, a candidate if seeking a certain election results, shall not be provided unless it is compensated for at the expense of a respective electoral fund.

8. Citizens shall be entitled to do work (render services) free of charge, in person and without involvement of an outside workforce for the benefit of a political party, its regional branch, a candidate in the course of election campaign.

#### **Article 74. Accounting for Electoral Funds**

1. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, its regional branch, and a candidate shall keep books of account of all receipts and expenditures of its electoral fund. The procedure and forms of accounting and reporting of a political party, its regional branch, and candidate shall be approved by the CEC.

2. Within 30 days of official publication of the general election results political party shall present to the CEC the final financial report. Following documents shall be appended to the final report: primary financial documents confirming all receipts and expenditures of an electoral fund of a political party, documents fixing the unspent money and (or) confirming the closing of the said account as well as documents provided for in part 5 Article 68 of this Federal Law, or their copies.

3. Within thirty days from the day of official publication of the general election results, a regional chapter of a political party, candidate (in case he/she established the electoral fund) shall present to the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, DEC the final financial report. Appended to the final financial report shall be primary financial documents confirming all receipts and expenditures of an electoral fund of a regional chapter of political party, documents fixing the unspent money and(or) confirming the closing of the said account as well as documents provided for in Clause 5 Article 68 of this Federal Law, or their copies.

4. In case of refusal to register a federal list of candidates, candidate withdrawal or cancellation of registration of a federal list of candidates, the candidate (if a refusal of registration, cancellation or revocation of registration is not challenged in court) or in case of changes in the electoral district in accordance with Part 7 of Article 40 of this Federal law final financial report and the primary financial documents confirming the receipt of funds to the relevant special electoral account shall be submitted by a political party, its regional branches (in the case of the creation of the electoral fund), a candidate to the relevant election commission after the decision to refuse the registration, cancellation or cancellation of registration or change of the electoral district, but not later than 30 days from the day of official publication of the general election results.

5. The list of primary financial documents appended to the final financial report of a political party, its regional branch, candidate shall be decided upon by the CEC.

6. An obligation to present a financial report of a political party or a regional branch, a candidate thereof shall be laid upon authorized financial agents of, respectively, a political party or a regional branch, or candidate or his/her representative for financial matters.

7. Respective election commissions shall pass out copies of financial reports stipulated in parts 2 - 4 of this Article to the media for publication and place them on the Internet within five days of the receipt of the said documents. Within three days the nation-wide or regional print media outlets shall publish financial report supplied to them by, respectively, the CEC or the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC.

8. Branches of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) shall at least once a week or, within ten days prior to voting day - at least once per three banking days supply the CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC with information about all receipts and expenditures of electoral funds in the forms approved by the CEC. GAS Vybory facilities may be utilized for that purpose.

9. Before the voting day periodically, at least once per two weeks, the CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC shall supply to the media information about all receipts and expenditures of electoral funds for publication. The CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC shall upon the respective official application familiarize authorized financial agents of political parties or regional branches of political parties as well as the media with the reports on receipts and expenditures of electoral funds supplied to them by branches of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution). Upon the request of the CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject (or upon the request of authorized financial agents of political parties, their regional branches, candidate or his financial representative if such requests concern their respective electoral funds) branches of Sberbank shall within three days or, if less than three days remain before the voting day, immediately present the

certified copies of primary financial documents confirming all receipts and expenditures of electoral funds.

10. Nation-wide and regional print media outlets shall be obliged to publish information on receipts and expenditures of electoral funds as supplied to them by, respectively, the CEC or the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC. The following information shall be mandatorily published:

1) on financial operation expended from the electoral fund should its amount exceed 400,000.00 RUB for a political party, or RUB 100,000.00 for a regional branch or candidate; (As amended by Federal Law No 355-FZ of 24.11.2014.)

2) on legal entities which donated to a respective electoral fund (to an account of a political party) should such donation exceed RUB 200,000.00 for a political party or RUB 50,000.00 for a regional branch or candidate; (As amended by Federal Law No 355-FZ of 24.11.2014.)

3) on the number of individuals whose donations to a respective electoral fund exceeded RUB 20,000.00 for a political party or a regional branch or candidate; (As amended by Federal Law No 355-FZ of 24.11.2014.)

4) on the sums returned to donors from a respective electoral fund and on the reasons of return;

5) on the total amount of money accumulated in the electoral fund and on the total expenditures;

10.1 The information specified in part 10 of this Article shall be placed by the CEC, election commissions of a Russian Federation subject on their official websites in the information and telecommunication network Internet in the amount established by the CEC.

11. Within five days of the request of a respective election commission, bodies for migration control over citizens of the Russian Federation, a federal executive body for registration of legal entities shall free of charge check information provided by citizens and legal entities when donating to electoral funds and report to the election commissions of the check-up results. The said information shall be supplied in the forms approved by the CEC. GAS Vybory facilities may be utilized for that purpose. If revealed by the CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC that the voluntary donations were made in breach of requirements set forth in paragraph 6 of Article 58 of the Federal law "On Basic Guarantees", the information thereof shall be immediately reported by the CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC to respective political parties, their regional chapters, candidates.

## **Article 75. Refunds by Political Parties and Their Regional Branches, Candidates**

1. The political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, its regional branch, the candidate after the voting day or after the decision to refuse the registration of a federal list of candidates, candidate, cancellation or revocation of registration, or decision on change of electoral district in accordance with part 7 of Article 40 of this Federal Law and the submission of the final financial report have to transfer unexpended funds in the

relevant special electoral account, citizens and (or) legal entities that have made donations or carried out the transfer of the relevant election funds, in proportion to their invested assets (excluding shipping costs). Balance of unexpended funds that cannot be returned to the donors in that order, shall be transferred to the federal budget.

2. After 60 days from the voting day branches of public joint-stock company "Sberbank of Russia" (other credit institution) upon the written instructions of the CEC, the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, DEC are obliged to transfer the remaining funds from special election accounts to the federal budget.

## **Article 76. Funding of Election Commissions**

1. Election commissions shall at their own volition expend the funds allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, securing of activities of election commissions, education of voters and training of election officials for the purposes stipulated in this Federal Law.

2. The following expenditures of election commissions shall be covered from the federal budget:

1) additional remuneration to voting members of electoral commission and secretariat of election commissions, compensation for unpaid salaries to voting members of election commissions withdrawn from the principal work for the period of preparation and conduct of elections, as well as fares to individuals who contracted for the work in election commissions and to those on contract for auditing of election commissions;

2) production of printed materials and publishing activities of election commissions;

3) purchase, delivery and installation of equipment, (including technical equipment) other valuables necessary for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and for activities of election commission;

4) transportation expenses including those incurred during the organization of elections in remote or difficult of access areas;

5) transfer and custody of electoral documents, retention and disposal of documents;

6) business trips and other expenses pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and activities of election commissions;

7) use and maintenance of computing facilities, voter education and training of election officials.

3. A voting member of election commission may be offered an additional remuneration for the work done during the preparation and conduct of elections. A voting member of election commission, if withdrawn from the principal work for the said period, shall retain his/her principal work (office) and be paid a compensation for the unpaid salary. The payment procedure and amount of bonus remuneration and compensations shall be set forth by the CEC at the expense of the federal budget and within the amount allocated therein for the preparation and conduct of elections.

4. Voting members of election commissions, if employed full-time (enrolled as staff), secretariat of election commissions shall be paid within the amount allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, in line with the procedure and at the amount set forth by the CEC.

5. Within ten days of the voting day a precinct election commission shall report to the TEC of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma. Within twenty days of the day of elections a TEC shall report to the election commission of subject a Russian Federation subject of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections. Within 35 days of the day of publication of the election results in a single-mandate electoral district DEC shall report to the election commission of a Russian Federation subject of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections.

6. Within fifty days of the voting day an election commission of a Russian Federation subject shall report to the CEC on the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and, provided regional branches of political parties established their electoral funds on the receipts and expenditures of such funds.

7. Within three months of the official publication of general results of elections of deputies of the State Duma the CEC shall report to the Chambers of the Federal Assembly (Parliament) of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and of receipts and expenditures of electoral funds. The said report shall within one month afterwards be published by the CEC in its official press and be passed out for publication to other media outlets.

#### **Article 77. Control and Audit Department in Election Commissions**

Procedure of formation of Control and Audit department, its powers and procedures of execution of these powers shall be established according to Article 60 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". (As amended by Federal Law No 355-FZ of 24.11.2014.)

### **CHAPTER 10. VOTING**

#### **Article 78. Voting Premises**

1. Voting premises shall be made available free of charge to the precinct election commission by the head of the local administration of the corresponding municipality, and, in cases stipulated by this Federal Law, by the commander of a military unit, captain of a vessel, head of the polar station, head of a diplomatic mission or consular institution of the Russian Federation.

2. Voting premises shall have a hall, where booths or other specially equipped places for

secret voting shall be placed, equipped with lighting and provided with writing materials (except pencils).

3. In the voting premises or directly in front of them the precinct election commission shall place an information board (information boards), which shall contain the following information on all federal lists of candidates on the ballot, and on the political parties that nominated them:

1) the name of the political party;

2) biographies of registered candidates on the federal part of the federal lists of candidates and corresponding regional groups of candidates, in the amount established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, but not less than the amount set for the publication of the registered federal lists of candidates;

3) information on the provision of any information found to be false, with respect to registered candidates included in the federal part of the federal lists of candidates and the corresponding regional groups of candidates, as provided by Part 5 of Article 42 of this Federal Law (if there is such information).

4. The following biographical data on each registered candidates on the ballot for voting in a single-mandate electoral district shall be placed on the information board:

1) biography of a registered candidate in the amount established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, but not less than the amount of biographical data entered on the ballot;

2) If the candidate is nominated by a political party, - the words "nominated by a political party", indicating the name of the political party;

3) if a self-nominated candidate, - the word "self-nomination";

4) information on the facts submitted by the candidate found to be false, as provided by part 5 of Article 41, paragraph 1 of part 5 of Article 42 or part 1 of Article 43 of this Federal Law (if there is such information).

5. If any of the registered candidates, including those included in the federal list of candidates, had or have a criminal record, the materials posted on the information board shall provide information about the candidate's criminal record, and, if it expired or was expunged, the date when it expired or was expunged.

6. Samples of filled ballots shall be placed on the information board, which should not contain names of registered candidates or names of political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates.

7. Information on political parties and registered candidates on the ballot shall be placed in the information materials in the same sequence that was established when the form and text of the ballots were approved.

8. The information stand shall contain excerpts from the criminal legislation of the Russian Federation, legislation of the Russian Federation on administrative offences,

related to the responsibility for violation of the legislation of the Russian Federation on elections.

9. Materials placed on the information board should not contain signs of electoral campaigning. These materials shall be placed by the precinct election commission so as to enable voters to freely familiarize themselves with these materials.

10. In order to inform citizens who are visually impaired, the information board shall include materials referred to in parts 3 - 5 and 7 of this Article, made in large print, and (or) using the relief-dot Braille. Polling stations the information boards of which shall contain such materials shall be determined by decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject.

11. Federal lists of candidates registered by the Central Election Commission shall be placed in voting premises.

12. Enlarged forms of protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results, intended for the entry of data on voting results as they are established, shall also be placed in voting premises. Enlarged forms of protocols shall be posted before the start of voting and should be in sight of members of the precinct election commission, observers, and within the distance necessary for the perception of the information contained in them. Enlarged forms of protocols do not replace protocols of the precinct election commission on the voting results and the data recorded in them shall have no legal value.

13. Stationary ballot boxes shall be placed in the voting premises, made of transparent or semi-transparent material in accordance with the requirements for technological equipment, approved by the Central Election Commission. Technical means of counting votes, including software and hardware for processing ballots, may be used as stationary ballot boxes. Electronic voting systems may also be used for voting. Technical means of counting votes, electronic voting systems shall be used in accordance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", and in accordance with instructions approved by the Central Election Commission.

14. Voting premises must be equipped in such a way that the place for issuing of ballots, the cabins and other specially equipped places for secret voting, and the stationary ballot boxes were in sight of the precinct election commission members and observers.

15. Means of video surveillance and broadcasting may be used in voting premises, with the exception of voting premises located in the polling stations formed in hospitals and other health care organizations that have inpatient units, in places of detention of suspects and accused persons, other places of temporary stay, military units, vessels that will be at sea on the voting day, in polar stations, as well as in precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation. In voting premises located at the polling stations where the military vote, with the exception of voting premises of the precincts located in military units, video surveillance and broadcasting shall be used with the consent of the commander of the military unit. The image obtained in the voting premises by means of video surveillance and broadcasting shall be broadcast on Internet. Installation in the voting premises of video surveillance and broadcasting, and broadcasting of images on Internet shall be organized and provided by the federal executive authority charged with carrying out the development and implementation of the state policy and normative regulation in the area of information technologies (including the use of information

technology for the formation of state information resources and ensuring access to them), telecommunications (including the use and conversion of the radio frequency spectrum) and postal communication, mass communication and mass media, including electronic media (including the development of Internet, television systems (including digital) and radio broadcasting and new technologies in these areas), printing, publishing and printing, personal data processing, management of state property and the provision of public services in the field of information technology, including the use of information technology for the formation of state information resources and ensuring access to them, as well as the development and implementation of state policy on protecting children from information harmful to their health and (or) development. The procedure for using video surveillance and broadcasting in voting premises, as well broadcasting of images on Internet, shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in coordination with the mentioned federal executive body.

16. When equipping polling station premises the conditions for unhindered access to this premises and voting in it shall be provided for disabled voters according to the legislation of the Russian Federation. Assistance is provided to such persons while conducting voting in order to implement their active suffrage in compliance with requirements, stipulated by the present Federal law and other federal laws.

#### **Article 79. Ballots**

1. The procedure of production and delivery of ballots, and the procedure for exercising control over their production and delivery shall be approved by the Central Election Commission no later than 45 days before voting day.

2. To protect against forgery of ballots during their production, paper with water marks shall be used, or paper with typographically inscribed micro script and protective netting, or a special character (mark) may be used for the same purpose. The procedure for making and using special characters (marks), their number, as well as the requirements for the transfer of special characters (marks) by higher election commissions to lower election commissions shall be approved by the Central Election Commission no later than 60 days before voting day.

3. To assist visually impaired voters, by decision of the relevant election commission, special stencils for the completion of ballots shall be made, including using the relief-dot Braille. Polling stations for which such stencils shall be made shall be determined by decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject.

4. In order to vote in elections to the State Duma, ballots for voting in the federal electoral district and in single-mandate electoral district shall be produced, which should differ in form. The form and text of the ballot for voting in the federal electoral district in Russian, as well as the form of the ballot for voting in single-mandate electoral districts shall be approved by the Central Election Commission no later than 23 days before voting day. The text of the ballot for voting in single-mandate electoral districts in Russian shall be approved by district election commissions no later than 22 days before voting day. The text of the ballot must be placed on one side of the ballot, except in cases when the ballot for voting in the federal electoral district includes more than 20 registered federal lists of candidates, and the ballot voting in single-mandate electoral districts - more than 30 registered candidates. In these cases, the ballot paper may be produced in the form of a

brochure. If transparent ballot boxes are used, the form of ballot is set taking into account the need to protect the secrecy of voting, except in cases when by decision of the Central Election Commission envelopes are used for this purpose.

5. The ballot for voting in the federal electoral district shall include, in the order determined by drawing lots, the names of political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, as well as the emblems of these political parties (if they were submitted to the Central Election Commission in accordance with part 3 of Article 37 of the present Federal Law) in monochrome version. The draw shall be conducted by the Central Election Commission, with participation of authorized representatives of political parties, not later than 30 days before voting day. The number obtained by the political party as a result of the draw, shall be maintained until the end of the election campaign. Under the name of the political party, the surname, first name and patronymic of registered candidates on the federal part of a federal list of candidates shall be placed; the number of the regional group of candidates (if any) and the surname, first name and patronymic of the first three registered candidates included in this regional group of candidates. If there is no federal part and appropriate regional group of candidates in the federal list of candidates, the ballot shall contain only the name of the political party that registered this federal list of candidates, and its emblem (if it was presented to the Central Election Commission in accordance with Part 3 of Article 37 of the present Federal Law). If there is no federal part in the federal list of candidates, the ballot shall include the name of the political party that registered this federal list of candidates, its emblem (if it was presented to the Central Election Commission in accordance with Part 3 of Article 37 of the present Federal Law), the number of the corresponding regional group of candidates and surname, first name and patronymic of the first three registered candidates included in this regional group of candidates. If more than ten federal lists of candidates are registered, by decision of the Central Election Commission the ballot shall include only names of political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, and the emblems of these political parties (if they were submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Part 3 of Article 37 of the present Law). In this case, the surname, first name and patronymic of the registered candidates on the federal part of the federal lists of candidates, the number of corresponding regional groups of candidates, surnames, first names and patronymics of the first three registered candidates included in these regional groups of candidates, as well as other information provided by this Article, shall be indicated in special information material, which shall be made according to the form prescribed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of a Russian Federation subject. This information material shall be placed in the cabin or other specially equipped place for secret voting and (or) on the information board referred to in part 3 of Article 78 of the present Federal Law.

6. An empty square shall be placed to the right of the name of each political party or under the name of each political party and information about the registered candidates included in the corresponding regional group of candidates (if any).

7. In the ballot for voting in a single-mandate electoral district the surnames of registered candidates shall be placed in alphabetical order, while the ballot shall contain the following information about each of the registered candidates:

1) If the last name, first name and patronymic of two or more candidates fully coincide, information about the candidates are placed on the ballot, in accordance with the dates of birth of the candidates (first - information about the older candidate). Additionally, if

candidate changed the last name, or first name or patronymic during the election campaign or during the course of the year until the day of official announcement (publication) of a decision to call the election, the ballot should also indicate previous last name, first name and patronymic of the candidate;

2) year of birth;

3) place of residence (name of the subject of the Russian Federation, district, city or other locality);

4) the main place of work or service, position (if there is no main place of work or service - occupation); if the candidate is a deputy on a temporary basis - information about this with the name of the relevant representative body;

5) If the candidate is nominated by a political party, - the word "nominated", indicating a title followed by the short name of the political party;

6) if the self-nominated candidate - the word "self-nomination";

7) If a registered candidate in accordance with part 6 of Article 41, paragraph 1 of Part 5 of Article 42 of the present Federal Law indicated membership in a political party, other public association, - the short name of the political party or this public association, and the status of the registered candidate in this political party or public association.

8. An empty square shall be placed to the right of information about each registered candidate or under this information.

9. If a registered candidate, whose surname, first name and patronymic are indicated on the ballot, had or has a criminal record, the ballot must contain information about the candidate's criminal record. These data are indicated on the basis of relevant documents submitted to the Central Election Commission, district election commission before approval of the ballot text.

10. Ballots shall be printed in the Russian language. By decision of an election commission of an Russian Federation, ballots shall also printed in the official language of the republic, which is part of the Russian Federation, and if necessary - also in the languages of peoples of the Russian Federation on the territories of their compact living. If ballots for a precinct are printed in two or more languages, the text in these languages shall be placed on each ballot. The text of ballots in this case shall be approved by the election commission of an Russian Federation no later than 22 days before the voting day.

11. The number of ballots for voting in the federal electoral district and in single-mandate electoral districts, including in the subjects the Russian Federation, shall be determined by decision of the Central Election Commission no later than 24 days before the voting day. The number of ballots shall not exceed the number of voters registered in the respective constituency by more than 1.5 per cent. The ballots shall be produced in two stages:

1) no later than 20 days before the voting day, to ensure early voting in the precincts established in inaccessible or remote areas - by decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject; for voting in precincts outside the territory of the Russian

Federation - by decision of the Central Election Commission, in the number determined by it;

2) no later than 10 days before the voting day, to ensure voting on the voting day - by decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, in the number determined by decision of the Central Election Commission in accordance with the first paragraph of this Part, less the ballots previously produced to ensure early voting in the precincts established in inaccessible or remote areas.

12. Printed ballots shall be handed over by the printing organization to the members of an election commission, which procured the ballots, with a handover act. This act shall specify the date and time of its execution, as well as the number of handed ballots. After handing over packaged in packs ballots in the number corresponding to the contract, the printing company shall destroy surplus ballots (if any), and draw up an act to that effect. The election commission which procured the ballots is obliged no later than two days prior to the receipt of ballots from the respective printing company decide on the place and time of the handover of ballots to the members of this election commission, and the destruction of ballots. Any member of this election commission, a representative of a political party, a candidate registered in the relevant single-mandate electoral district, shall be entitled to sign the acts referred to in this Part.

13. Handover of ballots to territorial election commissions shall be carried out within the deadlines established by the Central Election Commission. Higher election commissions shall hand over to territorial election commissions, on the basis of their decision on the distribution of ballots to territorial election commissions, the entire print run of ballots received from the printing organizations.

14. Based on the decision of a territorial election commission on the distribution of ballots precinct election commissions shall receive ballots from the territorial election commission no later than one day before the voting day (early voting). At each precinct the number of ballots shall not exceed by more than 0.5 per cent (but no less than two ballots), the number of voters registered in this precinct, and be less than 70 per cent of the number of voters included in the voter list in the precinct on the day of handover of ballots. In the precinct where a significant number of voters with absentee vote certificates is expected, as well as a precinct where less than 500 voters are registered and ballot processing systems are used, the number of ballots may be increased by decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject, within the limits of the number of ballots determined by decision of the Central Election Commission for the respective constituency. When ballots are handed to precinct election commissions, they shall be counted and inspected one by one; rejected ballots (if identified) shall be destroyed by members of the territorial election commission, with an act drawn up to that effect.

15. An act on the handover ballots by the higher election commission to lower election commissions shall be drawn in two copies; one act on the handover of ballots for voting in the federal electoral district and one act on the handover of ballots for voting in the single-mandate electoral district. Each act shall specify the time and date of its making, the number of ballots handed over. The following have the right to be present at the handover of ballots by the higher election commission to the lower election commission: members of these election commissions, representatives of the political parties listed on the ballot, candidates whose surnames, first names and patronymics are included on the ballot for voting in the relevant single-mandate electoral districts, or representatives these

candidates. The relevant election commission shall notify all members of this election commission, representatives of these political parties, candidates of the date, time and place of handover of ballots and provide the opportunity to attend the handover to at least one representative of each political party, each candidate or his representative. Each of these persons shall be entitled to sign the act drawn up at the handover of ballots.

16. Responsibility for the handover and security of ballots shall be borne by the chairmen of the election commissions which handover, receive and store ballots.

17. Precinct election commissions formed in electoral precincts outside the territory of the Russian Federation may receive ballots directly from the election commission that procured them, in the manner prescribed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, and in the number determined by it.

18. In exceptional cases, in electoral precincts established in inaccessible or remote areas, on vessels that will be at sea on voting day, at polar stations, as well as in electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, where technical means are available, it shall be permitted to produce the documents related to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, including ballots, by the precinct election commission itself. The decision on the production of these documents, specifying the necessary print run and the deadline for the production of ballots shall be made by the precinct election commission with the consent of the corresponding territorial election commission or the Central Election Commission.

19. On the front side of all ballots received by the precinct election commission, in the upper right corner, two members of the precinct election commission who have a decisive vote shall place their signatures and certify them with the seal of the precinct election commission. If ballots are made in the form of a brochure, the seal and signatures shall be placed in the upper right corner of the first page of the brochure. Uncertified ballots shall be declared as ballots of non-conforming form and shall not be counted during vote count.

20. In case of withdrawal of particular registered candidates whose surname, first name and patronymic are listed on the ballot, cancellation or annulment of registration of a federal list of candidates after the production of ballots, territorial and precinct election commissions on instructions of the Central Election Commission, the corresponding district election commission shall cross out information about such candidates, political parties which nominated these federal lists of candidates from the ballot. Where it shall be necessary to make changes in produced ballots with respect to information about a political party, candidate, such changes by decision of the Central Election Commission, the respective district election commission may be made by members of the territorial or precinct election commission by hand or using technical means.

21. In case of registration of a federal list of candidates, a candidate less than 10 days before voting day, the Central Election Commission, the relevant district election commission may take a decision on entering into produced ballots the information provided for in this Article on the political party that nominated the federal list of candidates, regional groups of candidates, registered candidates, by hand or using technical means.

22. On the voting day, after the end of voting time, unused ballots in the territorial election commission shall be counted and cancelled, and the territorial election commission shall

draw up an act to that effect. This cancellation may be attended by the persons mentioned in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law. The ballots shall be kept by the secretary of the election commission under seal, together with other documents of the election commission.

### **Article 80. Absentee Vote Certificate**

1. An absentee vote certificate is a document of strict accountability. Absentee vote certificates shall be produced in compliance with Appendix 2 to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees". The text of absentee vote certificate, the number of absentee vote certificates, the form of the register of issued absentee vote certificates shall be approved no later than 60 days before the voting day by the Central Election Commission, which shall also determine the measures of protection against forgery of absentee vote certificates during their production.

2. To protect against forgery of absentee vote certificates during their production, paper with water marks shall be used, and (or) paper with typographically inscribed micro script and (or) a protective mesh and (or) other special security features.

3. Procurement of absentee vote certificates shall be carried out in accordance with Part 4 of Article 70 of the present Federal Law by the Central Election Commission on the basis of its decision.

4. Handover of absentee vote certificates by a higher election commission to lower election commissions shall be carried out on the basis of a decision by the higher election commission on the distribution of absentee vote certificates between the lower election commissions. Responsibility for the handover and security of absentee ballots shall be borne by chairmen of election commissions which hand over, receive and store absentee vote certificates.

5. A voter, who will not be able to arrive on the voting day to the polling station of the precinct where he is included on the voter list, shall be entitled to receive in the respective territorial election commission (45 - 11 days before the voting day) or in the precinct election commission (10 days or less before the voting day) an absentee vote certificate and to vote in the electoral district in which this voter has an active right of suffrage in accordance with Parts 1 and 2 of Article 4 of the present Federal Law, at the polling station where he will be on the voting day. In case of early voting in accordance with Parts 1 and 2 of Article 82 of the present Federal Law the voter who will not be able to come on the voting day (early voting days) to the polling station of the precinct where he is included on the voter list, shall be entitled to receive an absentee vote certificate from 45 to 21 days before the voting day in the respective territorial election commission and from 20 days or less before the voting day - in the precinct election commission.

6. An absentee vote certificate shall be issued by the relevant election commission on the basis of a voter's written application indicating the reasons for which he needs an absentee vote certificate. Absentee vote certificates shall be issued personally to the voter or his representative on the basis of a notarized power of attorney. The power of attorney may also be certified by the administration of an in-patient medical institution (if the voter is undergoing treatment in this institution), administration of the institution where

suspects or accused individuals are kept in custody (if the voter is detained in such institution as a suspect or accused).

7. The chair, deputy chair, secretary or another voting member of the election commission, who issues an absentee vote certificate, shall write in the surname, first name and patronymic of the voter, the series and number of his passport or the document replacing the passport, the number of the precinct where the voter is included in the voter list, the address of the precinct election commission, the name of the municipality and the subject of the Russian Federation, the number and (or) the name of the single-mandate electoral district, in the territory of which the precinct is formed, the name of the election commission issuing the absentee vote certificate, and indicate his position in the election commission, surname and initials, date of issue of the absentee vote certificate, shall sign and place the seal of the relevant election commission.

8. Territorial election commission shall issue a voter or his representative an absentee vote certificate on the basis of information on voters provided to the territorial election commission in accordance with Part 8 of Article 16 of the present Federal Law. The territorial election commission shall maintain a register of issued absentee vote certificates, which shall contain the surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth (18 years of age - also the day and month of birth), voter's address. Chair, deputy chair, secretary or another voting member of the territorial election commission, who issued the absentee vote certificate to the voter shall indicate the number of the issued absentee vote certificate in the appropriate columns of the register of issued absentee vote certificates, and sign.

9. The territorial election commission 10 days prior to the voting day, and during early voting in accordance with Parts 1 and 2 of Article 82 of the present Federal Law - 21 days prior to the voting day, shall send to the precinct election commissions together with the first copy of the voter list certified extract from the register of issued absentee vote certificates, which shall contain information on the voters registered on the territory of the relevant precincts who received absentee vote certificates. On the basis of the relevant extract from the register of issued absentee vote certificates, a member of the precinct election commission shall make a note in the appropriate column of the voter list: "Received absentee vote certificate No in the territorial election commission" with the number of the issued absentee vote certificate, and sign. Decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation may provide that these marks shall be entered in the voter list in the territorial election commission, including with the use of GAS Vybory, before the voter list is handed over to the precinct election commission. In such case, an extract from the register of issued absentee vote certificates shall not be made and sent to the precinct election commissions.

10. When an absentee vote certificate is issued to the voter in the precinct election commission, chair, deputy chair, secretary or another member of the precinct election commission with decisive voting rights, who issued the absentee vote certificate shall make a note in the appropriate column of the voter list: "Received an absentee vote certificate No" with the number of the issued absentee vote certificate, and sign.

11. Upon receipt of an absentee vote certificate the voter shall indicate the series and number of his passport or the document replacing the passport in the appropriate column of the register of issued absentee vote certificates (in the territorial election commission) or the voter list (in the precinct election commission), and sign. When the absentee vote

certificate is received on the basis of a power of attorney, the voter's representative in the appropriate columns of the register of issued absentee vote certificates or voter list shall indicate the series and number of the voter's passport or document replacing the passport, and specify the representative's surname, first name and patronymic, series and number of passport or the document replacing the passport, and sign. If the power of attorney is valid only to receive an absentee vote certificate, it shall be taken from the voter's representative and attached respectively to the register of issued absentee vote certificates or to the voter list. Otherwise, a copy of the power of attorney submitted by the voter's representative shall be attached the specified register or voter list.

12. The voter who received an absentee vote certificate (including through his representative on the basis of a power of attorney), shall be excluded from the voter list of the relevant precinct for this election to the State Duma, and shall not be included in the number of voters included in the voter list during the drawing up of the protocols on voting results by the precinct election commission.

13. Re-issuance of an absentee vote certificate shall not be permitted. In case of loss of an absentee vote certificate a duplicate cannot be issued.

14. Upon presentation of an absentee vote certificate on the voting day, a voter shall be additionally included in the voter list at the polling station where he will be on the voting day. Precinct election commissions in the corresponding column of the voter list shall make a note: "Voted with absentee vote certificate No", indicating the number of the absentee vote certificate presented by the voter. After that, an absentee vote certificate shall be taken away from the voter. Absentee vote certificates, on the basis of which voters are included in the voter list, shall be stored together with this voter list.

15. In case of loss of a blank absentee vote certificate an election commission which established the fact of such loss shall immediately draw up an act and adopt a decision, stating the number of the lost absentee vote certificate, the fact of loss, and the reason for the loss. This decision on the same day shall be communicated directly by the higher election commission and the Central Election Commission. On the basis of this decision, the Central Election Commission shall recognize the corresponding absentee vote certificate invalid, and promptly inform all lower election commissions to that effect. Absentee vote certificates may also be recognized as invalid by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in other cases, if voting with such absentee vote certificates would result in a violation of citizens' electoral rights. Invalid absentee vote certificate shall not constitute a basis for the inclusion of the voter in the voter list. Upon presentation by a voter, such absentee vote certificate shall be seized.

16. On the voting day before the voting time unused absentee vote certificates shall be cancelled. Information about the cancellation of unused absentee vote certificates, indicating their number and numbers, shall be entered by the relevant election commission into an act drawn up according to the form approved by the Central Election Commission.

17. Handover of absentee vote certificates to election commissions and accounting of the absentee vote certificates, including with the use of GAS Vybory, shall be carried out in the manner approved by the Central Election Commission in accordance with paragraph 16 of Article 62 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".

## Article 81. Voting Procedure

1. Voting shall be conducted from 8:00 to 20:00 local time. If the electoral precinct is the place of residence (location) of voters, whose working time coincides with the voting time (working at companies with a continuous cycle of work or working in shifts), by decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject the start of voting at this polling station may be moved to an earlier time, but by no more than two hours. Persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law shall be granted access to the polling station no later than one hour before the start of voting.
2. The day, time and place of voting shall be communicated by territorial and precinct election commissions to voters through mass media or otherwise no later than ten days prior to voting day, and during early voting in accordance with Article 82 of the present Federal Law - no later than five days before the day of early voting.
3. At the electoral precincts established in military units, in inaccessible or remote areas, on vessels that will be at sea on the voting day, at polar stations, the precinct electoral commission may announce voting completed ahead of the time specified in Part 1 of this Article, if all voters included in the voter list have voted.
4. On the voting day immediately before the time of voting the chair of the precinct election commission shall present for inspection to the members of the precinct election commission, persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, empty portable and stationary ballot boxes, which shall then be stamped by the seal of the precinct election commission (sealed). Chair of the precinct election commission shall present to these persons also stamped (sealed) mobile ballot boxes with ballots filled by those who voted early in accordance with Parts 2 - 9 of Article 82 of the present Federal Law, if any.
5. Members of the precinct election commission with decisive votes immediately before the time of voting shall receive from the chair of the precinct election commission a voter list or books into which the voter list is divided, and ballots for issuing to voters, and sign for their receipt. After that, the chair of the precinct election commission shall announce the polling station open and invite voters to start voting.
6. Ballots shall be issued to voters included in the voter list upon presentation of a passport or the document replacing the passport, and if a voter votes with an absentee vote certificate - upon presentation also of the absentee vote certificate. Each voter is entitled to receive two ballots (except in cases provided for in Part 11 of this Article): one for voting in the federal electoral district and one voting in the respective single-mandate electoral district. If a voter votes with an absentee vote certificate outside the single-mandate electoral district in which he has the active right of suffrage in accordance with Part 2 of Article 4 of the present Federal Law, he shall be entitled to receive only one ballot - for voting in the federal electoral district. Before issuing ballots a member of the precinct election commission shall verify that the voter has not received an absentee vote certificate, has not voted early, that a written statement (verbal statement) of the voter to grant him an opportunity to vote outside the polling station has not been registered in the register specified in Part 2 of Article 83 of the present Federal Law, and that members of the precinct election commission have not been sent to the voter to conduct voting outside the polling station.

7. Upon receipt of ballots the voter shall record the series and number of his passport or the document replacing the passport in the voter list. With the consent of the voter or at the voter's request this information may be recorded on the voter list by a voting member of the precinct election commission. If there is a corresponding decision of the Central Election Commission, series and numbers of passports or the documents replacing the passport may be entered on the voter list using GAS Vybory during compilation of the said list. In that case, a voting member of the precinct election commission who issues ballots shall verify this information with the voter's document. The voter shall check correctness of the records and sign a receipt for each ballot. The member of the precinct election commission who issued the ballots to the voter shall also sign in the respective column of the voter list. In case of voting with an absentee vote certificate, appropriate additional records shall be made in the voter list.

8. Voting shall be carried out by a voter by marking the ballot with any sign: on the ballot for voting in the federal electoral district – in the square referring to the chosen federal list of candidates; on the ballot for voting in the single-mandate electoral district - in the square referring to the chosen candidate.

9. Each voter shall vote personally. Voting for other voters shall not be permitted. Ballots shall be filled in the cabin or another specially equipped place for secret voting, where the presence of other persons is impermissible, except in the case provided for in Part 10 of the present Article.

10. A voter who is unable to sign for the receipt of ballots or fill in the ballot, or take part in electronic voting by himself, shall be is entitled to use assistance of another person who is not a member of an election commission, a registered candidate or his proxy, a proxy or an authorized representative of a political party, including for financial issues, an authorized representative of a regional branch of a political party for financial issues, an authorized representative of a candidate on financial issues, an observer, a foreign (international) observer. Such voter shall verbally inform the election commission of his intention to use assistance of another person. In this case, the surname, first name and patronymic, series and number of the passport or the document replacing the passport of the person assisting the voter shall be entered in the respective column (columns) of the voter list.

11. If the voter thinks that when marking a ballot he made a mistake, he is entitled to approach a voting member of the precinct election commission, who issued the ballot, with a request to issue a new ballot in place of the spoiled one. A member of the precinct election commission shall issue a new ballot to the voter, make a corresponding record on the voter list against the name of the voter, and sign. On the spoiled ballot paper a voting member of the precinct election commission shall make an appropriate record and certify it with signature. This record shall be certified also by the secretary of the precinct election commission, then the ballot shall be cancelled immediately.

12. The voter places filled ballot into a stamped (sealed) stationary ballot box. If the Central Election Commission in accordance with Part 4 of Article 79 of the present Federal Law decided to use envelopes, the voter shall outside the cabin or another specially equipped place for secret voting put the ballot in the envelope, which shall be issued to him by a voting member of the precinct election commission, seal it, and then put the envelope in the ballot box.

13. Chair of the precinct election commission shall maintain order in the polling station. Instructions of the chair of the precinct election commission, issued within the scope of his competence, shall be binding for all those present at the polling station. In the absence of the chair of the precinct election commission, his powers shall be exercised by the deputy chair of the precinct election commission, and in the absence of the deputy chair of the precinct election commission—by the secretary or another voting member of the precinct election commission, authorized by it.

14. During the voting, counting of votes and compilation of the protocol of the precinct election commission on the voting results, persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law shall be entitled to be present in the polling station, premises of the precinct election commission. These persons shall be entitled to observe continuously as well as in freely selected intervals of time during the entire period of observation; they shall be provided with free access to the premises where the voting and counting of votes is conducted. The list of persons who observed the voting and counting of votes shall be compiled by the precinct election commission on the basis of documents provided by these persons.

15. A member of the precinct election commission shall be immediately suspended from participation in its work, and an observer or other persons shall be removed from the polling station, if they violate the legislation of the Russian Federation on elections and the fact of such violation is established in court. Law enforcement agencies shall ensure enforcement of the relevant court decisions. Law enforcement agencies shall also provide in accordance with federal laws security and public order at the voting premises and at the polling station.

16. Political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, their proxies and authorized representatives, candidates, and organizations whose founders, proprietors, owners and (or) members of the governing bodies include the said persons and organizations, other natural and legal persons acting at the request of or on behalf of such persons and entities shall be prohibited to perform any actions aimed at providing delivery of voters to participate in the voting.

## **Article 82. Early Voting**

1. Election commissions of a Russian Federation subject may authorize the holding of early (but no earlier than 20 days before voting day) voting of all voters in one or more polling stations established in inaccessible or remote areas, on vessels that will be at sea on the voting day, at polar stations. The Central Election Commission may authorize the holding of early (but no earlier than 15 days before the voting day) voting of all voters in one or more polling stations established outside the territory of the Russian Federation. In these cases, early voting shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements of Article 81 of the present Federal Law. Counting of votes and establishing voting results shall be carried out immediately after the end of early voting in accordance with the requirements of Article 85 of the present Federal Law.

2. If particular groups of voters included in the voter list at the respective electoral precinct are located in places far from the voting premises, transportation links to which are absent or difficult, and it is therefore impossible to hold early voting in the electoral precinct as a whole, in accordance with part 1 of this Article, the election commission of a

subject of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to allow these groups of voters to vote early (but no earlier than 20 days before the voting day) during several days in the manner prescribed by Parts 3 - 9 of the present Article. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to allow early voting for groups of voters residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation (but no earlier than 15 days before the voting day) during several days in the manner prescribed by Parts 3 - 9 of this Article.

3. To conduct early voting referred to in Part 2 of this Article, mobile ballot boxes shall be used, the number of which shall be determined by the respective precinct election commission. Mobile ballot boxes shall be made of transparent or semi-transparent material in accordance with the specifications for technical equipment approved by the Central Election Commission. Prior to the early voting empty mobile ballot boxes shall be presented at the premises of the precinct election commission to the majority of members of the precinct election commission, as well as to the present persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, with an act drawn to that effect. After that empty mobile ballot boxes shall be stamped (sealed).

4. On the front side of each ballot issued to the voter who votes early, in the top right corner, two voting members of the precinct election commission shall place their signatures, which shall be certified by the seal of the precinct election commission. If the ballot is made in the form of a brochure, these seal and signature shall be placed in the upper right corner of the first page of the brochure. An uncertified ballot shall be regarded as a ballot of non-conforming form and shall not be counted during the counting of votes.

5. Early voting outside polling station shall be carried out by at least two voting members of the precinct election commission, who must have a stamped (sealed) in the precinct election commission mobile ballot box, the necessary number of ballots of the conforming form, an extract from the voter list containing the data of voters to whom they are travelling for early voting, or the voter list, as well as the necessary writing materials (except pencils) to fill the ballots. Voting outside polling station may be held by one voting member of the precinct election commission, provided that it is done in the presence of at least two persons from among the persons specified in Part 10 of this Article.

6. A voter who votes early shall sign for the receipt of each ballot issued to him in the extract from the voter list or in the voter list. In this extract or list members of the precinct election commission conducting early voting shall make a note of the fact that the voter voted early, and indicate the date and time of voting. If the voter signed the extract from the voter list, these notes, as well as the series and number of passport or the document replacing the passport, shall be entered in the voter list after the end of early voting. The extract shall be stored together with the voter list.

7. The voter shall fill ballots and put them into a mobile ballot box in the manner stipulated in Article 81 of this Federal Law.

8. An act shall be drawn up on early voting, stating the date and time of voting, the number of voters who received ballots to participate in the early voting, the names of the members of the election commission, other persons present at the voting. This act shall be stored together with the mobile ballot box.

9. From the end of early voting the ballot slots in mobile ballot boxes shall be sealed by the

chair of the precinct election commission. Storage of mobile ballot boxes shall be ensured by the secretary of the precinct election commission. Mobile ballot boxes shall not be opened until the start of direct counting of the votes at the polling station. Mobile ballot boxes with ballots filled by the voters who voted early may not be used for voting on the voting day.

10. Persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law may be present during early voting. During the early voting using mobile ballot boxes, the precinct election commission shall ensure for at least two persons from among its members with an advisory vote, observers appointed by different political parties, equal opportunities to travel to the place of early voting to those of the precinct election commission voting members with.

11. The dates of early voting shall be set by decision of the respective precinct election commission and shall be communicated to the voters and persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Law through mass media or otherwise.

12. During early voting the precinct election commission shall ensure the secrecy of voting, exclude the possibility of distortion of the voters' will, ensure security of ballots and counting of votes in establishing voting results.

### **Article 83. The Procedure for Voting Outside the Polling Station**

1. Precinct election commission shall provide the opportunity to participate in the voting to voters who are eligible to be included or are included in the voter list at this polling station, but for valid reasons (state of health, disability) are unable to arrive at the polling station on their own. The precinct election commission shall also provide an opportunity to participate in the voting to voters who are included in the voter list at this polling station and are in places of detention for suspects and accused of committing crimes.

2. Voting outside the polling station, except as provided for in Article 82 of this Federal Law, shall be carried out only on voting day on the basis of a written application (verbal request) of the voter (including communicated with the assistance of other persons) to provide him with the opportunity to vote outside the polling station. This application (verbal request) may be lodged (made) by the voter at any time during 10 days prior to voting day, but no later than six hours before the end of voting time. The precinct election commission shall register all applications (verbal requests) in a special register, which shall be stored together with the voter list after the end of voting. The application (verbal request) received after the deadline shall be declined, and the voter or the person assisting in communicating the request shall be notified verbally to that effect at the time of receipt of the application (verbal request).

3. Record of the verbal request of the voter in the register in accordance with Part 2 of this Article shall contain the time of receipt of the request, surname, first name and patronymic of the voter who requested to vote outside polling station, address of his place of residence, and the signature of the member of the precinct election commission who received the request (telephone call, message, etc.). If the request is made with the assistance of another person, the register shall also record the surname, first name and patronymic of this person and the address of his place of residence. Upon arrival of the

members of the precinct election commission to the voter, the voter's request shall be confirmed by a written application.

4. The written application (verbal request) of the voter to grant him an opportunity to vote outside polling station shall state the reason due to which the voter is unable to arrive at the polling station. The application must contain the surname, first name and patronymic of the voter, the address of his place of residence. The precinct election commission in its session may recognize the stated reason, due to which the voter is unable to arrive at the polling station, unfounded, and on that basis deny the voter in voting outside polling station. The decision to deny holding such voting shall be immediately communicated by the election commission to the voter.

5. Chair of the precinct election commission shall declare that members of the precinct election commission will conduct voting outside polling station no later than 30 minutes prior to their upcoming travel (departure) for this voting, and invite advisory members of the precinct election commission and observers to be present during its conduct.

6. A precinct election commission shall have the necessary number of mobile ballot boxes intended for voting according to the present Article. Mobile ballot boxes shall be made of transparent or semi-transparent material in accordance with the specifications for technological equipment, approved by the Central Election Commission. The number of these boxes shall be determined by decision of the territorial election commission. The maximum number of mobile ballot boxes at one polling station used on voting day for voting outside the polling station, depending on the number of voters registered in the precinct, shall be:

1) up to 501 voters - 1 mobile ballot box;

2) from 501 to 1001 voters - 2 mobile ballot boxes;

3) more than 1,000 voters - 3 mobile ballot boxes.

7. By decision of the territorial election commission, the number of mobile ballot boxes for voting outside the polling station specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 6 of this Article, may be increased, but by no more than 1 mobile ballot box, if at least one of the following conditions is present:

1) the electoral precinct includes the territory of several localities, and the locality where the polling station is located is not within walking distance to the other localities during voting time;

2) within the territory of the electoral precinct there is a place of temporary stay of voters, where there is no polling station;

3) more than 50 voters over 80 years old and (or) disabled are registered within the territory of the electoral precinct, whose details are presented in accordance with paragraph 16.1 of Article 20 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";

4) when the voting day in elections of deputies of the State Duma is combined with the voting day in elections to the state bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation and (or)

local government, the voter has the opportunity to vote at the same time with more than two ballots.

8. By decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the number of mobile ballot boxes determined in accordance with Parts 6 and 7 of the present Article may be increased if ballots are produced in the form of brochures.

9. Voting members of the precinct election commission who conduct voting outside polling station shall receive ballots and sign for their receipt in the list of issued ballots for voting outside polling station. The total number of received ballots for each electoral district shall not exceed by more than 5 per cent the number of written applications (verbal requests), received by the time of travel (departure) of election commission members, but should be at least two ballots for each electoral district. Voting outside polling station shall be carried out by at least two voting members of the precinct election commission, who shall have with them a stamped (sealed) at the precinct election commission mobile ballot box, the necessary number of ballots of the prescribed form, the register referred to in Part 2 of this Article, or a certified extract from it containing information about voters and a record on received written applications (verbal requests) of voters to provide them with the opportunity to vote outside polling station, as well as the necessary writing materials (except pencils) to fill in ballots by voters. A reference mark shall be placed in the voter list that member(s) of the precinct commission has (have) left to the corresponding voter. Voting outside polling station may be held by one voting member of the precinct election commission, provided that it is done in the presence of at least two persons from among the persons specified in Part 15 of the present Article.

10. Voting outside polling station shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements stipulated in Article 81 of the present Federal Law.

11. On the written application to provide an opportunity to vote outside polling station the voter shall indicate the series and number of his passport or the document replacing the passport, and certify the receipt of each ballot with his signature. With the consent of the voter or at his request, this information may be recorded in the application by a voting member of the precinct election commission. Voting members of the precinct election commission shall certify the issuance of ballots with their signatures on the voter's application. The application shall also include a record if a new ballot paper is issued instead of a spoiled one. After the vote, the application shall be stored together with the voter list.

12. If the voter due to disability or for health reasons is unable to independently sign for the receipt of ballots or fill in the ballots, he may use assistance of another voter for this purpose in the manner prescribed by Part 10 of Article 81 of the present Federal Law.

13. Voting members of the precinct election commission conducting voting outside the polling station may issue ballots only to those voters whose applications (verbal requests) are registered in the register in accordance with Part 2 of this Article.

14. The series and number of passport or the document replacing the passport of the voters who voted outside polling station shall be entered in the voter list by voting members of the precinct election commission travelled based on the voters' applications (requests). At the same time an appropriate record shall be made in the appropriate

column (columns) of the voter list, signed by these members of the precinct election commission.

15. Advisory members of the precinct election commission, observers are entitled to be present during voting outside the polling station. The precinct election commission shall ensure for at least two persons from among its advisory members, observers appointed by different political parties, equal opportunities to travel to the place of voting outside polling station to those of the precinct election commission voting members. The organization of voting outside polling station shall exclude any violations of electoral rights of citizens, as well as the possibility of distortion of voters' will.

16. If the voter who made the application (verbal request) to provide him with the opportunity to vote outside the polling station arrived at the polling station after precinct election commission voting members were sent to him to conduct voting outside polling station, none of the members of the precinct election commission shall be entitled to issue him ballots in the polling station until the members of the precinct election commission conducting voting outside polling station at the application (verbal request) of this voter return and it is established that this voter had not voted outside the polling station.

17. At the end of voting with each mobile ballot box the precinct election commission shall draw up an act which shall state the number of ballots for each electoral district, issued to voting members of the precinct election commission who conducted voting outside polling station, the number of written applications by voters requesting the opportunity to vote outside polling station, the number of ballots issued to voters and returned (unused, spoiled by voters) ballots, as well as information about the voting members of the precinct election commission who conducted voting outside the polling station, advisory members of the precinct election commission and observers present during the voting outside the polling station.

## **CHAPTER 11. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING RESULTS. DETERMINATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS OF DEPUTIES TO THE STATE DUMA**

### **Article 84. Protocols of a Precinct Election Commission on Voting Results**

1. Precinct election commission shall formalise its decisions on voting results in the corresponding electoral precinct in two protocols: Protocol No 1 - on voting results in the single-mandate electoral district and Protocol No 2 - on voting results in the federal electoral district (hereinafter also - protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results).

2. Protocols of a precinct election commission on voting results may be compiled electronically. Transmission by precinct election commissions to higher election commissions of protocols on voting results compiled electronically, receipt of such protocols by higher election commissions, and input of the data contained in these protocols into GAS Vybory shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

3. If the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results are compiled on paper, each of them shall, as a rule, contain one page. If the protocol consists of more than

one page, each page must be numbered, signed by all present voting members of the precinct election commission, and stamped by the precinct election commission. Each protocol shall contain:

- 1) number of the protocol copy;
- 2) name of the election, date of voting, name of the electoral district, and for the single-mandate electoral district also its number;
- 3) the word "Protocol";
- 4) address of the polling station indicating the number of the polling station;
- 5) the following lines of the protocol:
  - a) line 1: the number of voters included in the voter list at the end of voting;
  - b) line 2: the number of ballots received by the precinct election commission;
  - c) line 3: the number of ballots issued to voters who voted early;
  - d) line 4: the number of ballots issued by the precinct election commission to voters at the polling station on voting day;
  - e) line 5: the number of ballots issued to voters who voted outside the polling station on voting day;
  - f) line 6: the number of cancelled ballots;
  - g) line 7: the number of ballots in mobile ballot boxes;
  - h) line 8: the number of ballots in the stationary ballot boxes;
  - i) line 9: the number of invalid ballots;
  - j) line 10: the number of valid ballots;
  - k) line 11: the number of absentee vote certificates received by the precinct election commission;
  - l) line 12: the number of absentee vote certificates issued by the precinct election commission to voters at the polling station prior to voting day;
  - m) line 13: the number of voters who voted with absentee vote certificates at a polling station;
  - n) line 14: the number of cancelled unused absentee vote certificates;
  - o) line 15: the number of absentee vote certificates issued to voters by the territorial election commission;

p) line 16: the number of lost absentee vote certificates;

q) line 17: the number of lost ballot papers;

r) line 18: the number of ballots not recorded during receipt.

4. Line 19 and subsequent lines of Protocol No 1 shall record the surnames, first names and patronymics of registered candidates included on the ballot in alphabetical order, and if their surnames, first names and patronymics are the same – other data on such candidates and the number of votes cast for each registered candidate.

5. Line 19 and subsequent lines of Protocol No 2 shall record the names of political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, in the order they appear on the ballot, and the number of votes cast for each federal list of candidates.

6. Each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results shall contain:

1) information about the number of complaints (applications) received by the precinct election commission on voting day and before the end of the counting of votes, attached to the protocol. If the complaint (application) indicates violations of the present Federal Law, other federal laws during voting both in the federal electoral district and the single-mandate electoral district, the complaint (application) shall be attached to the Protocol No 1 and listed in its corresponding column, and a copy of this complaint (application) shall be attached to the Protocol No 2;

2) surnames and initials of the chair, deputy chair, secretary and other members of the precinct election commission with decisive votes and their signatures (if the protocol is composed of more than one page - on each page of the protocol);

3) date and time (hours and minutes) of signing of the protocol (if the protocol is composed of more than one page - on each page of the protocol);

4) for the protocol issued on paper – seal of the precinct election commission (if the protocol is composed of more than one page - on each page of the protocol).

7. The numbers referred to in Parts 3 - 5 of this Article shall be entered in the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results in figures and in words.

### **Article 85. Procedure for Counting Votes and Compilation of Protocols on Voting Results by the Precinct Election Commission**

1. Counting of votes shall be carried out openly and publicly, with the announcement and corresponding consecutive entry into the enlarged forms of protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results of the results of actions carried out to count ballots and votes by voting members of the precinct election commission. Persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law shall be given an opportunity to be present during the counting of votes and to observe the counting.

2. At the end of voting time, chair of the precinct election commission shall announce that

only those voters who are already in the polling station may receive ballots and vote. Counting of votes shall begin immediately after the end of voting shall be carried out without interruption until the determination of voting results, which shall be communicated to all members of the precinct election commission, other persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 this Federal Law.

3. After the end of voting the voting members of the precinct election commission in the presence of the persons listed in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law shall count and cancel, by cutting off the lower left corner, unused ballots (separately for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district), and then announce and enter into line 6 of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district) the number of cancelled ballots, which is defined as the sum of the number of unused ballots and the number of ballots spoiled by voters during voting. After that members of the precinct election commission shall announce the number of cancelled unused absentee vote certificates, referred to in the act drawn up in accordance with Part 16 of Article 80 of this Federal Law, and enter it into line 14 of each protocol and its enlarged form. The cancelled ballots and absentee vote certificates may be examined by the persons present at the counting of votes referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, under the supervision of voting members of the precinct election commission.

4. The chair, deputy chairman or secretary of the precinct election commission shall announce and enter into line 2 of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district) the number of ballots received by the precinct election commission, and also announce and enter into line 11 of each protocol and its enlarged form the number of absentee vote certificates received by the precinct election commission.

5. Before direct vote counting members of the precinct election commission with decisive votes enter on each page of the voter list the following summary data for that page (separately for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district):

1) the number of voters included in the voter list at the end of voting (excluding the voters who were issued absentee vote certificates by the territorial and the precinct election commissions, as well as voters who were excluded from the voter list for other reasons). When establishing the number of voters included in the voter list at the end of voting for the single-mandate electoral district, the voters included in this list on the basis of absentee vote certificates shall not be counted if they received ballots for voting only in the federal electoral district;

2) the number of ballots issued to voters at the polling station on voting day (determined according to the number of voter signatures in the voter list);

3) the number of ballots issued to voters who voted outside polling station (determined according to the number of corresponding records on the voter list);

4) the number of voters who voted early (determined according to the number of corresponding records in the voter list);

5) the number of absentee vote certificates issued by the precinct election commission to voters in the electoral precinct before the voting day;

6) the number of voters who voted with absentee vote certificates at the polling station;

7) the number of absentee vote certificates issued to voters by the territorial election commission.

6. After the entry of data referred to in Part 5 of this Article each page of the voter list shall be signed the voting member of the precinct election commission who entered the data, who then shall announce the data and communicate it to the chair, deputy chair or secretary of the precinct election commission, other persons present during the count of the votes. The resulting data, defined as the sum of the data established in accordance with Part 5 of this Article on all pages of the voter list, shall be announced by the chair, deputy chair or secretary of the precinct election commission, entered on the last page of the voter list, certified with signature and the seal of the precinct election commission. The announced data shall be entered in the corresponding line of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district):

1) in line 1: the number of voters included in the voter list at the end of voting;

2) in line 3: the number of ballots issued to voters who voted early;

3) in line 4: the number of ballots issued to voters at the polling station on voting day;

4) in line 5: the number of ballots issued to voters who voted outside the polling station on voting day;

5) in line 12: the number of absentee vote certificates issued by the precinct election commission to voters at the polling station before voting day;

6) in line 13: the number of voters who voted with absentee vote certificates at the polling station;

7) in line 15: the number of absentee vote certificates issued to voters by the territorial election commission.

7. After conducting the actions specified in Part 6 of this Article, verification of the following control equation shall be carried out: the number of absentee vote certificates received by the precinct election commission shall be equal to the sum of the number of absentee ballots issued by the precinct election commission to voters at the polling station before voting day, and the number of absentee vote certificates cancelled at the polling station. If this control equation does not reconcile, the precinct election commission shall take a decision on additional counting of the data entered in the voter list and cancelled absentee vote certificates. If the control equation does not reconcile again after additional counting, the precinct election commission shall take the corresponding decision, which shall be attached to the protocol on voting results, in which this control equation does not reconcile, and shall enter the data on discrepancy into line 16 of the protocol and its enlarged form. If the control equation reconciles, digit "0" shall be entered in line 16.

8. After conducting the actions specified in Parts 6 and 7 of this Article, the persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law are entitled to review the voter list, and members of the precinct election commission with advisory vote are entitled to verify the correctness of the calculation.

9. Further work with the voter list cannot be carried out until the verification of control equations of the data entered into the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results in accordance with Part 22 of this Article. Until that time the voter list shall be placed in a safe or another place specifically adapted for storage of documents. Storage of the voter list that excludes access to it by persons in the polling station shall be ensured by the chair or secretary of the precinct election commission.

10. Direct counting of votes shall be carried out by the ballots located in ballot boxes by members of the precinct election commission with a decisive vote.

11. Advisory members of the precinct election commission, other persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law shall be entitled to be present during the direct counting of votes.

12. Direct counting of votes shall take place at the voting premises in specially designated areas equipped in a manner that ensures access to them by both voting and advisory members of the precinct election commission. Voting members of the precinct election commission, except the chair, deputy chair and secretary of the precinct election commission, shall be prohibited to use writing materials during the vote counting, except in cases provided for in Parts 14 and 17 of this Article. All actions of members of the precinct election commission shall be made within the sight of the persons present at the direct counting of the votes.

13. When sorting ballots the precinct election commission shall separate the ballots of non-conforming form, that is, produced unofficially, or not certified by this commission with or without special signs (marks) in the case it was used. Ballots of non-conforming form shall not be counted during the direct counting of votes. Such ballots shall be packed separately and sealed.

14. Ballots in mobile ballot boxes shall be counted first. Mobile ballot boxes with ballots filled by the voters who voted early shall be opened first, then the boxes with ballots filled by the voters who voted outside polling station on voting day. Before each mobile ballot box is opened, the number of voters who voted with the use of this mobile ballot box shall be announced, the integrity of stamps (seals) on it shall be inspected, and the chair of the precinct election commission shall offer to do the same to members of the commission, other persons present at the counting of votes. Counting of the ballots shall be conducted in such a way as to avoid violating the secrecy of voting, with ballots of non-conforming form separated. The number of retrieved ballots of compliant form shall be announced and entered in line 7 of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate district and the federal electoral district). If the number of ballots of compliant form found in the respective mobile ballot box for voting in the relevant district exceeds the number of records in the voter list for the voters who voted early, or the number of applications of voters signed to certify receipt of the ballot for voting on the relevant electoral district, all ballots for voting in the respective electoral district found in that mobile ballot box shall be deemed invalid

by decision of the precinct election commission, and a separate act shall be drawn to that effect, which shall be attached to the respective protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and which shall state the surnames and initials of members of the precinct election commission who conducted early voting or voting outside the polling station using that mobile ballot box. The number of ballots recognized in such case as invalid shall be announced, entered into the said act, and subsequently summed with the number of invalid ballots identified during the sorting of ballots. On the front side of each of these ballots on the squares to the right of information about the registered candidates or under this information, to the right of the names of political parties or under these names, a record shall be made of the reason for the invalidation of the ballot, which shall be certified by signatures of two voting members of the precinct election commission and the seal of the commission, and these ballots shall be packed separately, sealed and not counted in the further counting of votes.

15. Stationary ballot boxes shall be opened after inspection of the integrity of the stamps (seals) on them.

16. Voting members of the precinct election commission shall remove ballots from the envelopes (if envelopes are used). Ballots taken out from mobile and stationary ballot boxes shall be sorted into two piles - separately for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district. After that, voting members of the precinct election commission shall carry out the following actions (first with the ballots for voting in the single-mandate electoral district, while ensuring the safety of ballots for voting in the federal electoral district, and then with the ballots for voting in the federal electoral district). Voting members of the precinct election commission shall sort the ballots, putting them into separate piles, according to the votes cast for each registered candidate, each registered federal list of candidates, at the same time separating the ballots of non-conforming form and invalid ballots. When sorting ballots, voting members of the precinct election commission shall announce the voter's mark contained in the ballot and show ballots for visual inspection to the persons present at the counting of votes. Simultaneous announcement of the voters' marks contained in two or more ballots shall not be permitted.

17. Invalid ballots shall be counted and summed up separately. Ballots shall be considered invalid if they do not contain marks in the box to the right of the information on the registered candidates or under the specified information, to the right of the names of the political parties or under these names, or if they bear marks in more than one box. In case of doubt in determining the will of the voter that ballot shall be put into a separate pile. After the end of sorting the precinct election commission shall decide on the validity of each doubted ballot by voting, and on the reverse side of each such ballot a record shall be made on recognizing the ballot as valid or invalid. This record shall be certified by signatures of at least two voting members of the precinct election commission and the seal of the commission. The ballot recognized as valid or invalid shall be put in the appropriate pile of ballots. The total number of invalid ballots (taking into account the number of ballots deemed invalid pursuant to Part 14 of this Article) shall be announced and entered in line 9 of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district).

18. After that, the sorted ballots of conforming form shall be counted (each pile separately) according to the votes cast for each registered candidate, each registered

federal list of candidates. The ballots shall be counted by placing them one by one so that the persons present at the counting of votes, could see the voter's mark on each ballot. Simultaneous counting of ballots from different piles shall not be permitted. The data obtained, after its announcement, shall be entered in line 19 and subsequent lines of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district).

19. Voting members of the precinct election commission shall determine the number of valid ballots by summing up the data contained in line 19 and subsequent lines of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results, announce it and enter inline 10 of each protocol and its enlarged form (respectively for the single-mandate electoral district and the federal electoral district).

20. Voting members of the precinct election commission shall determine the number of ballots of compliant form for forth relevant district taken out from the stationary ballot boxes, announce it and enter it in line 8 of each protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results and its enlarged form.

21. After that, the sorted ballots may be visually examined by observers, foreign (international) observers under the control of voting members of the precinct election commission, and advisory members of this commission may verify the accuracy of the counting conducted.

22. After examination by advisory members of the precinct election commission, observers, foreign (international) observers with the sorted ballots, verification of control equations for the data entered into the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results shall be carried out in accordance with Appendix 5 to the present Federal Law, in the order established by the Central Election Commission. If these control equations do not reconcile, the precinct election commission shall take a decision on additional counting of data for all or some of the lines of the protocol in which these control equations do not reconcile, including additional counting of ballots. If after additional counting for lines 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this protocol control equations do not reconcile again, the precinct election commission shall draw up an act to this effect and attach it to the protocol, and enter the data on discrepancies in the special lines of the protocol: in line 17 "The number of lost ballots "and line 18 "The number of ballots not recorded in during receipt." If the number indicated in line 2 is greater than the sum of the numbers in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6, the difference between the number indicated in line 2 and the sum of the numbers in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be entered into line 17, and digit "0" shall be entered in line 18. If the sum of the numbers indicated in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 is greater than the number in line 2, the difference between the sum of the numbers in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the number in line 2 shall been entered into line 18, and digit "0" shall be entered in line 17. If after additional counting it becomes necessary to amend the protocol, a new blank protocol shall be filled out, and appropriate corrections shall be made in its enlarged form. If the control equations reconcile, digit "0" shall be entered in lines 17 and 18.

23. After the completion of counting ballots shall be packed in separate packages according to the votes cast for the registered candidates, registered federal lists of candidates. Invalid ballots and cancelled ballots shall be packed in separate packages. On each package of packed ballots, the number of ballots in the package shall be indicated, as well as the name of the registered candidate, the name of a political party marked in the

respective ballots, or the record: "Invalid ballots for the federal electoral district" or "Invalid ballots for the single-mandate district." So packed ballots, as well as ballots packed in accordance with Parts 13 and 14 of this Article, packed absentee vote certificates, voter list shall be placed in sacks or boxes, which shall indicate the electoral precinct number, the total number of all packed ballots, the total number of all packed absentee vote certificates. Sacks or boxes shall be sealed and may be opened only by a decision of a higher election commission or a court. These sacks or boxes may be signed by members of the precinct election commission with a decisive vote and with an advisory vote, as well as other persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law.

24. After carrying out all necessary actions and calculations, the precinct election commission shall hold its final session, at which it shall consider complaints (applications) about violations of the present Federal Law committed during the voting and counting of votes, after which the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results shall be signed and copies thereof shall be issued to the persons specified in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law. Each protocol shall be made in two copies and signed by all present voting members of the precinct election commission, and indicate the date and time (hours and minutes) of its signing. Protocols made with the use of technical means of counting votes or using electronic voting systems, shall acquire legal force after their signing by the said persons. Filling of the protocols with a pencil or amending the protocols shall not be permitted. Signing of a protocol in violation of this order shall constitute a basis for declaring the protocol invalid and conducting a recount of votes.

25. If during the filling of the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results some voting members of the precinct election commission are absent, a record of this shall be made in the protocols stating the reasons for their absence. The protocol shall be valid if it is signed by the majority of the established number of voting members of the precinct election commission. If during the signing the protocol the signature of at least one voting member of the precinct election commission is made by another member of the precinct election commission or by another person, this shall constitute a basis for declaring the protocol invalid and conducting a recount of votes.

26. When signing the protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results voting members of the precinct election commission who disagree with the entire protocol or its specific provisions shall be entitled to attach a dissenting opinion to the protocol, and a record to this effect shall be made in the protocol.

27. At the request of a member of the precinct election commission and other persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, the precinct election commission immediately after the signing of the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results (including those made anew) shall be required to produce and issue to these persons certified copies of the protocols. If the protocol is made in electronic form, its copy shall be made by printing the protocol on paper and certified in accordance with this Federal Law. Certified copies of the protocols issued shall be numbered. The precinct election commission shall record the issuance of a certified copy of each protocol in the respective register. A person who received a certified copy of the protocol shall sign in the register. Responsibility for the compliance of all data contained in the copy of the protocol with the data contained in the protocol shall be borne by the person who certified that copy of the protocol. If the copy of the protocol is made without the use of copiers, it shall not be required to indicate the surnames, first names and patronymics of members of the precinct election commission and their signatures.

28. The first copies of protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results, after the signing by all present members of the precinct election commission with a decisive vote and issuance of certified copies to the persons entitled to receive such copies, shall be immediately sent to the respective territorial election commission and may not be returned to the precinct election commission. The first copy of the protocols shall be accompanied with annexed dissenting opinions of voting members of the precinct election commission, complaints (applications) about violations of the present Federal Law received by the precinct election commission on voting day and before the end of the counting of votes, as well as decisions of the precinct election commission taken on these complaints (applications), and the acts and registers drawn up by it. Certified copies of these documents and decisions of the precinct election commission shall be annexed to the second copy of the protocols. The first copies of the protocols with the annexed documents shall be delivered to the territorial election commission by the chair, secretary or another voting member of the precinct election commission at the request of the chair. Other members of the precinct election commission, as well as observers sent to this precinct election commission are entitled to be present during the handover of the protocols. All election documents of precinct election commissions formed in electoral precincts outside the territory of the Russian Federation, including ballots, except for the first copies of the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results and the documents annexed thereto, submitted to the territorial election commission, shall be stored in the premises of diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Russian Federation for at least one year from the date of official publication of the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma, and then destroyed with drawing up an act to that effect as prescribed by the Central election Commission of the Russian Federation.

29. The second copies of the protocols of a precinct election commission on voting results shall be presented for review to the persons specified in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, and their certified copies shall be posted for public viewing in the place designated by the precinct election commission. If the protocol is made electronically, its second copy shall be made by printing out the protocol on paper and signing it by all members of the precinct election commission who were present at establishing voting results and the drawing up of the protocol. The second copies of the protocols together with the electoral documents referred to in the present Federal Law, including sealed ballots, lists of advisory members of the precinct election commission, and other persons referred to in paragraph 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, who were present at establishing voting results and the drawing up of the protocol, and the seal of the precinct election commission shall be handed over for storage to the respective territorial election commission not later than five days after the official publication of the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

30. Where the appropriate equipment is available, immediately after the signing of the protocols by the precinct election commission members, data of the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results from electoral precincts formed in inaccessible or remote areas, on the vessels which are at sea on the voting day, at polar stations or outside the territory of the Russian Federation, shall be transmitted by technical communication channels to the higher election commission, with the obligatory subsequent submission of the first copies of protocols and other electoral documents, provided for by Part 28 of this Article, to the higher election commission as soon as possible, either directly or through diplomatic representations and consular institutions of the Russian Federation.

31. The procedure for using technical systems to transmit information on the election of deputies of the State Duma, the order and timing of transmission, processing and use of such information, including the data from the protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results transmitted through technical communication channels, shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.

32. If, after the signing of the protocol of a precinct election commission on voting results and sending its first copy to the territorial election commission, the precinct election commission which compiled the protocol discovers an inaccuracy in lines 1 - 18 of the protocol (including clerical, typographical errors or errors in data tabulation) or if an inaccuracy is discovered by the territorial election commission during its preliminary verification of the protocol, the precinct election commission shall at its session consider making adjustments to lines 1 - 18 of the protocol. The precinct election commission, while informing of this session in accordance with Part 2 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, shall state that it will consider this issue. The decision made shall be communicated by the precinct election commission to its advisory members, other persons who were present when the previously approved protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results was drawn up, as well as mass media representatives. In this case, the precinct election commission shall draw up a protocol on voting results, which shall be marked as "Re-drafted". This protocol shall be immediately sent to the territorial election commission. The protocol previously presented by the precinct election commission to the territorial election commission shall be attached to the redrafted protocol. If it shall be necessary to make adjustments to line 19 and subsequent lines of the protocol, a recount of votes shall be made in the manner prescribed by Parts 16 and 17 of Article 86 of this Federal Law. Violation of this order of re-drafting of the protocol shall constitute a basis for recognizing this protocol invalid.

#### **Article 86. The Establishment of Voting Results by the Territorial Election Commission**

1. Based on the data of protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results, including the data transmitted by technical communication channels from the precinct election commissions formed in electoral precincts formed in inaccessible and remote areas, on vessels that are at sea on the voting day, at polar stations and outside the territory of the Russian Federation, the territorial election commission, after a preliminary verification of the correctness of protocols, no later than the third day after the voting day shall establish the results of voting in the respective territory by summing up all the data contained in the protocols. Tabulation of the data contained in the protocols shall be carried out directly by voting members of the territorial election commission. Persons referred to in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law are entitled to be present during this process.

2. Receipt of protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results, tabulation of the data contained in these protocols, and drafting of protocols of the territorial election commission on voting results shall be made in the same room. All actions of members of the territorial election commission on the acceptance of protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results, tabulation of the data contained in these protocols, and drafting of protocols of the territorial election commission on voting results shall be within sight of members of the territorial election commission, other persons mentioned

in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law. In this room there shall be enlarged forms of pivot tables of the territorial election commission, into which, immediately after the arrival of a chair, secretary or another voting member of a precinct election commission with the first copy of the protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results, the data of these protocols shall be entered, specifying the time of entry.

3. The chair, secretary or another voting member of the precinct election commission shall hand over the first copies of the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results together with the annexed documents to a voting member of the territorial election commission, who shall verify the correctness of the protocols and completeness of the documents annexed to them. If the GAS Vybory system is installed in the territorial election commission, the data contained in the protocols shall immediately be entered into GAS Vybory, while verifying reconciliation of the control equations of the protocol data. If, after entry of the data contained in the protocols into GAS Vybory, technical errors made during the entry are discovered, correcting data shall be entered into the GAS Vybory solely on the basis of a reasoned decision of the territorial election commission. If GAS Vybory is not used, reconciliation of the control equations shall be verified by a member of the territorial election commission who verifies correctness of the protocols.

4. If the protocol of a precinct election commission on voting results is drawn up with a violation of the requirements for drawing up protocols stipulated in the present Federal Law, the precinct election commission shall draw up a re-drafted protocol, in accordance with the requirements of Part 32 of Article 85 of the present Federal Law, and the originally submitted protocol shall remain in the territorial election commission.

5. If the protocol of a precinct election commission on voting results complies with the requirements for drawing up protocols stipulated in the present Federal Law, a member of the territorial election commission with a decisive vote shall enter the data contained in this protocol into the respective pivot table of the territorial election commission. Chair, secretary or another voting member of the precinct election commission, who submitted the protocol to a member of the territorial election commission, shall sign in the enlarged pivot table of the territorial election commission under the data of this protocol.

6. The data contained in the protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results, as it is entered into GAS Vybory, but not later than one day after voting day (for the protocols marked as "Re-drafted" or "Vote recount" - not later than one day from the date of drawing up such protocols) shall be posted by election commissions of an Russian Federation subject on Internet and kept there for at least one year from the date of official publication of election results for the State Duma.

7. Territorial election commission shall formalise its decisions on voting results in the appropriate territory in two protocols: Protocol No 1 - on voting results in the single-mandate electoral district and Protocol No 2 - on voting results in the federal electoral district (hereinafter also - protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results). Each protocol shall contain the following data:

1) the number of precinct election commissions in the respective territory;

2) the number of received protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results on the basis of which the respective protocol of the territorial election commission on voting results is drawn up;

3) the number of electoral precincts, in which voting results were invalidated, and the total number of voters included in voter lists in these precincts at the end of voting;

4) summary data for all lines of the respective protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results, as stipulated by Parts 3, 4 or 5 of Article 84 of this Federal Law;

5) the number of absentee vote certificates received by the territorial election commission, the number of absentee vote certificates issued to the lower precinct election commissions, the number of unused absentee vote certificates cancelled by the territorial election commission, the number of absentee vote certificates lost in the territorial election commission.

8. Before signing the protocol on voting results, the territorial election commission shall hold a final session, in which it shall consider complaints (applications) received by the commission (statements) about violations of the present Federal Law committed during the voting, counting of votes, determination of voting results. After that, the territorial election commission shall sign the protocols on voting results and issue certified copies thereof to the persons specified in Part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law. Each protocol of the territorial election commission on voting results shall be drafted in duplicate and signed by all present voting members of the territorial election commission, and indicate the date and time (hours and minutes) of its signing. Signing of the Protocol in violation of this order shall constitute a basis for the recognizing such protocol invalid. A voting member of the territorial election commission, who disagrees with the entire protocol or its specific provisions, shall be entitled to attach to the protocol a dissenting opinion, the record of which shall be made in the protocol.

9. The following documents shall be annexed to each copy of the protocol of the territorial election commission on voting results:

1) respective pivot table of the territorial election commission, which shall include the full data contained in all protocols No 1 or No 2 of precinct election commissions on voting results received by the territorial election commission;

2) acts on the handover by the territorial election commission of ballots for voting in the respective electoral district to precinct election commissions, as well as the cancellation of unused ballots stored in the territorial election commission, indicating the number of such ballots;

3) acts on the handover of absentee vote certificates to precinct election commissions, as well as the cancellation of unused absentee vote certificates stored in the territorial election commission, indicating the number and serial numbers of those certificates.

10. The pivot tables specified in part 9 of this Article shall be signed by the chair (deputy chair) and secretary of the territorial election commission.

11. The first copy of the protocols of a territorial election commission on voting results shall be accompanied with annexed dissenting opinions of members of the territorial election commission, as well as complaints (applications) about violations of the present Federal Law committed during voting, counting of votes, determining voting results received by the commission from voting day until the day of drawing up voting results

protocols by the territorial election commission, as well as decisions of the territorial election commission taken on these complaints (applications). Certified copies of the dissenting opinions, complaints (applications) and decisions of the territorial election commission shall be annexed to the second copy of the protocols.

12. The first copies of the protocols of territorial election commission on voting results, after they are signed by all present voting members of the territorial election commission, together with the annexed documents and protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results, shall be immediately sent to the district election commission. Protocols of the territorial election commission on voting results, the annexed documents and protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results sent to the higher election commission, may not be returned to the territorial election commission.

13. The second copies of the protocols of territorial election commission on voting results, together with the second copies of the pivot tables and acts referred to in part 9 of this Article, shall be presented for review to members of the territorial election commission, advisory members of higher election commissions, other persons specified in part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, and their certified copies shall be posted for public viewing at the place designated by the territorial election commission.

14. The second copies of the protocols of territorial election commission on voting results, together with the second copies of the pivot tables and acts referred to in Part 9 of this Article, lists the advisory members of the territorial election commission, and other persons referred to in part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, who were present at the determination of voting results and drawing up of the protocols, shall be stored by the secretary of the territorial election commission.

15. If, after signing the protocol of the territorial election commission on voting results and (or) the pivot table of the territorial election commission and sending their first copies to the higher election commission, the territorial election commission that drew up the protocol and the pivot table, or a higher election commission during its preliminary verification discovered an inaccuracy (including clerical, typographical errors or errors in data summation of the data contained in the protocols of precinct election commissions on voting results), the territorial election commission shall at its session consider making adjustments to the protocol and (or) the pivot table. The territorial election commission, while informing of this session in accordance with Part 2 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, shall state that it will consider this issue. The decision made shall be communicated by the territorial election commission to its advisory members, other persons mentioned in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law who were present when the previously approved protocol of the territorial election commission was drawn up. In this case, the territorial election commission draws up a protocol on voting results and (or) the pivot table, which shall be marked as "Re-drafted". This protocol and (or) the pivot table shall be immediately sent to the higher election commission. The previous protocol on voting results and (or) the pivot table submitted by the territorial election commission to the higher election commission shall be attached to the re-drafted protocol and (or) the pivot table. Violation of this order for drawing up re-drafted protocol and (or) pivot table shall constitute a basis for declaring the redrafted protocol invalid.

16. Upon detection of errors, discrepancies in the protocol on voting results received from the precinct election commissions, or if there are doubts as to the correctness of its drawing up, the territorial election commission in the course of its preliminary

verification of the protocol, or after its acceptance may decide to hold a recount votes by the precinct election commission or conduct a recount of votes in the respective electoral precinct on its own. Such recount may be conducted prior to the determination by the territorial election commission of voting results and drawing up of its protocol on voting results.

17. Recount of votes shall be carried out in the presence of the voting member(s) of the territorial election commission by the precinct election commission, which drew up and approved the protocol that must be verified, or by the territorial election commission which decided to hold the recount of votes. The election commission conducting a recount of votes shall notify members of the respective precinct election commission, other persons mentioned in Part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, who are entitled to be present during the recount of votes. Based on the results of the recount of votes the election commission, which conducted the recount, shall draw up a protocol on voting results, which shall be marked as: "Recount of votes". Drawn up and certified copies of this protocol shall be issued to the persons specified in part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law. If such a protocol is drawn up by a precinct election commission, it shall be immediately sent to the territorial election commission. The previously submitted to the territorial election commission protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results shall be attached to the re-drafted protocol. Violation by the election commission that conducted a recount of votes of this order of drawing up the protocol on voting results marked as "Recount of votes" shall constitute a basis for recognising this protocol invalid.

#### **Article 87. Determination by the District Election Commission of Election results in the Single-Mandate Electoral District and Tabulation of Votes in the Federal Electoral District**

1. On the basis of the data contained in the first copy of the protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results, the district election commission after preliminary verification of the correctness of their compilation but not later than on the fifth day after the voting day by tabulating these data shall determine election results in the single-mandate electoral district, and establish voting results in the federal electoral district in the territory of the single-mandate electoral district. Tabulation of the data contained in these protocols shall be carried out directly by the voting members of the district election commission.

2. Receipt of the protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results, tabulation of the data contained in these protocols, and drafting of protocols of the district election commission on the results of elections in single-mandate electoral district and on the results of voting in the federal electoral district in the territory of the single-mandate electoral district shall be carried out in the same room. All these actions of members of the district election commissions shall be within sight of the members of this election commission, other persons referred to in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law. Enlarged forms of pivot tables of the district election commission shall be in this room, into which the protocol data of territorial election commissions on voting results shall be entered, with the time of data entry. Data entry shall be performed immediately after the arrival of the chair, secretary or any other voting member of the territorial election commission with the first copies of the protocols.

3. The chair, secretary or another voting member of the territorial election commission shall hand over the first copies of the protocol of territorial election commission on voting results with the annexed documents to a voting member of the district election commission, who shall verify the correctness of the protocol compilation, completeness of the annexed documents and reconciliation of control equations.

4. If the protocol and (or) the pivot table of the territorial election commission on voting results are drawn up in violation of the requirements of this Federal Law for drawing up the protocol and (or) the pivot table, the territorial election commission shall make a re-drafted protocol and (or) the pivot table in accordance with the requirements of part 15 of Article 86 of the present Federal Law, and the originally submitted protocol and (or) pivot table shall remain in the district election commission.

5. If the protocol and (or) the pivot table of the territorial election commission on voting results are drawn up in accordance with the requirements of this Federal Law for drawing up the protocol and (or) the pivot table, a member of the district election commission shall enter the data contained in this protocol into the respective pivot table of the district election commission. Chair, secretary or another voting member of the territorial election commission, who submitted the protocol to the member of the district election commission, shall sign the enlarged form of the corresponding pivot table of the district election commission under the data contained in the protocol submitted by him.

6. The district election commission, on the basis of protocols No 1 of territorial election commissions on voting results, shall draw up the protocol No 1 on the election results in the single-mandate electoral district.

7. A registered candidate who received the highest number of votes compared to other registered candidates in the single-mandate electoral district shall be elected in this single-mandate electoral district. If the number of votes received by registered candidates is equal, the candidate who was registered earlier shall be elected.

8. The district election commission shall recognize the election results in the single-mandate electoral district invalid:

1) if violations this Federal Law committed during the voting or determination of voting results do not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will;

2) if the results of voting in the single-mandate electoral district are declared invalid in part of the electoral precincts, the voter lists in which at the end of voting in the aggregate comprise at least one-fourth of the total number of voters included in voter lists at the end of voting in the single-mandate electoral district;

3) by a court decision.

9. The district election commission on the basis of protocols No 2 of territorial election commissions on voting results shall draw up the protocol No 2 on voting results in the federal electoral district in the territory of the single-mandate electoral district.

10. Each protocol of the district election commission shall contain the following data:

1) the number of territorial election commissions formed in the single-mandate electoral district;

2) the number of protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results, on the basis of which the respective protocol of the district election commission is drawn up;

3) the number of electoral precincts in the respective electoral district, where voting results were declared invalid, and the total number of voters included in the voter lists in these precincts at the end of voting;

4) tabulated data in all lines contained in the respective protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results;

5) the number of absentee vote certificates received by the district election commission, the number of absentee vote certificates issued to the territorial election commissions, the number of unused absentee vote certificates cancelled by the district election commission and the number of absentee vote certificates lost in the district election commission.

11. The surname, first name and patronymic of the registered candidate elected deputy of the State Duma shall be entered into the protocol of the district election commission on the election results in single-mandate electoral district.

12. Before signing the protocols of the district election commission, this commission shall hold a final session, in which it shall consider complaints (applications) received by the commission about violations of the present Federal Law committed during the voting, counting of votes, tabulation of votes, determination of election results in the single-mandate electoral district. After that, the district election commission shall sign the protocols and issue certified copies thereof to the persons specified in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, and takes a decision on the election results in the single-mandate electoral district. Each protocol shall be drafted in duplicate and signed by all present voting members of the district election commission, and indicate the date and time (hours and minutes) of its signing. Signing of the Protocol in violation of this order shall constitute a basis for recognising such protocol invalid. A voting member of the district election commission, who disagrees with the entire protocol or its specific provisions, shall be entitled to attach to the protocol a dissenting opinion, the record of which shall be made in the protocol.

13. Each copy of the protocol of the district election commission shall be accompanied by the annexed:

1) respective pivot table of the district election commission, which shall include the full data contained in all protocols No 1 or No 2 of territorial election commissions on voting results received by the district election commission. The pivot tables of the district election commission on voting results in the federal electoral district and election results in the single-mandate electoral district shall also contain the data received by the district election commission from the respective protocols of territorial election commissions on the number of absentee vote certificates received by the territorial election commission, the number of absentee vote certificates issued to the lower precinct election commissions, the number of unused absentee vote certificates cancelled by the respective territorial election commission, and the number of absentee vote certificates lost in the respective territorial election commission;

2) acts on the handover of ballots by the district election commission to the lower election commissions, specifying the number of these ballots;

3) acts on the handover to the respective territorial election commissions of absentee vote certificates, specifying the number and serial numbers of these certificates.

14. Pivot tables of the district election commission referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article 13 shall be signed by the chair (deputy chair) and secretary of the district election commission.

15. The first copy of the protocols of a district election commission shall be accompanied with annexed dissenting opinions of members of the district election commission, as well as complaints (applications) about violations of the present Federal Law received by the commission from voting day until the day of drawing up the protocols by the district election commission, or their certified copies, as well as decisions of the district election commission taken on these complaints (applications). Certified copies of the dissenting opinions, complaints (applications) and decisions of the district election commission shall be annexed to the second copy of the protocols.

16. After signing the protocols and the pivot tables, the first copies of the protocols of the district election commission together with the annexed documents shall be immediately sent to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and they may not be returned to the district election commission. A certified copy of the decision of the district election commission on election results in the single-mandate electoral district shall also be immediately sent to the Central Election Commission.

17. The second copies of protocols of the district election commission on voting results and the second copies of the pivot tables shall be presented for review to advisory members of the district election commission, other persons specified in part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, and their certified copies shall be posted for public viewing at the place designated by the district election commission.

18. The second copies of protocols of the district election commission together with the second copies of the pivot tables, lists of advisory members of the district election commission, other persons referred to in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law who were present during the determination of election results in the single-mandate electoral district, tabulation of votes in the federal electoral district and the drawing up of the protocols, protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results, as well as other documents stipulated by this Federal Law, shall be stored by the secretary of the district election commission until the official publication of the overall election results of deputies to the State Duma, and then handed over to the election commission of a Russian Federation subject.

19. If, after signing the protocol of the district election commission and (or) the pivot table and sending their first copies to the Central Election Commission, the district election commission that drew up the protocol and the pivot table, or the Central Election Commission during its preliminary verification discovered an inaccuracy (including clerical, typographical errors or errors in data summation of the data contained in the protocols of territorial election commissions on voting results), the district election commission shall at its session consider making adjustments to the protocol and (or) the

pivot table. The district election commission, while informing of this session in accordance with part 2 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, shall state that it will consider this issue. The decision made shall be communicated by the district election commission to its advisory members, other persons mentioned in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law who were present when the previously approved protocol of the district election commission was drawn up. In this case, the district election commission shall draw up a protocol on voting results and (or) the pivot table, which shall be marked as "Re-drafted". This protocol and (or) the pivot table shall be immediately sent to the Central Election Commission. The previous protocol on voting results and (or) the pivot table submitted to the Central Election Commission shall be attached to the re-drafted protocol and (or) the pivot table. Violation of this order for drawing up the re-drafted protocol and (or) pivot table shall constitute a basis for recognising the re-drafted protocol invalid.

20. Upon detection of errors, discrepancies in the protocols on voting results received from lower election commissions, or if there are doubts as to the correctness of their compilation, the district election commission may decide to hold a recount votes in the respective electoral precinct, respective territory. Such recount may be conducted prior to the determination by the district election commission of voting results and drawing up of its respective protocol.

21. In the case stipulated by Part 20 of this Article, recount of votes shall be carried out in the presence of the voting member(s) of the district election commission by the election commission which drew up and approved the protocol that must be verified, or by the higher territorial, district election commission. The election commission conducting a recount of votes shall notify members of the respective election commission, other persons mentioned in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, who are entitled to be present during the recount of votes. Based on the results of the recount of votes the election commission, which conducted the recount, shall draw up a protocol on voting results, which shall be marked as: "Recount of votes". On the basis of this protocol changes shall be made to the protocol of the higher election commission on voting results. Drawn up and certified copies of this protocol shall be issued to the persons specified in part 5 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law. If such a protocol is drawn up by a lower election commission, it shall be immediately sent to the district election commission. The previously submitted to the district election commission protocol of the territorial election commission on voting results shall be attached to the re-drafted protocol. Violation by the election commission that conducted a recount of votes of this order of drawing up the protocol on voting results marked as "Recount of votes" shall constitute a basis for declaring this protocol invalid.

## **Article 88. Determination of Election Results in the Federal Electoral District**

1. On the basis of the data contained in the first copies of protocols of district election commissions on voting results in the federal electoral district in their respective territories, the Central Election Commission after preliminary verification of the correctness of the protocol compilation by summing up the data contained in them, not later than two weeks after voting day shall determine the election result of deputies of the State Duma in the federal electoral district. Summation of the data contained in these protocols shall be carried out directly by voting members of the Central Election Commission.

2. The Central Election Commission shall draw up the protocol on election results in the federal electoral district, which shall contain the following data:

- 1) the number of district election commissions;
- 2) the number of protocols of district election commissions on the basis of which the protocol is drawn up;
- 3) the number of electoral precincts, in which voting results in the federal electoral district were declared invalid, and the total number of voters included in the voter lists in these precincts by the end of voting;
- 4) tabulated data for all lines of the protocols of district election commissions on voting results of in the federal electoral district;
- 5) the number of absentee vote certificates received by the Central Election Commission, the number of absentee vote certificates issued to the lower election commissions, the number of unused absentee vote certificates cancelled by the Central Election Commission, the number of absentee vote certificates lost in the Central Election Commission;
- 6) share of votes (percent) cast for each federal list of candidates, from the number of voters who participated in the voting;
- 7) the names of political parties, whose federal lists of candidates are admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates, and the number of mandates due to each of these lists;
- 8) the numbers of regional groups of candidates from the federal lists of candidates, which are given deputy mandates, indicating to which group of subjects of the Russian Federation (with the names of subjects of the Russian Federation), which subject of the Russian Federation, which single-mandate electoral district or single-mandate electoral districts (with the names and numbers of single-mandate electoral districts) each regional group of candidates relates, and the number of mandates due to each of these regional groups of candidates;
- 9) surnames, first names and patronymics of the registered candidates elected deputies of the State Duma from each federal list of candidates, which are due deputy mandates, for each regional group of candidates.

3. On the basis of the protocol on election results in the federal electoral district the Central Election Commission shall take a decision on election results in the federal electoral district.

4. The Central Election Commission shall declare elections in the federal electoral district failed:

- 1) if no federal list of candidates received 5 per cent or more votes cast in the federal electoral district;

2) if all federal lists of candidates received in total 50 per cent or less votes cast in the federal electoral district.

5. The Central Election Commission shall declare election results in the federal electoral district invalid:

1) if violations committed during voting in the federal electoral district or during tabulation of voting results do not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will;

2) if the voting results in the federal electoral district were declared invalid in a part of electoral precincts, the voter lists in which by the end of voting in total comprised at least 25 per cent of the total number of voters included in the voter lists by the end of voting;

3) based on a court decision.

6. The number of voters who voted in the federal electoral district shall be determined by the number of the respective ballots of conforming form contained in the ballot boxes.

7. Deputy mandates shall be distributed to the federal lists of candidates, each of which received 5 or more percent of votes cast in the federal electoral district, provided that there are at least two such lists, and that in total more than 50 per cent of votes cast were cast for these lists. In such case other federal lists of candidates shall not be admitted to the distribution of mandates.

8. If the federal lists of candidates, each of which received 5 percent or more votes cast in the federal electoral district, together received 50 percent or less votes cast, mandates shall be distributed to these lists, as well as sequentially in the decreasing order to the number of votes cast also to the federal lists of candidates that received less than 5 per cent of votes cast, until the total number of votes cast for the federal lists of candidates admitted distribution of deputy mandates exceeds in the aggregate 50 percent of votes cast.

9. If one federal list of candidates received more than 50 per cent of votes cast in the federal electoral district, and other federal lists of candidates received less than 5 per cent of votes cast, mandates shall be distributed to that federal list of candidates as well as the federal list of candidates that received the highest number of votes cast from among the federal lists of candidates which received less than 5 per cent of votes cast.

10. The federal lists of candidates admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates, shall receive these mandates in accordance with the method of proportional distribution of mandates provided for in Article 89 of the present Federal Law. When using this method, registered candidates elected to the State Duma in single-mandate electoral districts (if they are present on the list), shall not be taken into account.

11. Deputy mandates received by the federal list of candidates shall be distributed among the registered candidates on the federal part of the federal list of candidates and registered candidates in the regional groups of candidates, in accordance with the method of proportional distribution of mandates provided for in Article 89 of this Federal Law.

12. Deputy mandates shall be distributed between registered candidates in the order of their placement in the federal list of candidates established during the registration of this list by the Central Election Commission and considered (within the federal part of a federal list of candidates and each of the regional groups of candidates) as the order for the receipt of mandates.

13. Protocol of the Central Election Commission on election results for the federal electoral district shall be signed by all present voting members of the Central Election Commission. The protocol shall include as an annex a pivot table that includes full data of all received protocols of district election commissions on voting results in the federal electoral district. Summary table shall be signed by the chairman (deputy chairman) and secretary of the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation.

14. A voting member of the Central Election Commission, who disagrees with the entire protocol of the Central Election Commission on election results in the federal electoral district, or its specific provisions, shall be entitled to attach to the protocol a dissenting opinion, the record of which shall be made in the protocol. Complaints (applications) about violations of the present Federal Law, received by the Central Election Commission from voting day until the day of drawing up the protocol, as well as decisions of the Central Election Commission taken on these complaints (applications), shall also be annexed to the protocol.

15. Certified copies of the protocol of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on election results in the federal electoral district and the pivot table shall be provided to all members of the Central Election Commission, other persons mentioned in Part 1 of Article 32 of this Law present during the determination of election results, as well as to representatives of the media.

16. If, after signing the protocol of the Central Election Commission on election results in the federal electoral district and (or) the pivot table, the Central Election Commission discovered an inaccuracy in them (including clerical, typographical errors or errors in summation of the data contained in the protocols of lower election commissions), the Central Election Commission shall at its session consider making adjustments to the protocol and (or) the pivot table. The Central Election Commission, while informing of this session in accordance with part 2 of Article 32 of the present Federal Law, shall state that it will consider this issue. The decision made shall be communicated by the Central Election Commission to its advisory members with, other persons mentioned in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law who were present when the previously approved protocol of the Central Election Commission on voting results in the federal electoral district was drawn up.

17. Upon detection of errors, discrepancies in the protocols on voting results received from lower election commissions, or if there are doubts as to the correctness of their compilation, the Central Election Commission may decide to hold a recount votes in the respective electoral precinct, respective territory, respective single-mandate electoral district. Such recount may be conducted not later than one day prior to the deadline established by this Federal Law for the determination of election results in the federal electoral district.

18. In the case stipulated by part 17 of this Article, recount of votes shall be carried out in

the presence of the voting member(s) of the Central Election Commission by the election commission which drew up and approved the protocol on voting results that must be verified, or directly by the higher election commission, or the Central Election Commission. The election commission conducting a recount of votes shall notify members of the respective election commission, other persons mentioned in part 5 of Article 32 of this Federal Law, who are entitled to be present during the recount of votes. Based on the results of the recount of votes the election commission, which conducted the recount, shall draw up a protocol on voting results, which shall be marked as: "Recount of votes". On the basis of this protocol changes shall be made in all protocols of higher election commissions on voting results. The previously submitted protocol on voting results shall be attached to the re-drafted protocol. Violation of this order of drawing up the protocol on voting results marked as "Recount of votes" shall constitute a basis for recognising this protocol invalid.

### **Article 89. Method of Proportional Distribution of Mandates**

1. The Central Election Commission shall calculate the sum of the votes cast for the federal lists of candidates admitted to the distribution of mandates in accordance with the rules provided by parts 7 - 9 of Article 88 of this Federal Law. This sum of votes is divided by 225 - the number of mandates to be distributed in the federal electoral district. The result is the first electoral quotient, which shall be used in the distribution of mandates between the federal lists of candidates.
2. The number of votes received by each federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates shall be divided by the first electoral quotient provided by part 1 of this Article. The whole part of the result of this division is the number of mandates allocated to the respective federal list of candidates as a result of initial distribution of deputy mandates.
3. If after the initial distribution of mandates carried out in accordance with part 2 of this Article, there remain unallocated mandates, the second distribution shall be made. Unallocated deputy mandates shall be allocated by one to the federal lists of candidates, which have the largest remainder fraction resulting from the division made according to part 2 of this Article. In case of equal fractions (after the decimal point to the sixth digit inclusive), preference shall be given to the federal list of candidates that received the greater number of votes.
4. After the distribution of mandates according to part 3 of this Article, they shall be initially distributed within each federal list of candidates among the regional groups of candidates and the federal part of the federal list of candidates (if any). Firstly, mandates shall be given to the registered candidates on the federal part of the federal list of candidates, in their order on that part of the list.
5. If, after giving mandates to the registered candidates in the federal part of the federal list of candidates, there remain mandates due to that federal list of candidates, these mandates shall be distributed within the list among the regional groups of candidates in the following order. The sum of the votes cast for the federal list of candidates in those subjects of the Russian Federation, groups of subjects of the Russian Federation, parts of territories of subjects of the Russian Federation, which correspond to the regional groups of candidates of the federal list of candidates, shall be divided by the number of mandates

remaining unallocated within the list. The result is the second electoral quotient of this federal list of candidates. The number of votes cast for each of the regional groups of candidates shall be divided by the second electoral quotient. The whole part of the result of this division is the number of mandates distributed to the corresponding regional group of candidates. If after these actions there remain undistributed mandates due to this federal list of candidates, they shall be distributed by one to the regional groups of candidates, which have the largest remainder fraction resulting from dividing the number of votes cast for each of the regional groups of candidates by the second electoral quotient of this federal list of candidates. In case of equal fractions, preference shall be given to the regional group of candidates, which received the greater number of votes. If in case of equality of votes cast for the regional group of candidates, the number of such groups is greater than the number of seats, the regional group of candidates to receive the mandate shall be determined according to the order of the regional groups in the federal list of candidates.

6. If in the process of distribution of mandates within the federal list of candidates one or more regional group of candidates does not have the required number of registered candidates, the remaining undistributed mandates shall be further distributed among the regional groups of the same federal list of candidates, which have registered candidates who did not receive mandates. If, by the time of additional distribution of mandates, there are regional groups of candidates which did not receive seats in the process of distribution by remainder in accordance with part 5 of this Article, and there are groups among them which have registered candidates who did not receive mandates, then mandates shall be distributed by one to each of these regional groups of candidates. This shall be done preserving the order for the distribution of mandates (in accordance with the values of the remainders) determined on the basis of the initially calculated second electoral quotient. If, during the additional distribution of mandates after exhausting the regional groups of candidates who did not receive mandates through distribution in accordance with the values of the remainders, there remain undistributed mandates, these mandates shall be distributed by one to the regional groups of candidates, which have the lowest additional distribution ratio, calculated for each of the regional groups of candidates with registered candidates who did not receive seats. This ratio shall be calculated by dividing the number of mandates obtained by the regional group of candidates by the number of votes cast for it. If this ratio is equal, the mandate shall be given to the regional group of candidates that received the greater number of votes. If, after such distribution, the number of additionally distributed mandates is greater than the number of regional groups of candidates which may receive them, the procedure of additional distribution shall be repeated the necessary number of times, with the said ratio calculated anew each time. Additional distribution of mandates shall also be made in other cases stipulated by this Federal Law.

7. If, after the distribution of mandates between the federal lists of candidates conducted in accordance with parts 1 - 3 of this Article, it shall be necessary to additionally allocate one or more mandate between all federal lists of candidates, or between some of them, this allocation shall be done as follows. Firstly, mandates shall be allocated to the federal lists of candidates which have not received mandates during their distribution in accordance with the values of the remainder as provided for by part 3 of this Article, and then the allocation of mandates shall be carried out in accordance with the additional distribution ratio for each federal list of candidates, calculated by dividing the total number of mandates obtained by the respective federal list of candidates by the number of votes cast for that list. The mandates shall be allocated by one to the federal lists of

candidates, which have the lowest ratio. If the ratios are equal, the mandate shall be allocated to the federal list of candidates that received the greater number of votes. If, after such distribution, the number of additionally distributed mandates is greater than the number of federal lists of candidates which may receive them, the procedure of additional distribution shall be repeated the necessary number of times, with the said ratio calculated anew each time. The mandates allocated to the federal list of candidates shall be given to the registered candidates in the federal part of the list who did not receive mandates, and if there are none –to the registered candidates in the regional groups of candidates of this list, according to the method of additional distribution of mandates provided by part 6 of this Article. Additional distribution of mandates shall be made only to the federal lists of candidates that have registered candidates who did not receive mandates.

8. If, after the initial distribution of mandates within the federal list of candidates, a mandate becomes vacant, it shall be given to the registered candidate from the same federal list of candidates. The mandate shall be given to the first registered candidate from among the registered candidates who did not receive mandates in the same regional group of candidates (federal part of the federal list of candidates) than the registered candidate whose mandate became vacant. If in the respective regional group of candidates (federal part of the federal list of candidates) there are no registered candidates who did not receive mandates, the vacant mandate shall be allocated among the other regional groups of candidates of the same federal list of candidates in accordance with the method of additional distribution of mandates provided for in part 6 of this Article.

9. If in the process of distribution of mandates within the federal list of candidates there will be no registered candidates who did not receive mandates, the remaining undistributed mandates shall remain vacant until the next elections to the State Duma, except for the case provided by part 10 of this Article.

10. If after the implementation of provisions specified in part 9 of this Article, the State Duma is lacking the legal quorum, the unallocated mandates shall be given to the federal lists of candidates not admitted to the distribution of seats in accordance with the requirements of parts 7 - 9 of Article 88 of this Federal Law, which received the number of votes greater than the first electoral quotient. In this case each of these federal lists of candidates shall be entitled to receive mandates not exceeding the number of mandates that it could receive if it were admitted to the distribution of mandates together with the federal list of candidates mentioned in parts 7 - 9 of Article 88 of this Federal Law. These mandates shall be distributed between the federal lists of candidates not admitted to the distribution of mandates in accordance with the requirements stipulated in parts 7 - 9 of Article 88 of this Federal Law, which received the number of votes greater than the first electoral quotient, proportionally to their number of votes according to the method of distribution of seats provided for in this Article.

## **Article 90. Establishment of the General Election Results to the State Duma**

1. The Central Election Commission on the basis of its protocol on the election results in the federal electoral district, its decision on election results in the federal electoral district, as well as on the basis of the protocols and decisions of district election commissions on election results in single-mandate electoral districts, not later than two weeks after voting day, shall establish the general election results of deputies to the State Duma.

2. The Central Election Commission shall declare elections in a single-mandate electoral district invalid if violations committed during voting or during tabulation of voting results do not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will.

### **Article 91. Repeat Elections**

1. If elections are declared failed or invalid in the respective electoral district on the grounds specified in Articles 87, 88, 90 and 100 of this Federal Law, or their results annulled in accordance with part 5 of Article 92 of this Federal Law, the Central Election Commission shall appoint repeat elections in that district. If the State Duma is elected without a legal quorum or became lacking legal quorum due to the actions provided for in parts 3 - 5 of Article 92 of this Federal Law, repeat elections shall be held no later than four months from the date of determination of the respective general election results, declaring elections failed or invalid, or from the date of annulment of their results. In other cases, repeat elections shall be held no later than one year from the date of declaring elections failed or invalid, or from the date of annulment of their results. During repeat elections deadlines for electoral actions may be reduced by decision of the Central Election Commission, but by not more than one-third. Notification about repeat elections of deputies to the State Duma shall be published in mass media no later than three days after the respective decision.

2. Repeat elections shall not be announced and conducted if as a result of these elections the deputy of the State Duma may be elected for a term of more than one year before the end of the constitutional term for which the State Duma was elected.

3. In case of a vacant mandate, deputy of the State Duma may not be nominated as a candidate in the repeat elections.

### **Article 92. Registration of Deputies of the State Duma**

1. After signing the protocol on election results in the respective electoral district, the Central Election Commission, district election commissions shall immediately send a notice of this to the registered candidates elected to the State Duma. A registered candidate who was elected deputy of the State Duma shall, within five days from the date of receipt of the notice, submit to the respective election commission a copy of the order (another document) to release him from duties incompatible with the status of deputy of the State Duma, or a copy of the document certifying that within three days from the date of receipt of the notice, he filed an application to be exempt from such duties.

2. If a registered candidate, was elected deputy of the State Duma in the federal electoral district, does not fulfil the requirement of Part 1 of this Article, his mandate shall be considered vacant, and shall be given by the Central Election Commission to another registered candidate from the same federal list of candidates in the order provided by part 8 of Article 89 of this Federal Law. Such mandate cannot be given to a registered candidate elected to the State Duma, who also failed to comply with the requirement of part 1 of this Article, or refused a mandate in accordance with part 3 of this Article, if his mandate is vacant.

3. A registered candidate who was elected deputy of the State Duma in the federal

electoral district, within five days from the date of receipt of the notice referred to in part 1 of this Article, shall have the right to refuse the mandate by submitting to the Central Election Commission a written application. In this case, his mandate shall be considered vacant, and shall be given by the Central Election Commission to another registered candidate from the same federal list of candidates, in accordance with the procedure provided by part 8 of Article 89 of this Federal Law. Such mandate cannot be given to a registered candidate elected to the State Duma, who failed to comply with the requirement of part 1 of this Article, or refused a mandate in accordance with this provision, if his mandate is vacant.

4. Submission by a registered candidate elected deputy of the State Duma in the federal electoral district of the application referred to in part 3 of this Article shall not entail the exclusion of such registered candidate from the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of mandates.

5. If a registered candidate elected to the State Duma in a single-mandate electoral district does not fulfil the requirement under part 1 of this Article, the Central Election Commission shall annul election results in the district and appoint new elections. If this requirement is not fulfilled by a registered candidate without compelling circumstances provided for by part 9 of Article 56 of this Federal Law, resulting in repeat elections, all expenses from the federal budget, incurred by election commissions in preparing and conducting repeat elections, shall be reimbursed by such registered candidate.

6. After the official publication of general election results to the State Duma and the fulfilment by the registered candidate elected to the State Duma of the requirement provided for in Part 1 of this Article, the respective election commission shall register such deputy and issue a certificate of election to the State Duma.

### **Article 93. Publication (announcement) of Voting and Election Results to the State Duma**

1. Voting results for each electoral precinct and each territory, election results for each electoral district in the amount of data contained in the protocols of the respective election commissions and directly lower election commissions on voting results, on election results, shall be made available for review by any voters, registered candidates, authorized representatives of political parties, observers, foreign (international) observers, representatives of mass media at their request immediately after the signing of the protocols on voting results, election results to the State Duma, by members of the electoral commission that receives such a request. These data shall be provided by the respective election commission.

2. The Central Election Commission, district election commissions shall provide preliminary data on election results to the State Duma to representatives of mass media as these data are received by the respective election commission.

3. Election commission of a Russian Federation subject no later than two weeks from the voting day shall officially publish in the regional state print media the data contained in the protocols of all territorial election commissions on voting results and the respective pivot tables. In case of recount of votes in specific electoral precincts, specific territories, the results of which are received by the district election commission after this deadline,

the district election commission shall submit to the election commission of a Russian Federation subject revised data, after which the election commission of a Russian Federation subject shall officially publish these data within one week from its receipt on the basis of its respective decision. Election commission of a Russian Federation subject may publish the pivot tables of territorial election commissions in one or more municipal periodicals or by publication of a special brochure that shall be sent to the state and municipal public libraries located in this subject of the Russian Federation, to organizations that publish mass media, to the regional offices of political parties registered in the subject of the Russian Federation.

4. Official publication of the general results of elections to the State Duma, as well data on the number of votes received by each registered federal list of candidates, each registered candidate, shall be done by the Central Election Commission within three weeks from voting day. In the same period, the Central Election Commission in its gazette shall officially publish the full data contained in the protocols of all district election commissions on voting results, election results.

5. Within two months after voting day, the Central Election Commission in its official gazette shall publish the information, including the full data contained in the protocols of all election commissions, except precinct election commissions, on voting results, election results to the State Duma, as well as biographical and other information on all elected deputies to the State Duma, in the amount established by the Central Election Commission. No later than seven days from the date of publication of this information it shall be posted by the Central Election Commission on Internet and maintained there for at least one year from the date of official publication of election results to the State Duma.

#### **Article 94. Procedure of using GAS Vybory**

1. In the preparation and conduct of elections to the State Duma, including the registration of voters, compilation of voter lists, tabulation of votes and determining election results, only GAS Vybory shall be used to timely transmit and process information.

2. Where there is appropriate equipment, the data from protocols of election commissions on voting results immediately after their signing shall be transmitted via telecommunication channels of GAS Vybory in machine-readable format to the higher election commission, with the mandatory subsequent submission to the higher election commission of first copies of the protocols on voting results, with the exception of cases specified in part 2 of Article 84 of this Federal Law.

3. The respective election commission by its decision shall form from among its voting members with and advisory members an oversight group over the use of GAS Vybory or its specific hardware. The competencies of this group shall be defined by the Federal Law "On the State Automated System Vybory".

4. All members of the election commission, observers have the right to familiarize themselves with any information entered into GAS Vybory and extracted from it in connection with the establishment of voting results, determination of election results to the State Duma.

5. From the beginning of voting until the signing by the respective election commission of the protocols on voting results, GAS Vybory, through the telecommunication channels of which data from lower election commissions is transmitted to higher election commissions, shall be used to observe the voting process and the establishment of its results. During that time, it shall be prohibited to transfer any data from the information centres of higher election commissions to the information centres of lower election commissions, except for the signals acknowledging information receipt.

6. Data on the course of voting and its results obtained with the use of GAS Vybory are preliminary information that has no legal value, except in cases of use of technical means for counting of votes and (or) systems for electronic voting in the manner prescribed by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", and for drawing up protocols of voting results in electronic format and their electronic signature in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

7. Second copies of the protocols of the precinct election commission on voting results shall include annexed computer printout of these protocols sent directly to the higher election commission and entered into GAS Vybory. Accuracy of the data contained in the computer printout shall be certified by a signature of the person responsible for their input.

8. The data on voter turnout in elections to the State Duma, on the preliminary and final voting results entered into GAS Vybory, shall be promptly available to Internet users (in "read only" mode) in the manner prescribed by the Central Election Commission.

9. Using in accordance with this Federal Law GAS Vybory data on political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, the candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral districts, as well as on the progress and preliminary voting results may be communicated to voters through public communications networks in the manner prescribed by the Central Election Commission.

#### **Article 95. Storage of Electoral Documents**

1. Documents of precinct election commissions (including ballots) shall be stored in guarded premises and handed over to higher election commissions within the deadlines established by this Federal Law.

2. Documents of the Central Election Commission, election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, of district, territorial election commissions, together with the documents of precinct election commissions submitted to them for storage, shall be stored for the periods established by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

3. Ballots, absentee vote certificates, voter lists, and signature sheets with voter signatures shall be stored for at least one year from the date of official publication of the election results to the State Duma.

4. First copies of protocols of election commissions on voting results, on election results to the State Duma and pivot tables, reports of election commissions on receipt of the funds allocated from the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections, and on the expenditure of these funds, final financial reports of political parties that have registered

federal lists of candidates, of their regional offices and candidates, shall be stored for at least five years from the date of official publication of election results to the State Duma.

5. In the case of court complaints (applications) on decision of an election commission on voting results, election results to the State Duma, or a criminal case related to the violation of electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation, the period of storage of the respective documents shall be extended until the entry into force a court judgment or completion of the criminal case in accordance with the law.

6. Responsibility for the security of the documents related to the preparation and conduct of elections to the State Duma shall be borne by the chair (deputy chair) and secretary of the respective election commission until the transfer of these documents to the higher election commission or to the archive or their destruction after expiry of storage time limits.

## **CHAPTER 12. FILLING VACANT DEPUTY MANDATES**

### **Article 96. Filling Vacant Deputy Mandates in the Federal Electoral District. Exclusion of a Registered Candidate from the Federal List of Candidates Admitted to the Distribution of Mandates**

1. In the event of early termination of mandate of a deputy of the State Duma elected on a federal list of candidates, the permanent collegiate governing body of the political party that nominated the list shall be entitled to offer the Central Election Commission another registered candidate from the same federal list of candidates to fill in the vacant mandate. This candidate shall be from among the registered candidates included in the same regional group of candidates (federal part) of the federal list of candidates as the State Duma deputy whose powers were terminated early. If the respective regional group of candidates (federal part) of the federal list of candidates has no remaining registered candidates or has only registered candidates who notified the said body of the political party in writing of their refusal to fill the vacant mandate, the body of the political party may nominate a registered candidate from another regional group of candidates (federal part) of the federal list of candidates. Nominations for the vacant deputy mandate shall be carried out in accordance with the charter of the respective political party. In that case, the Central Election Commission shall give the vacant deputy mandate to the registered candidate proposed by the said body of the political party. (As amended by the Federal Law of 05.10.2015 No 287-FZ.)

2. If, within 14 days from the adoption by the State Duma of the decision on early termination of mandate of a deputy of the State Duma, the political party does not exercise the right provided by Part 1 of this Article, the Central Election Commission in accordance with the procedure provided by part 8 of Article 89 of this Federal Law, shall give the vacant mandate to another registered candidate from the same federal list of candidates as the deputy of the State Duma whose mandate was terminated early. (As amended by the Federal Law of 05.10.2015 No 287-FZ.)

3. Registered candidate on the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of mandates shall be entitled to participate in the filling of (receiving) mandates no more than two times. (As amended by the Federal Law of 05.10.2015 No 287-FZ.)

4. Registered candidate on the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of mandates shall be excluded from that list in case of:

1) submission by a registered candidate of a written application to be excluded from the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates;

2) loss by the registered candidate of the right of passive suffrage;

3) the registered candidate becoming a member of another political party than the political party that included him in federal list of candidates;

4) exercising by the registered candidate of his right under part 3 of this Article;

5) declaring the registered candidate missing or dead by a final court judgment;

6) death of the registered candidate;

7) adoption by the appropriate election commission of a decision in accordance with part 6 of Article 92 of this Federal law on registration of the registered candidate as deputy of the State Duma, including in a single-mandate electoral district. (Paragraph 7 added by the Federal Law of 05.10.2015 No 287-FZ.)

5. The decision to exclude a registered candidate from the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of mandates on the grounds stipulated in part 4 of this Article shall be issued as a resolution by the Central Election Commission.

6. If the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates has no remaining registered candidates eligible to replace the vacant mandate, that mandate shall remain vacant until the next elections to the State Duma, with the exception of the circumstances specified in part 10 of Article 89 of this Federal Law.

### **Article 97. By-elections**

1. In the event of early termination of mandate of a deputy of the State Duma elected in a single-mandate electoral district, the Central Election Commission shall call a by-election of the deputy of the State Duma in this single-mandate electoral district. Voting in such by-election shall be held no later than one year from the date of vacancy of the mandate.

2. By-elections of deputies to the State Duma shall not be called and carried out if, as a result of these by-elections, the deputy of the State Duma shall be elected for more than one year before the end of the constitutional term of the respective State Duma.

3. By-elections of deputies to the State Duma shall be called no later than 85 days before the voting day.

4. Deputy of the State Duma may not be nominated as a candidate in by-elections to the State Duma.

5. During by-elections to State Duma the powers of a district election commission shall be carried out by the election commission of an respective Russian Federation subject.
6. Nomination of candidates for the single-mandate electoral district, their registration and other electoral actions during by-elections to the State Duma shall be carried out in accordance with this Federal Law.

## **CHAPTER 13. COMPLAINTS ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON ELECTIONS**

### **Article 98. Appeals Against Decisions and Actions (inactions) Violating Citizens' Electoral Rights. Control by Election Commissions over the Observance of Electoral Rights of Citizens**

1. Appeals against decisions and actions (inactions) violating citizens' electoral rights shall be made in a manner and within deadlines established by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".
2. Election commissions shall, within their competence, consider during the election campaign complaints about violations of this Federal Law, other federal laws with respect to the preparation and conduct of elections, received by them; verify these complaints, and reply to the persons who submitted the communications in writing within five days but no later than the day preceding the voting day. On complaints received on the voting day, answers replies shall be given immediately, and on complaints received after the voting day, but before the establishment of voting results, election results to the State Duma – before the decision on voting results, election results. If an additional verification of the facts alleged in the complaints is required, decisions on such complaints shall be made within ten days. If the complaint alleging violations of the present Federal Law, other federal laws with respect to the preparation and conduct of elections, is made by a political party that nominated a federal list of candidates or a candidate, representatives of that political party or candidate shall be promptly notified of the receipt of such complaint. These persons are entitled to provide explanations on the matter of the complaint.
3. In case of violation by a political party or a candidate of this Federal Law, the Central Election Commission, the district election commission, within its competence shall be entitled to issue are warning to that political party, candidate, which shall be made known to the voters through the mass media or otherwise.

### **Article 99. Grounds for the Annulment of Registration of a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate; Cancellation of the Election Commission's Decision to Register a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate, to Refuse Registration of a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate, to Exclude a Candidate from the Federal List of Candidates, to Cancel the Registration of a Federal List of Candidates, a Candidate**

1. Registration of a federal list of candidates shall be annulled by decision of the Central

Election Commission on the basis of a decision of a political party to revoke the federal list of candidates submitted to the Central Election Commission in accordance with Article 56 of this Law.

2. Registration of a federal list of candidates shall be annulled by decision of the Central Election Commission if the number of candidates, who were taken off the list following their declaration to withdraw from participation in elections to the State Duma, by a decision of a political party to exclude candidates from the federal list of candidates (except for withdrawal due to compelling circumstances), for the reasons stipulated in part 4 of Article 50 of this Law and part 7 of this Article, as well as due to exclusion from the federal list of candidates of regional groups of candidates, exceeds 25 per cent of the number of candidates in the certified federal list of candidates. Registration of the federal list of candidates shall also be annulled in case of withdrawal of candidates, exclusion of regional groups of candidates, resulting in less than 20 regional groups of candidates on this list.

3. Registration of a federal list of candidates shall be annulled by decision of the Central Election Commission on the basis of a final court decision to suspend the political party that nominated a federal list of candidates, or in the event of its liquidation.

4. Registration of a candidate shall be annulled by decision of the election commission that registered the candidate on the basis of his application to withdraw his candidacy submitted to that election commission.

5. Registration of a candidate shall be annulled by decision of the election commission that registered the candidate of his lack of the right of passive suffrage.

6. The initial registration of a candidate nominated for a single-mandate electoral district shall be annulled by decision of the district election commission in case of changes, in accordance with part 7 of Article 40 of this Law, to the single-mandate electoral district for which the candidate was initially nominated.

7. Decision of the district election commission on candidate registration shall be annulled by the Central Election Commission in case of violation of the requirements stipulated by part 6 of Article 51 of this Federal Law. In such case all decisions on candidate registration shall be annulled, except for the first.

8. Decision of the Central Election Commission on registration of the federal list of candidates, on refusal to register a federal list of candidates may be overturned by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upon application of the Central Election Commission, a political party in respect of which the decision was made, another political party whose federal list of candidates was registered, if it shall be determined that the decision of the Central Election Commission was adopted in violation of the requirements stipulated by part 3 of Article 50 of the present Federal Law, or other requirements of this Federal law.

9. Decision of a district election commission on registration of a candidate, on refusal to register a candidate may be overturned by the supreme court of a republic, by a district or regional court, court of the autonomous district, court of the autonomous region, and decision of a district election commission – also by the Central Election Commission according to Article 75 of the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees”, upon application of the

district election commission, the candidate in respect of whom the decision was made, or a candidate registered in the same electoral district, if it shall be determined that the decision of the district election commission was adopted in violation of the requirements stipulated by part 7 of Article 51 of the present Federal Law, or other requirements of this Federal law.

10. Registration of a federal list of candidates nominated by a political party may be cancelled by the Supreme Court upon application of the Central Election Commission or another political party whose federal list of candidates was registered, no later than five days before the voting day in the following cases:

1) newly discovered circumstances that constitute grounds for refusal to register a federal list of candidates according to paragraphs 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13 or 14 of part 3 of Article 50 of this Federal Law. Circumstances shall be considered newly discovered if they existed at the time the decision to register the federal list of candidates was made, but were not and could not be known to the Central Election Commission;

2) repeated use by the head of the political party of the advantages of his office or official position;

3) established fact of bribery of voters by the political party, its proxy, authorized representative, including on financial issues, as well as any other person or organization acting on their behalf;

4) use by a political party, its authorized representative on financial issues, in order to achieve a certain election results, in addition to the funds from its electoral fund also electoral funds of its regional offices (if there are such electoral funds), other funds amounting to more than 5 per cent of the limit of total expenditures from the electoral fund of a political party established by this Federal Law;

5) exceeding by the political party, its authorized representative on financial issues, of expenditures from the electoral fund by more than 5 per cent of the limit of total expenditures from the electoral fund of a political party established by this Federal Law;

6) non-compliance by the political party with the restrictions of paragraphs 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", as well as non-compliance by a candidate included in the registered federal list of candidates, with the restrictions of paragraph 1 of Article 56 of this Federal Law, if the political party that nominated the list does not exclude the candidate from the list in accordance with part 9 of this Article;

7) repeated non-compliance by the political party, which registered a federal list of candidates, with the restrictions of part 7 of Article 69 of this Federal Law;

8) establishment in respect of a political party of the fact that during the period referred to in paragraph 6 of part 8 of Article 4 of this Federal Law (but before the nomination of a federal list of candidates), this political party carried out activities described in point "g" of paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", as well as the establishment of such a fact in respect of a candidate included in the registered federal list of candidates, during the specified period (but prior to the citizen becoming a candidate), if the political party that nominated the list does not exclude the candidate from the list in accordance with part 15 of this Article.

11. Registration of a candidate on the registered federal list of candidates of a political party may be cancelled by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upon application of the Central Election Commission or another political party whose federal list of candidates was registered, in the following cases:

1) newly discovered circumstances that constitute grounds for exclusion of a candidate from the federal list of candidates according to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 or 11 of part 4 of Article 50 of this Federal Law. Circumstances shall be considered newly discovered if they existed at the time the decision to register the list of candidates was made, but were not and could not be known to the Central Election Commission;

2) repeated use by the candidate of the advantages of his office or official position;

3) established fact of bribery of voters by the candidate, as well as any other person or organization acting on his behalf;

4) non-compliance by the candidate with the restrictions of paragraphs 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";

5) established fact that the candidate concealed information about his criminal record;

6) established facts that the candidate opened or maintains accounts (deposits), keeps funds and valuables in foreign banks, located outside the territory of the Russian Federation, owns and (or) uses foreign financial instruments.

12. Registration of a candidate nominated for a single-mandate electoral district may be cancelled by the supreme court of a republic, by a district or regional court, court of the autonomous district, court of the autonomous region upon application of the district election commission that registered the candidate, a candidate registered in the same district, in case of:

1) newly discovered circumstances that constitute grounds to refuse registration of a candidate according to paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 or 17 of part 7 of Article 51 of this Federal Law. Circumstances shall be considered newly discovered if they existed at the time the decision to register the candidate was made, but were not and could not be known to the of the election commission that registered the candidate;

2) repeated use by the candidate of the advantages of his office or official position;

3) established fact of bribery of voters by the candidate, his proxy, authorized representative on financial issues, as well as any other person or organization acting on his behalf;

4) use by the candidate, in order to achieve a certain result in the elections, in addition to the funds from his electoral fund also other funds amounting to more than 5 per cent of the limit of total expenditures from a candidate's electoral fund established by this Federal Law;

5) exceeding by the candidate of expenditures from his electoral fund by more than 5 per

cent of the limit of total expenditures from a candidate's electoral fund established by this Federal Law;

6) non-compliance by the candidate with the restrictions of paragraphs 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";

7) repeated non-compliance by the candidate with the restrictions of part 7 of Article 69 of this Federal Law;

8) establishment in respect of the candidate of the fact that during the period referred to in paragraph 6 of part 8 of Article 4 of this Federal Law (but before becoming a candidate), this candidate carried out activities described in point "g" of paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees";

9) established fact that the candidate concealed information about his criminal record;

10) established facts that the candidate opened or maintains accounts (deposits), keeps funds and valuables in foreign banks, located outside the territory of the Russian Federation, owns and (or) uses foreign financial instruments.

13. A regional group of candidates may be excluded from the federal list of candidates on the basis of a decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upon application by the Central Election Commission, if the regional group of candidates exceeds expenditures from the electoral fund of the corresponding regional office of the political party by more than 5 per cent of the limit of total expenditures from that electoral fund established by this Federal Law.

14. A political party against which a criminal case had been initiated for the protection of electoral rights of citizens on the grounds of paragraph 6 or 8 of part 10 of this Article, shall have the right to exclude from its nominated federal lists of candidates the candidate, whose actions gave rise to court proceedings. Exclusion by the political party of such candidate from the federal list of candidates prior to the court's judgment shall constitute a ground for termination of the proceedings.

15. In case of non-compliance by the political party with the restrictions of paragraph 1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", or commission by the citizen prior to becoming a candidate, or by the political party prior to nominating its federal list of candidates, of actions provided for respectively in point "g" of paragraph 7 and point "g" of paragraph 8 of Article 76 of this Federal Law, and in cases provided for in paragraphs 2 - 5 of Part 10 of this Article, registration of the federal list of candidates may be cancelled by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upon application by a prosecutor.

16. Application to cancel the registration of a federal list of candidates, a candidate, exclude a regional group of candidates from the federal list of candidates, may be submitted to a court no later than eight days before the voting day.

### **Article 100. Cancellation of the Election Commission Decision on Voting Results, Election Results to the State Duma**

1. If during the voting or determination of voting results there were violations of this

Federal Law, Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees", the higher election commission, prior to establishing voting results, election results to the State Duma, may cancel the decision of a lower election commission on voting results, election results and decide to hold a recount of votes, and if the violations do not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will - declare the voting results, election results invalid.

2. After the establishment of voting results, election results to the State Duma by a higher election commission, decision of a lower election commission on voting results, election results may be cancelled only by a court, or the court may decide to amend the protocol of the election commission on voting results, election results and (or) the pivot table. The election commission which decided to apply to a court to cancel voting results, election results, amend the protocol and (or) the pivot table shall inform the Central Election Commission of this decision. If the court decides to amend the protocol of the election commission and (or) the pivot table, the election commission that drafted the protocol and (or) the pivot table shall draw up a new protocol on voting results, election results marked as "Re-drafted" and (or) a new pivot table marked as "Re-drafted".

3. The Court of the respective level may cancel the decision of an election commission on voting results in the case of:

1) violations of the rules for compiling voter lists, if the violation does not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will;

2) violation of the procedure of voting and establishing of voting results, if the violation does not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will;

3) obstruction to observation of voting and counting of votes, if the violation does not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will;

4) violation of the procedure of formation of election commission, if the violation does not allow to determine the real will of the voters;

5) other violations of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections to the State Duma, if these violations not allow to determine the real will of the voters.

4. The respective court, upon application of a voter challenging the voting results in a precinct where the voter voted in elections, may cancel the decision of the precinct election commission on voting results in that precinct in cases referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of part 3 of this Article.

5. Cancellation by a court of decision of an election commission on voting results because violations do not allow to reliably determine the results of expression of the voters' will (determine the real will of the voters) shall entail declaration of these voting results invalid by the respective election commission.

6. The Court may cancel the decision of the Central Election Commission on election results to the State Duma, of the district election commission on election results in the respective single-mandate district after their determination, if one of the following circumstances is established:

- 1) a political party whose federal list of candidates was admitted to the distribution of mandates, an elected candidate spent on the election campaign in addition to funds from the electoral fund, and the political party - also in addition to the electoral funds of its regional offices, - other funds amounting to more than 10 per cent of the total limit of expenditures from the electoral fund of a political party, candidate, established by this Federal Law;
- 2) a political party whose federal list of candidates was admitted to the distribution of mandates, an elected candidate bribed voters and this violation does not allow to determine the real will of the voters;
- 3) a political party whose federal list of candidates was admitted to the distribution of mandates, an elected candidate during the election campaign did not comply with the restrictions of part 1 of Article 69 of this Federal Law, and this violation does not allow to determine the real will of the voters;
- 4) the leader of a political party whose federal list of candidates was admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates, an elected candidate took advantages of office or official position and this violation does not allow to determine the real will of the voters;
- 5) after the voting day, declaring illegal the refusal to register a federal list of candidates, a candidate, if this violation does not allow to determine the real will of the voters;
- 6) establishing other violations of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections to the State Duma, if these violations do not allow to determine the real will of the voters.
7. The respective court, having cancelled the decision of an election commission on voting results, may decide to hold a recount of votes, if during the voting or determination of voting results there had been violations of this Federal Law, Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees".
8. Cancellation by an election commission or a court of the decision on election results, if the violations do not allow to establish the real will of the voters, shall entail declaring election results in the relevant electoral district invalid.
9. Violations of this Federal Law may not become grounds for the annulment of decisions of election commissions on voting results, election results, for the recognition of voting results, election results invalid, if these violations facilitated election of candidates or were intended to encourage or encouraged voters to vote for the federal lists of candidates, who based on the results of voting were not admitted to the distribution of mandates.
10. Violations by specific political parties referred to in part 4 of this Article may result in the cancellation by the court of the decision on admission of the federal lists of candidates nominated by these political parties to the distribution of mandates, and re-distribution of mandates.
11. Violation by a regional group of candidates of the requirements of this Federal law, by exceeding expenditures from the electoral fund of the corresponding regional office of a political party by more than 10 per cent of the total limit of expenditures from that electoral fund established by this Federal Law, shall entail cancellation by the court of the

decision to allocate mandates to that regional group of candidates, and the re-distribution of mandates within the federal list of candidates.

12. If voting results in a precinct, territory, in a single-mandate electoral district were declared invalid after the drawing up by the respective directly superior election commission the protocol on voting results, election results, that election commission shall draw up a new protocol on voting results, election results, marked as "Re-drafted".

13. On the basis of the protocols on voting results marked "Re-drafted" or "Recount of votes", drawn up after the drafting by the higher election commission of the protocol on voting results, election results and the pivot table, that protocol and the pivot table of the higher election commission shall be amended accordingly.

#### **Article 101. Responsibility for violation of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections of deputies to the State Duma**

Responsibility for violation of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections of deputies to the State Duma shall be established by federal laws.

### **CHAPTER 14. FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 102. Final Provisions**

1. Where the municipality does not have a head of the local administration and the charter of the municipality does not identify the person authorized to exercise electoral actions in accordance with this Federal Law, these electoral actions shall be carried out by the highest official of the subject of the Russian Federation (head of the highest executive body of the subject of the Russian Federation) or another official delegated by him.

2. After the entry into force of this Federal Law, the first map of single-mandate districts shall be developed in the established order and submitted by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to the State Duma by 5 September 2015. This map shall be approved by a federal law, which shall be published no later than 5 December 2015. If that federal law is not been published within that period, the map of single-mandate electoral districts shall be approved by the Central Election Commission no later than one month from the expiry of the said deadline, and in case of dissolution of the State Duma - no later than 10 days from the date of decree of the President of the Russian Federation dissolving the State Duma.

3. Election of deputies to the State Duma of the seventh convocation shall be held on the third Sunday of September in 2016. (Part 3 added by the Federal Law of 14.07.2015 No 272-FZ.)

4. The State Duma of the seventh convocation shall hold its first meeting no later than on the thirtieth day after its election. (Part 4 added by the Federal Law of 14.07.2015 No 272-FZ.)

## **Article 103. Repealed Legislative Acts (Provisions of Legislative Acts) of the Russian Federation**

The following shall be repealed:

- 1) Federal Law of 18 May 2005 No 51-FZ "On elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2005, No 21, Article 1919);
- 2) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 12 July 2006 No 106-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation to clarify the order of nomination of candidates for elected positions in government" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2006, No 29, Article 3124);
- 3) Article 4 of the Federal Law of 12 July 2006 No 107-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation to cancel the form of voting against all candidates (against all lists of candidates) (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2006, No 29 , Article 3125);
- 4) Article 10 of the Federal Law of 25 July 2006 No 128-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation to clarify the requirements for filling state and municipal offices" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2006, No 31, Article 3427);
- 5) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 30 December 2006 No 274-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation regarding restrictions on donations by non-profit organizations to political parties and their regional offices, as well as to electoral funds, referendum funds" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2007, No1, Article 37);
- 6) Article 6 of the Federal Law of 26 April 2007 No 64-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the adoption of the Federal Law "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" and the Civil Procedural Code of the Russian Federation", as well as to ensure the implementation of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections and referendums"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2007, No 18, Article 2118);
- 7) Federal Law of 21 July 2007 No 188-FZ "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2007, No 30, Article 3802);
- 8) Article 10 of the Federal Law of 24 July 2007 No 211-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in connection with the improvement of public administration in the field of counteracting extremism" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2007, No 31, Article 4008);
- 9) Article 30 of the Federal Law of 24 July 2007 No 214-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the adoption of the Federal Law "On amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation and the Federal

Law "On the Prosecutor's Office"(Collection of Legislation of the of the Russian Federation, 2007, No 31, Article 4011);

10) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 12 May 2009 No 3-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the cancellation of electoral deposit in elections" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2009, No 7, Article 771);

11) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 12 May 2009 No 94-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the increase of representation of voters in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2009, No 20, Article 2391);

12) Article 4 of the Federal Law of 19 July 2009 No 196-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the change of the term of the President of the Russian Federation and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2009 No 29, Article 3633);

13) Article 3 of the Federal Law of 19 July 2009 No 203-FZ "On amendments to legislative acts of the Russian Federation on elections and referendums in the provision of air time and print space for election campaign" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2009, No 29, Article 3640);

14) Article 4 of the Federal Law of 27 July 2010 No 222-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the establishment of additional guarantees to ensure equal conditions in providing premises for meetings with voters, referendum participants" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2010, No 31, Article 4191);

15) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 4 October 2010 No 263-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to clarifying procedure for the use of absentee vote certificates for elections and referendums" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2010, No 41, Article 5192);

16) Federal Law of 29 November 2010 No 325-FZ "On amendments to Article 36 of the Federal Law "On elections of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2010, No 49, Article 6421);

17) Federal Law of 23 December 2010 No 384-FZ "On amendments to Article 64 of the Federal Law "On elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2010, No 52, Article 6999);

18) Article 24 of the Federal Law of 28 December 2010 No 404-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the improvement of activities of preliminary investigation bodies" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 1, Article 16);

19) Federal Law of 23 February 2011 No 17-FZ "On amendments to the Federal Law "On

elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 9, Article 1204);

20) Article 3 of the Federal Law of 14 June 2011 No 143-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in order to improve the mechanisms for ensuring the electoral rights of citizens" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 25, Article 3536);

21) Article 32 of the Federal Law of 11 July 2011 No 200-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the adoption of the Federal Law "On information, information technologies and protection of information"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011 No 29, Article 4291);

22) Article 4 of the Federal Law of 23 July 2011 No 259-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 30, Article 4607);

23) Article 3 of the Federal Law of 25 July 2011 No 262-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation on elections and referendums regarding clarifying requirements for voting outside polling station and to other issues of organization of voting" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 31, Article 4702);

24) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 25 July 2011 No 263-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in connection with specifying the order of early termination of mandate of a deputy and filling vacant mandates" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 31 , Article 4703);

25) Article 5 of the Federal Law of 20 October 2011 No 287-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation related to the reduction in the minimum percentage of votes required for admission to the distribution of mandates in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2011, No 43, Article 5975);

26) Article 3 of the Federal Law of 2 May 2012 No 41-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in connection with the release of the political parties from collecting voter signatures in the election of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, state bodies of subjects the Russian Federation and local government"(Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2012, No 19, Article 2275);

27) Article 2 of the Federal Law of 2 July 2013 No 147-FZ "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2013, No 27, Article 3439);

28) Article 3 of the Federal Law of 21 October 2013 No 283-FZ "On amendments to Article 35 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees" and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2013, No 43, Article 5453);

29) Article 25 of the Federal Law of 28 December 2013 No 396-FZ "On amendments to

certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation" (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 2013, No 52, Article 6961).

#### **Article 104. The Order of Entry Into Force of This Federal Law**

1. This Federal Law shall enter into force after its official publication, with the exception of Article 103 of this Federal Law.
2. Article 103 of the present Federal Law shall enter into force on the date of the end of the term of the State Duma that is current at the time of entry into force of this Federal Law.
3. This Federal Law shall apply to the election of deputies of the State Duma elected after the date of entry into force of this Federal Law.

President of the Russian Federation  
V. PUTIN  
Moscow, 22 February 2014  
No 20-FZ